

Latvia

Nuclear regulatory authority

The Radiation Safety Centre of the State Environmental Service (hereinafter RSC) is the state authority in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection. RSC is in charge of supervising the nuclear and radioactive facilities in Latvia, overseeing every phase in each facility, from licensing and operation through to decommissioning.

Nuclear activities

Latvia has no nuclear power plant or nuclear fuel-cycle facility. It has one pool type 5 MW IRT research reactor, which has been permanently closed since 1998 and is currently in the early stage of decommissioning. All spent HEU fuel was sent back to the country of origin (the Russian Federation) in 2008. The main use of radioactive isotopes and radiation generators in more than 1000 facilities is for medical, scientific and industrial purposes. All are subject to prior authorisation, inspection and control. There is developed system of regulation which covers all major applications with radioactive substances, nuclear material and radiation generators.

Radioactive waste and spent fuel management

Latvia has no nuclear power plant and it does not intend to build one. Latvia has no nuclear fuel or spent nuclear fuel and therefore it has no intention to use reprocessing services. There are 1050 licensed operators under supervision and control of the RSC. Among them, there are only 50 operators generating radioactive waste.

The main operator is the State Limited Liability Company "Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre" (hereinafter - Centre) - the radioactive waste management operator with their direct subunit radioactive waste repository "RADONS" at Baldone site (hereinafter - RADONIS). The Latvian University is the main operator of the Salaspils research reactor dealing with issues related to decommissioned Salaspils research reactor.

Radioactive waste in Latvia originates exclusively from civilian programmes. The main potential producers of radioactive waste:

- Traditional areas
 - industry: irradiation, nuclide gauges, calibration: Cs137 and well logging: Am-Be

- Specific areas
 - decommissioning of Salaspils Research Reactor - the foreseen total volume of radioactive waste ~1200 m³
 - management of contaminated scrap metal, which was imported either for reprocessing or transit purposes

Main legal instruments

- Law on Radiation Safety and Nuclear Safety adopted on 7/11/2000
- The Cabinet Regulation Procedures for Licensing Activities with Sources of Ionising Radiation no 723 adopted on 20/12/2011
- The Cabinet Regulations on Protection against Ionising Radiation Transporting Radioactive Materials no 307 adopted on 3/7/2001
- The Cabinet Regulations on the Procedure for Packaging and marking of Ionising Radiation Sources no 406 adopted on 18/9/2001
- The Cabinet Regulations on the Procedure for Control and Accounting of Exposure of Workers no 1284 adopted on 12/11/2013
- The Cabinet Regulations on Practices Involving Radioactive Waste and Related Materials no 129 adopted on 19/3/2002
- The Cabinet Regulations on Protection against Ionising Radiation no 149 adopted 9/4/2002
- The Cabinet Regulation on Generic Principles for Exchange of Radioactive Waste no 157 adopted on 16/4/2002
- The Cabinet Regulations on Radiometric Control of Goods and Transport Vehicles on the State Border no 233 adopted on 5/4/2005
- The Cabinet Regulations on the Procedure governing Activities involving Nuclear Materials, Related Materials and Equipment no 398 adopted on 22/4/2004
- The Cabinet Regulations on Physical Protection of Ionising Radiation Sources no 508 adopted on 4/11/2002
- The Cabinet Regulations on Preparedness and Response in Cases of Radiation Accidents no 152 adopted on 8/11/2003

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