ONR Transport Competent Authority Newsletter Quarter 3 2023/24

# Introduction

Welcome to the newsletter from our Transport Competent Authority (TCA).

We are the competent authority, under the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009 (CDG), for the civil transport of Class 7 dangerous goods (radioactive material) by road and rail within Great Britain (GB).

The TCA also provides support to the other UK competent authorities for transport by sea and air, and by land in Northern Ireland. We are also the enforcing authority for the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) for civil transport.

The TCA provides generic guidance and support on how dutyholders can comply with the legal requirements via our [website](http://www.onr.org.uk/transport/index.htm) and stakeholder events - this newsletter is part of that approach. For advice on specific transport activities, dutyholders should consult their Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA) and/or Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser (DGSA).

# Inspections and compliance activity

We undertake a programme of planned compliance inspections of dutyholders that have transport responsibilities. These are undertaken in person at dutyholders’ premises, at the roadside or remotely.

Roadside Inspections

We are continuing to collaborate with the police and other agencies to undertake roadside stops of vehicles carrying Class 7 dangerous goods. Details of roadside stops are published on our [website](https://news.onr.org.uk/2023/12/unannounced-roadside-stops-operation-in-radioactive-material-transport-crackdown/), with the most recent stop taking place in November 2023.

ONR guidance relevant to transport compliance inspections can be found [here](https://www.onr.org.uk/our-work/what-we-regulate/transport-of-radioactive-material/guidance-and-resources/).

# Contingency and Emergency Planning

There is a requirement on dutyholders who have emergency plans to test every three years and for the findings to be reported to ONR. If you have tested your emergency plan recently, send your report to class7@onr.gov.uk.

ONR's expectation is that tests should be carried out roughly once a year although there is no requirement to report these interim tests to ONR.

Guidance is available on [emergency planning for transport incidents](https://www.onr.org.uk/transport/five-steps-transport-emergency-planning.docx) and [transport radiation risk assessments](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.onr.org.uk%2Foperational%2Fother%2Ftd-tca-gd-003.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).

# Enforcement

Where non-compliances are identified during inspections or following reported incidents, we will consider enforcement action in accordance with our [enforcement policy statement](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.onr.org.uk%2Fmedia%2Fmtrbcsv3%2Fonr-enf-pol-001-onr-enforcement-policy-statement-1.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).

No prohibition or improvement notices were served during Q3 2023/24.

# Competent Authority Approval

Our [‘Applicants Guide’](https://www.onr.org.uk/media/rdnn01ig/tra-per-gd-014.docx) provides guidance to organisations applying to ONR for competent authority approval for new designs, renewal of existing approvals, validation of overseas approvals or modifications to approved designs. We have recently completed a periodic review and revision of this guidance. Revisions include the following:

* Inclusion of guidance for ‘Special Arrangement Approvals’
* Details of our expectations regarding Human Factors assessment
* Guidance on the expected duration of our assessment for different types of application
* Applications based on the structure/content of IAEA specific safety guide SSG-66 will reduce the risk of increased effort (time and cost) during our assessment.

# Incidents and operational experience

We are notified of transport incidents via our incident notification (INF1) reporting process; such incidents, along with previously reported incidents, are reviewed on a regular basis.

During this quarter, we have been notified of several incidents where radioactive material has been detected being imported into the UK. ONR is continuing its investigations into these incidents. If you are aware of any such incidents, please notify ONR.

Incidents should be reported using the [process identified on our website](https://www.onr.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/notify-onr/).

There is a requirement to provide a follow up report within 60 days of an incident. Guidance on the content of this report is provided within [ONR-RIO-PROC-002](https://www.onr.org.uk/media/i4mjdehc/onr-rio-proc-002.docx). The intent of the report is to identify learning and any changes implemented as a result of the incident.

# Changes to regulations and ONR guidance

There have been no changes to regulations or ONR guidance within Q3 2023/24.

# International

The latest proposed revisions to draft IAEA Safety Standards Series No SSR-6 Rev. 2 (20XX edition) (Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material) is now available for comment. The link to the document can be found [here](https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/23/12/draft_ds543.pdf). If you have any comments, please send them to contact@onr.gov.uk.

# Stakeholder engagement

We attend a number of stakeholder engagements to provide feedback on inspections/ notifiable incidents/enforcement action to a range of different stakeholder groups including:

* Society for Radiological Protection (SRP)
* Radioactive Material Transport Users Committee (RAMTUC)
* Transport Container Standardisation Committee (TCSC)
* Carriage of Dangerous Goods Practitioners Forum
* Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM)
* IAEA Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC)
* Medical Radiation Liaison Group (MRLG)
* Scottish Non-Nuclear Industry Liaison Group (SNNILG)
* Small source Users Liaison Group (SULG)

If you believe ONR should be part of a stakeholder group/engagement, contact us by emailing contact@onr.gov.uk.

SRP Learning from experience event

Representatives from the TCA spoke at a [‘Learning from Experience: Radioactive Materials Transport’ seminar,](https://news.onr.org.uk/2023/12/onr-inspectors-explain-regulation-of-transport-of-radioactive-materials-in-great-britain/) organised by the Society for Radiological Protection (SRP) in December 2023. The aim of the event was to explain how ONR undertakes transport compliance inspections, outline ONR’s inspection expectations, provide an overview of common inspection findings, a summary of learning from transport events in recent years and explain the process for reporting events:

SRP circulated a [new transport leaflet](https://srp-uk.org/resources/sector-guidance) at the event. to guide anyone considering entering the Class 7 dangerous goods transport market.

SRP Radiography event

Representatives from the TCA and ONR’s Safeguards team will be speaking about transport and safeguards requirements at an event being organised by SRP. [‘Radiation Protection Requirement for Industrial Radiography’](https://srp-uk.org/event/368/radiation-protection-requirement-for-industrial-radiography) is being held on 18 April in Manchester:

RAMTrans 2024

Representatives from the TCA will be speaking at the 12th International conference of the Transport, Storage and Disposal of Radioactive Materials which is being held in London between 15-17 May 2024.

Further information about the conference and how to attend can be found on the [Nuclear Institute website](https://www.nuclearinst.com/Events/ramtrans-2024-transport-storage-and-disposal-of-radioactive-materials/15971?gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIs6eFmuGUhQMVIo9QBh1JOgxMEAAYASAAEgKyjfD_BwE).

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)

Refer to our webpage to see [responses to FAQs:](https://www.onr.org.uk/our-work/what-we-regulate/transport-of-radioactive-material/frequently-asked-questions/)

Note that ONR can only provide responses to FAQs which relate to legislation and guidance. For any other queries please contact your appointed RPA or DGSA.

# Feedback / Contact Us

What information do you think should be included within the TCA newsletter?

If you want to provide feedback, or need more information regarding the transport of Class 7 dangerous goods, our contact details are below:

**E-mail:** contact@onr.gov.uk

**Website:** <https://www.onr.org.uk/our-work/what-we-regulate/transport-of-radioactive-material/>