



# Inter-Agency Committee on Radiation Safety

**30 years of working together**

**IACRS works together  
towards consistent and comprehensive radiation  
protection and safety principles and criteria.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:  
[iacrs-rp.org](http://iacrs-rp.org)**

## WHO ARE IACRS MEMBERS?

- 8** intergovernmental organizations
- European Commission
  - Food and Agriculture Organization
  - International Atomic Energy Agency
  - International Labour Organization
  - OECD Nuclear Energy Agency
  - Pan American Health Organization
  - United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
  - World Health Organization

- 5** non-governmental bodies
- International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements
  - International Commission on Radiological Protection
  - International Electrotechnical Commission
  - International Organization for Standardization
  - International Radiation Protection Association

## WHAT DOES IACRS DO?

Inter-Agency Committee (IACRS) promotes consistency and co-ordination of policies in radiation safety.

Through IACRS, eight intergovernmental organizations and five non-governmental bodies work hand in hand, exchange information on their activities, strive to avoid unnecessary duplication, and develop common views. Together, they:

- assist in applying principles, criteria and standards;
- assist in translating them into regulatory terms;
- co-ordinate research and development;
- advance education and training;
- promote information exchange;
- facilitate the transfer of technology and know-how;
- provide services in radiation protection and safety.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each of the 13 organizations and bodies nominates a representative to IACRS. Members hold regular and ad-hoc meetings.

The chairmanship of the Committee rotates on a regular basis.



## HOW DID IT START?

In 1991, IACRS was created with the main objective to develop the first international safety standards endorsed by all major players in the field of radiation safety.

This followed the [IAEA Statute](#), which describes the IAEA's role as:

“To establish or adopt, in consultation and, where appropriate, in collaboration with the competent organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies concerned, standards of safety for protection of health and minimization of danger to life and property (including such standards for labour conditions)... and to provide for the application of these standards,... at the request of a State, to any of that State's activities in the field of atomic energy.”

## WHAT ARE ITS BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS?

### INTERNATIONAL BASIC SAFETY STANDARDS

To achieve a better co-ordination, the IACRS specifically agrees, as and when appropriate, to assist with a review and revision of the international safety standards.

IACRS played a key role in the development of the [International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources \(BSS\)](#), last revised in 2014.

BSS is the international benchmark for radiation safety used in many countries as the basis for national legislation to protect workers, patients, the public and the environment from the risks of ionizing radiation.

BSS is based on the available scientific evidence on the effects of ionizing radiation and takes into account practices and experiences from around the world in the use of ionizing radiation and nuclear techniques.

The IACRS BSS implementation working group — chaired by the IAEA — coordinates activities on promotion and application of BSS to be provided in a consistent and coherent manner.

### ANNUAL DOSE LIMITS FOR THE PUBLIC, WORKERS AND LENS OF THE EYE

IACRS contributed to the discussion on the development of dose limits, previously set to 5 mSv for the public and 50mSv for workers exposed to radiation in the course of their work. In 1996, these limits were reduced to 1 mSv for the public and 20 mSv for workers.

The IACRS members also discussed applications of the reduction of occupational dose limit for the lens of the eye from 150 mSv per year to 20 mSv per year.

### INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION

IACRS recognized the IAEA-ILO International Action Plan in 2004 with nine key areas aiming to strengthen occupational radiation protection.

### RADON STATEMENT

Following the ICRP revised dose conversion factors for exposure due to the radon in workplaces, IACRS supported that no changes are necessary to the International Basic Safety Standards recommendations of the use of radon reference values expressed in terms of Bq/m<sup>3</sup>.

### REPORT ON IONISING RADIATION SCREENING DEVICES AT AIRPORT

In 2010, IACRS developed a short summary document on security screening devices. It remains an up-to-date source of background information on these devices.