

Guideline on Radiation Protection Competence as required under the Radiation Protection Ordinance (Competence Guideline Technology)

Summary

The Guideline regulates the extent and proof of radiation protection competence as required under § 30 of the Radiation Protection Ordinance, as well as the requirements for the recognition of training courses held to acquire, or update radiation protection competence. (Competence requirements for staff and RPO of nuclear power plants, research reactors and other nuclear installations are regulated in separate guidelines. Competence requirements with regard to medical and veterinary applications of radiation are also regulated in separate guidelines).

For practices involving the use of radiation sources and radioactive substances, one of the preconditions for being granted a license is the availability of an adequate number of RPOs competent in radiation protection and adequate knowledge of the workers as to potential radiation risks associated with their work and protective measures to be applied.

Generally, the required competence will be gained by suitable education, practical experience and successful participation in radiation protection courses, recognised for the particular practice (to be renewed every 5 years).

The extent of the radiation protection competence required is determined by the conditions of a practice in the licensing or notification process. For the differentiation of practices, the following criteria are decisive:

- activities of the radioactive substances
- form and type of the radioactive substances
- type of practice

Examples for the classification of practices into competence groups are given in Appendix A of the Guideline.

The knowledge required to be granted radiation protection competence is acquired within the scope of training courses and/or other training measures. Course contents are thematically subgrouped into modules. In appendix A, competence groups and modules to be completed for each group are summarised. Courses and/or other training measures could contain contents for one or more competence groups or could just cover the content of single modules which fulfil the requirements for a particular competence group by a combination of several suitable courses and/or other training measures.

Appendix B provides an overview on the modules and the corresponding duration of teaching units. Possibilities for the combination of modules contributing to the acquirement of competence are presented in Appendix C. The necessary modules for one competence group are summarised in Appendix D. In Appendix E, the contents of single modules are compiled. Minimum duration for practical experience, depending on the graduation or vocational education and the competence group required, are given in Appendix F.

The competent authority grants a certificate of competence when evidence for suitable education, necessary practical experience and successful completion of courses for all modules, required for a particular competence group, has been provided.