

# REGULATING RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL



National and local governments design and enforce rules concerning the safe transport, treatment, storage, disposal, and classification of radioactive waste. These rules are intended to protect people and the environment, and to provide a legal and regulatory framework within which radioactive waste management can be planned and safely carried out.

Radioactive waste regulations also cover "who" is responsible for "what" at each stage of the waste management process, and define the optimal decision making process over the different stages in the lifetime of the waste facility, including development, operation, and closure or decommissioning.

Regulations, which are created and enforced by an independent national/ local government entity, also address how the waste facility is allowed to secure funding, how to hire staff, how and to what extent outside parties can become involved, where waste facilities can be built, and the measures that must be taken to protect workers at these facilities.

The role of the IAEA is primarily to provide advice and guidance when asked.

Many of the IAEA's 162 Member States use the IAEA safety standards on

radioactive waste as a template to create their own, legally binding regulations. These standards are vetted by experts and based on global best practices.

Radioactive waste management regulations are different in each country, depending on the national legal structure of the Member State, and on the complexity and extent of radioactive waste management facilities, activities, and inventories. For example, radioactive waste management regulations for countries with comprehensive fuel cycle programmes that include reactors would differ from those for countries with limited inventories of disused radioactive sources.

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