

The Finnish approaches relating to the implementation of the BSS on RPE/RPO

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Content

- Current Finnish requirements
- Finnish plans to the future
- First approaches when implementing the requirements of the new directive

Legislation and requirements

- Radiation Act (592/1991)
- Radiation Decree (1512/1991)

- Guide ST 1.4, Radiation user's organization, 2.11.2011
- Guide ST 1.8, Qualifications and radiation protection training of persons working in radiation user's organization, 17.2.2012

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Radiation Act (592/1991)

- **STUK shall**
 - stipulate the qualifications required of a Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) and of other persons working in the user's organization, and
 - investigate compliance with the said stipulations.
- The **licensee is responsible for** ensuring that persons in the radiation user's organization possess **the training and qualifications** required for their duties.

Radiation user's organization

- **Radiation Safety Officer (RSO)**
 - Appointed by the responsible party
 - Approved by STUK upon proposal by the responsible party
- **Specialist expertise**
 - Qualified expert (QE) or radiation protection unit
 - Nomination of a QE required in a licence if needed
 - Usually RSO's expertise is enough to take also QE's role
 - Medical physics expert (MPE)
 - Medical physicist, who has completed an RSO exam
- **On-site radiation safety person**
 - A key person appointed for a place of use of radiation by the responsible party
 - Tasked with supporting the RSO in the supervision of activities

Right to arrange RSO's exam

- **Training organizations** which provide RP training of RSOs according to the Guide ST 1.8
- **Authorization by STUK remains in force 5 years,** after that it may be renewed on application
 - 22 training organisations authorised
- **Recognition**
 - training program + exams according to the Guide ST 1.8
- **Certificate**
 - an indication that the person is competent to serve as an RSO
 - STUK requires when accepting an RSO in a licence

RSO's qualifications in various fields of competences

- **10 fields of competences** for RSOs depending on practices
- **Graded approach in requirements of competences, e.g.**
 - **X-ray Practices in health care:** radiologist, medical physicist, physician who has completed the RSO exam
 - **Radiotherapy:** medical physicist, radiation oncologist who has completed the RSO exam
 - **General use of radiation in the medical sector:** hospital physicist
 - **Industrial radiography:** person who has completed the RSO exam
 - ...

Content and minimum amount of RP training of RSOs

- **Total extent of the RSO's qualification training**
 - General and competence area-specific issues (10 – 85 h) depending on fields of competences
 - General and competence specific issues listed in Guide ST 1.8
- **Supplementary training** of RSOs in work
 - medical use of radiation: 20 h/5 years
 - non-medical use of radiation: 10 h/5 years
- **Supplementary training** of a MPE in health care
 - 20 h/5 years
- **Supplementary training** of a QE in industry
 - 20 h/5 years

In future

- **Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) -> RPE ?**
 - Approved by STUK upon proposal by the responsible party
- **Medical physics expert (MPE)**
 - Medical physicist, who has completed an RSO exam
- **On-site radiation safety person -> RPO ?**
 - **STUK requires nomination of an RPO if needed**
 - A key person appointed for a place of use of radiation by the responsible party

Key points: First approaches when implementing the requirements of the new directive #1

- **Use of radiation in medicine**

- **The medical physicists** currently serving as RSOs
 - Competent enough to be appointed as RPEs
- Some **radiologists** and other **physicians** currently serving as RSOs
 - They all have been required to pass the RSO exam
 - Extra training needed for serving as RPEs ?
- **Radiation technologists and other nurses** could serve as RPOs in health care
 - Some of radiation technologists have passed the RSO exam
 - No management position, special authorization is needed
 - Should there be an RPO exam in future ?

Key points: First approaches when implementing the requirements of the new directive #2

- **Use of radiation in industry**

- **Persons** currently serving as RSOs

- Extra training needed for serving as RPEs ?

- **In the most demanding practices** the roles of RPEs and RPOs could be separated if needed

- **Requirements for the RPE/RPO** should be adjusted for the level of risks in the practice

Key points: First approaches when implementing the requirements of the new directive #3

- **Integrating education and exam of RPEs is currently missing in Finland**
 - RPE's education and training needed in universities ?
- **Possible requirements in the new Radiation act**
 - RPEs is always needed
 - Nomination of RPOs in licences if needed
 - The duties of RPOs and RPEs could be combined

Thank You!



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