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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