

CHAPTER 2

RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION AND MOD POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

1 Radiological protection is a broad term that is generally taken to encompass the protection of man and the environment from the effects of both ionising and non-ionising radiation. Those effects may arise from work activity, natural sources, redundant material, waste or legacy material.

2 In radiological protection, a distinct division can be made between radiological protection for ionising and non-ionising radiations. The two main aspects of radiological protection are health and safety matters and environmental protection; they are interrelated and both are relevant to nuclear safety.

MOD POLICY

3 Both the health and safety and the environmental protection, including assurance, aspects of radiological protection must be considered and managed within the overall framework of MOD's policy for those areas. This is set out in detail (together with guidance material) in:

- JSP 815 the Defence Environment and Safety Management, where you can find:
 - The Policy Statement by the Secretary of State for Defence.
 - Descriptions of MOD's Boards etc dealing with environment, safety and health.
 - Interface arrangements between MOD and other organisations.
 - Information on the high-level structures for safety, health, environment and fire matters with Service and defence organisations.
- JSP 375 the MOD Health and Safety Handbook.
- JSP 418 the MOD Sustainable Development and Environment Manual.

4 Briefly, it is the policy of the Secretary of State for Defence that:

- Within the United Kingdom, MOD will comply with all relevant applicable legislation (including legislation giving effect to the UK's international obligations).
- Overseas, MOD will apply UK standards where reasonably practicable, and in addition comply with relevant host nations' standards.
- Where MOD has been granted specific exemptions, disapplications or derogations from legislation, international treaties or protocols, we will introduce standards and management arrangements that are, so far as reasonably practicable, at least as good as those required by legislation.

- The Secretary of State for Defence will invoke the powers to disapply legislation only on the grounds of national security and only when such action is essential to maintain operational capability.
- Where there is no relevant legislation, internal standards MOD will aim to optimise the balance between risks and benefits.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5 The Secretary of State for Defence has overall responsibility for all safety and environmental matters within MOD. In the policy statement the Secretary of State delegates the task of discharging the Secretary of States personal responsibilities through the line management chain to the heads of management areas at all levels, down to Heads of Establishments, Directors and Commanding Officers. Line managers at lower levels will also have duties under legislation, as will individuals (see JSP 375 and JSP 418 for the full explanations).

6 It is therefore often the case that Heads of Establishments, Directors and Commanding Officers discharge the duties of the employer under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 or other similar roles. However, their ability to do so must necessarily be influenced by the resources allocated to them by those higher in the chain of delegation and their options may be limited by the instructions or policy of higher management.