

The Standardised Reporting of Radioactive Discharges Direction 2018

In exercise of the powers conferred by regulation 62(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016^(a) (“the 2016 Regulations”), the Secretary of State directs the Environment Agency and the Welsh Ministers direct the Natural Resources Body for Wales as follows.

The Secretary of State has consulted the Environment Agency and the Welsh Ministers have consulted the Natural Resources Body for Wales, as required by regulation 62(3) of the 2016 Regulations.

This Direction is made for the purpose of ensuring the reporting of standardised information on radioactive airborne and liquid discharges into the environment from nuclear power stations and nuclear reprocessing plants, as required by Article 67.2 of the Basic Safety Standards Directive 2013/59/Euratom^(b).

Citation and commencement

1. This Direction may be cited as the Standardised Reporting of Radioactive Discharges Direction 2018 and comes into force on 15 May 2018.

Interpretation

2. In this Direction the Environment Agency and the Natural Resources Body for Wales are together referred to as “the environment agencies”.

Environment agencies to impose requirement on operators

3.—(1) The environment agencies must require operators of nuclear power reactors and reprocessing plants in normal operation to provide a report for each calendar year of radioactive airborne and liquid discharges in that year (“the reporting year”).

(2) The report must include the discharged activity values of all radionuclides in Annex 1 of Recommendation 2004/2/Euratom^(c), where these are specified as limits in environmental permits, or are included in the environment agencies’ pollution inventory reporting requirements.

(3) In this paragraph, “in normal operation” includes normal activities relating to the operation of a nuclear power reactor or reprocessing plant, including in the decommissioning phase (shutdown and containment and surveillance operations), but not in the dismantling phase.

Discharged activity values

4.—(1) The requirement in paragraph 3 is for operators to report discharged activity values for specific radionuclides that are obtained from measurements.

(2) Where a similar level of accuracy can be achieved by calculating values for specific radionuclides on the basis of operational data or of measurement results for other radionuclides,

(a) S.I. 2016/1154.

(b) Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013 laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation, and repealing Directives 89/618/Euratom, 90/641/Euratom, 96/29/Euratom, 97/43/Euratom and 2003/122/Euratom, OJ L 13, 17.1.2014, p. 1. See also the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, Schedule 23, Part 4, paragraph 9, inserted by S.I. 2018/428.

(c) Commission Recommendation 2004/2/Euratom of 18 December 2003 on standardised information on radioactive airborne and liquid discharges into the environment from nuclear power reactors and reprocessing plants in normal operation, OJ No L 2, 06.01.2004, p 36.

the environment agencies may allow operators to use such calculated values as a substitute for measurements.

Limits and thresholds for discharged activity values

5.—(1) The information on discharged activity values to be reported by operators must comply with the requirements in this paragraph.

(2) For key radionuclides in Annex 1 of Recommendation 2004/2/Euratom, where all measured values for the reporting year are below an operator's detection limit for that radionuclide, the operator's detection limit must not exceed the "requirement for the detection limit" specified for that radionuclide in that annex.

(3) The determination of detection limits and decision thresholds must be compliant with ISO/IS 11929:2010(a) or superseding ISO standards.

(4) Where a measured value for a radionuclide is below the decision threshold, that value may be substituted by a value of one half of the decision threshold. Where all measured values for a radionuclide in the reporting year are below the decision threshold, no discharge report need be made for that radionuclide.

(5) Sampling methods for the radioactive discharges must be documented so as to be available for inspection.

(6) In this paragraph—

"decision threshold" means the value of the estimator of the measurand which, when exceeded by the result of an actual measurement using a given measurement procedure of a measurand quantifying a physical effect, is used to decide that the physical effect is present as defined by ISO/IS 11929:2010 or superseding ISO standards;

"detection limit" means the smallest true value of the measurand which ensures a specified probability of being detectable by the measurement procedure as defined by ISO/IS 11929:2010 or superseding ISO standards.

Collated report

6. The environment agencies must provide a collated report of radioactive airborne and liquid discharges from nuclear power stations and reprocessing plants in England and Wales to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy no later than 25 September following the end of the reporting year.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State



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08/05/2018

Signed by authority of the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, one of the Welsh Ministers

Tim Render



Lead Director for Environment & Rural Affairs
Department for Economy, Skills & Natural Resources

09/05/2018

(a) <https://www.iso.org/standard/43810.html>.