REPROLAM
Red de Optimización de la Protección Radiológica Ocupacional en LatinoAmérica y el Caribe

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 11, DECEMBER 2023

SAFETY FIRST

Space dedicated to common understanding and the promotion of Safety Culture through information, analysis, dissemination of experiences and related news.

THE TECHNIQUES TO ASSESS THE SAFETY CULTURE OF AN ORGANIZATION (PART 2)

This month we will continue presenting and discussing different techniques for assessing Safety Culture. In the previous newsletter, we covered the survey or questionnaire technique. This month, we introduce the Document Review technique.

Organizations generally have a significant amount of documentation, including policies, procedures, reports, manuals, guides, and more. That's why one of the first questions a safety culture evaluator typically asks when applying this technique is: Which documents of the organization should I review?

To answer this question, two issues must be clear:
• What is the purpose of the document review?
• Which Basic Element (BE) of Safety Culture is being assessed with that review?

The first issue is crucial because it defines why we are conducting the document review. The aim is to identify the visible manifestations of the safety culture within that organization through the lens of its internal documents, reflecting its perspective on the assessed BE

The second issue is fundamental as it narrows down the objective of the document review based on the assessed BE. For example, if we are evaluating the BE 'Safety Priority,' the document review will focus on verifying aspects such as the extent to which this priority is expressed in the organization's key documents, signage, and other means. It may also explore which documents compel employees to stop work in the case of safety concerns and how they are supported in doing so.

However, if we are evaluating the BE 'Fair Treatment of Individual Behaviors Regarding Safety,' we will focus the review on how this is reflected in the organization's policies and in its procedures and reports for investigating incidents or accidents.

The results of the document review will provide the foundation for subsequently determining, with other techniques, the coherence between the written intent in the organization's documents and its actual behavior during its operations.

Let's now examine some of the advantages and disadvantages of this technique:

Advantages:

- Allows understanding the organization's mindset expressed through the written or literal intent contained in its documents regarding the assessed BE.
- Reveals the organization's vision, priorities, functional and hierarchical relationships related to the assessed BE.
- Enables the verification of the existence or absence of formal procedures and mechanisms that act as drivers or inducers of safety attitudes and behaviors, once again related to the assessed BE.
- Facilitates the detection of organizational trends in safety based on data included in records, such as incident frequency, worker exposure, handling of non-conformities, external audit instructions or opinions, and regulatory body feedback. This data provides valuable information for this type of evaluation.
- Provides a basis for determining differences between the established intent and the actual behavior of the organization through other evaluation techniques.

Disadvantages:

- It is a labor-intensive method that requires a significant amount of time and effort.
- It necessitates the prior determination of the information that is important to review for the evaluation objectives.
- If the documentation has been prepared by external personnel or to meet external requirements, it may not reflect the actual mindset of the organization.

Some rules or recommendations to consider for the application of this technique are as follows:

- Determine the focus of the document review. This will depend primarily on the assessed BE. It should be clear what should be reflected in the documents or what mechanisms or procedures should exist to understand how the organization 'thinks or reasons' about the issues covered by that BE.

- Select the documents to review. To do this, interact with the entity to understand its document structure and hierarchy, as some issues to review may be reflected in higher-level documents, while others may be found in specific organizational procedures. The selected documents can be either generic or local within the organization—broadly applicable across the organization in the case of the former, or specific to certain issues like training, accident investigation, or safety concerns reported by employees. The review may also include external documents, such as those generated by external audits, regulatory inspections, or dosimetry reports provided by specialized institutions.

- During the review process, it is important to extract examples, quotes, numerical or statistical evidence, recurring messages, and to detect inconsistencies or similarities between documents.

And remember, if you are a manager or work in promoting Safety Culture, keep in mind that the document review technique is not a quality review or an audit of the organization's documentation. It is a way to understand how the organization 'thinks' and tries to behave, how it presents itself, what values it promotes, and what and how it pays attention to within its operations. It will serve as the basis to verify its behavior in practice. We will continue addressing other techniques in upcoming editions of the newsletter.

[1] IAEA. IAEA TECHNICAL DOCUMENT COLLECTION. TECDOC1995 Safety Culture in Organizations, Facilities, and Activities Related to the Use of Ionizing Radiation Sources, Vienna, 2022.
[2] IAEA. Performing Safety Culture Self-Assessment, Safety Reports Series no. 83. IAEA. Vienna 2016.

Ruben Ferro - Renan Ramirez

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WEBINAR
EUROPEAN INTERCOMPARISON OF IN VIVO MONITORING LABORATORIES: THE EIVIC-2020 PROJECT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023 · 9:30 AM SANTIAGO (GMT -3:00)

The objective of the EIVIC-2020 project was to assess the implementation of individual monitoring requirements of the Basic Safety Standards (BSS) Directive in the EU Member States based on in vivo measurements and to provide an overview of the capabilities and performance of whole-body counters in Europe.

This exercise was supported by the European Commission (Directorate-General for Energy) in Luxembourg under contract ENER/2019/NUCL/SI2.811157 and organized by EURADOS (European Radiation Dosimetry Group), the Institut de Radioprotection et de Sûreté Nucléaire (IRSN, France), and the Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS, Germany), in collaboration with the Center for Energy, Environmental and Technological Research (CIEMAT, Spain), and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT, Germany).

It took place between October 2019 and June 2022 and focused on the measurement of whole-body gamma emitters in various selected tasks covering the range of possible measurements associated with different intake scenarios. In total, 43 facilities from 21 countries participated in the intercomparison exercise.

The measured data were compared with reference activity values to assess the corresponding bias according to ISO 28218 and ISO 13528 standards. This report provides a summary of the results from different tasks. Overall, the results are good, and most facilities meet the bias and z-score criteria of ISO standards. Additionally, it was examined whether the results could be attributed to various organizational and metrological properties of the participating laboratories.

Agenda:

María Antonia López, CIEMAT: Introduction to EURADOS and WG7 on Internal Dosimetry
Didier Franck, IRSN: The EIVIC-2020 Project
Oliver Meisenberg, BfS: Source Production, Quality Assurance, and Measurement Campaign
Tiffany Beaumont, IRSN: Analysis of Intercomparison Results and Lessons Learned

https://www.bigmarker.com/sckcen/The-European-Intercomparison-of-In-Vivo-Monitoring-Laboratories-The-EIVIC-2020-Project

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SEPR SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE PROTECCIÓN RADIOLÓGICA
Afiliada a la I.R.P.A.

VII SEPR-PEPRI R&D CONFERENCE IN PR.

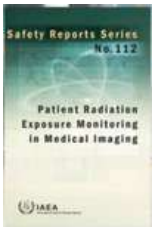
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023
TIME: 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM
LOCATION: CIEMAT AUDITORIUM, COMPLUTENSE AVENUE, 40 - 28040 MADRID
Contact: secretaria@sepr.es

The Spanish Society of Radiological Protection (SEPR) and the National R&D Platform in Radiological Protection (PEPRI) jointly organize, once again, a new edition of the R&D Conference on Radiological Protection (PR). This technical conference serves as a meeting point for the sectors involved in PR, where professionals share the latest developments and advances in PR from the previous year, as well as ongoing challenges in this discipline. Therefore, the technical conference also serves to identify and promote synergies among different Working Groups or thematic areas.

There will be a discussion on the PIANOFORTE Association for European research in radiological protection and ionizing radiation detection.

All information, as well as registration (before December 15), is available on the website.
https://www.sepr.es/convocatorias/eventodetalle/11084/46/vii-jornada-sepr-pepri

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON MONITORING PATIENT EXPOSURE TO RADIATION THROUGH MEDICAL IMAGING HIGHLIGHT THE BENEFITS OF DIGITIZATION.



The IAEA is encouraging medical professionals to optimize patient protection by transitioning from manual processes to digital monitoring of ionizing radiation in imaging procedures, with its first publication on the subject. The new IAEA Safety Report on Monitoring Patient Exposure to Radiation in Medical Imaging, developed in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), provides guidance for countries to adopt digital means of recording, collecting, and analyzing data, yielding more accurate and faster results. Digital automated systems also enable radiology professionals to optimize individual radiation doses and minimize unnecessary radiological procedures.

https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/first-international-guidelines-on-patient-radiation-exposure-monitoring-in-medical-imaging-highlight-benefits-of-digitalization

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RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION, DOSIMETRY, AND IMS ACCREDITATION: SECRETS AND SOLUTIONS

FROM JUNE 3 TO JUNE 7, 2024, IN KRAKOW, POLAND.

The training course will be organized by EURADOS WG02 on Harmonization of Individual Monitoring in Europe and FIP PAN Krakow. This well-established educational and training event is supported by PTB, and the overall organization is led by Oliver Hupe, PTB.

The general theme of the Training Course is the implementation of the Technical Recommendations of the European Commission for Monitoring Persons Occupationally Exposed to External Radiation (Radiological Protection 160).

The overall objective is the implementation of the Technical Recommendations of the European Commission for Monitoring Persons Occupationally Exposed to External Radiation (Radiological Protection 160, RP160). All aspects of individual monitoring as discussed in RP160 will be addressed during the course with an emphasis on metrology, quality assurance, and type testing. Recent developments will also be covered, including changes coming with the new version of ISO/IEC 17025:2017, the impact of EU Directive 2013/59/Euratom, and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the EU.

Target Audience: The course is intended for all those interested in individual monitoring of external radiation but particularly for young or trainee directors of approved dosimetry services.

- Regular Fee: 650 euros
- Reduced Fee: 580 euros

The registration fee will cover lunches, coffee breaks, a social dinner, and a city tour. There is a limited number of seats available allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The fee does not include VAT. A 7% VAT will be added to invoices for participants from Germany and EU member states who cannot provide us with their VAT number.

Reduced fee for participants from EURADOS sponsoring institutions.

Registration Deadline: April 30, 2024
Payment: May 6, 2024

For more information:
https://www.ptb.de/cms/ptb/fachabteilungen/abt6/seminare/tceurados-wg2-2024.html

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The Network for the Optimization of Occupational Radiological Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean (REPROLAM) is a scientific and cultural society, non-profit, political, religious or racial, of unlimited duration, whose objective is to promote the optimization of occupational radiological protection. REPROLAM seeks to expand academic and scientific cooperation among its members, with the aim of promoting adequate radiological protection for workers.

Visit our website for more information: **http://www.reprolam.com/**
How to contact: **reprolam2020@gmail.com**