Occupational Radiation Protection Appraisal Service (ORPAS)

Why is it important?
Ionizing radiation has many beneficial uses, including in medicine, science and industry. The objective of ORPAS is to review the legislative and regulatory infrastructure for occupational radiation protection, technical services relating to protection and safety, such as services for personal dosimetry and the calibration of monitoring and measuring equipment, and practical implementation of Member States’ arrangements for occupational radiation protection through radiation protection programmes by operators.

ORPAS promotes self-assessment, safety culture in radiation safety environment and quality management systems at facilities and activities.

ORPAS offers Member States a thorough review for radiation protection of workers.

What do I need to know?

Target audience
Regulatory bodies, operators and technical service providers for protection and safety with respect to the assessment of occupational exposure from external sources of radiation and owing to the intake of radionuclides. ORPAS reviews also cover individual monitoring, as well as workplace monitoring and advisory services.

Team composition
- ORPAS Team Leader (senior expert from a Member State).
- IAEA Team Coordinator (IAEA staff member).
- Five to 10 international experts, depending upon the scope of the mission. ORPAS team members are recruited from Member States but teams could also include IAEA experts.
- IAEA administrative support staff as appropriate.

Duration
- Preparatory mission: 3 days;
- Self-assessment by Member States: 2–4 months;
- ORPAS mission: 9–10 days;
- ORPAS follow-up mission: 5–7 days.

What actions are recommended?
- A Member State submits a formal request to the IAEA for an ORPAS mission;
- The Member State identifies the operators and technical service organizations to be appraised;
• The international team of ORPAS reviewers performs site visits and interviews;
• The ORPAS team issues a report and the Member State prepares an action plan.

Expected outcomes
• Strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of occupational radiation protection at facilities and during activities.
• Greater openness and transparency of the occupational radiation protection approaches and practices.
• Improve quality management systems by emphasizing continuous improvement through periodic assessment of safety performance.
• Encourage broader consideration and application of lessons learned from international experience to enhance safety culture.
• More effective use of information and knowledge management networks to share relevant information on occupational radiation protection issues among and between Member States having common interests.

Resources
ORPAS platform
gnssn.iaea.org/main/ORPAS/SitePages/Home.aspx
Email: occupational.protection@iaea.org
Visit: www.iaea.org/services/review-missions/occupational-radiation-protection-appraisals-orpas

Interview with the staff of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company NORM Treatment and Disposal Facility (Photo: IAEA)