



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

DIRECTORATE D - Nuclear Energy
Radiation Protection

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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ECURIE information message

Subject: Ships and ship containers (amended version, replacing the ECURIE Information message sent on 14 April 2011)

The first ships departing from Japan after 11 March are currently arriving in European ports.

The results of the checks carried out so far in some of the EU ports have been negative, there was no increased radio-activity measured.

The Japanese authorities have announced that they are measuring radiation levels on ships and containers leaving Japan for foreign ports. Ships and containers with radiation readings exceeding a standard level will not be permitted to leave the ports of Tokyo, Kawasaki or Yokohama. Official certificates recording radiation levels are issued to ship-owners.

Official measurement of radiation doses in Japanese ports are updated on a daily basis and can be consulted at: http://www.mlit.go.jp/kowan/kowan_fr1_000041.html

The International Maritime Organization has issued a press release indicating that screening for radiation of passengers arriving from Japan is currently considered unnecessary at seaports around the world.

For the initial assessment of the contamination of a ship or container coming from Japan, the Commission recommends using a common threshold for the dose rate at 1 meter distance from the surface of the ship or container of 0.2 microSv/h (above background level). Below this threshold the ship or container should be considered not contaminated and no further measures would need to be taken. If this dose rate is exceeded, more detailed investigations should be performed in order to decide on any protective measures necessary.

In order to adopt a common approach to the management of a possible situation where a ship's hull, deck or containers are contaminated, it is important that we share information on ships entering European ports. The Commission invites Member States to provide immediate information, by means of an ECURIE information message, on:

Commission européenne, L-2920 Luxembourg. Telephone: (352) 43 01-1.
Office: EUFO 4157. Telephone: direct line (352) 43 01-36395. Fax: (352) 43 01-36280.

E-mail: augustin.janssens@ec.europa.eu

- dose-rates measured (only if above the common threshold of 0.2 microSv/h above background level),
- name of the ship and its IMO number,
- results of detailed investigations including surface contamination.

If the levels of radiation or contamination are such that they call for protective measures, the following information should be included:

- protective measures performed,
- residual dose-rate or surface contamination,
- schedule of next ports of call.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Signed
Augustin JANSSENS
Head of Unit