



**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

**FIRST REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2009/71/EURATOM OF 25 JUNE 2009  
ON ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
NUCLEAR SAFETY OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS**

**IN FULFILLMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 9  
OF THE DIRECTIVE**

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**LEFKOSIA (NICOSIA)**

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## ACRONYMS

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| DLI     | Department of Labour Inspection  |
| ECURIE  | European Commission Urgent Radiological Information Exchange                   |
| EU      | European Union   |
| EURATOM | The European Atomic Energy Community<br>(and Treaty establishing the EURATOM)  |
| EURDEP  | European Radiological Data Exchange Platform                                   |
| IAEA    | International Atomic Energy Agency   |
| MLWSI   | Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance                               |
| RA      | Regulatory Authority   |
| RICS    | Radiation Inspection and Control Service                                       |
| USIE    | Unified System for Information Exchange (in incidents and<br>emergencies-IAEA) |

## Summary

This is the first report on the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive (NSD) in the Republic of Cyprus and is submitted to the European Commission, in fulfillment of the provisions of Article 9 of the Directive on reporting.

Cyprus has fully transposed to national legislation and implements the Council Directive 2009/71/EURATOM and has in place a comprehensive system for radiation protection and nuclear safety. This system is fully in line with the European Union Acquis and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safety standards.

Cyprus does not operate any nuclear installations or uranium or thorium mines and the main use of ionizing radiation in the country is for medical purposes with some applications in industry, construction and research.

For the implementation of the radiation protection and nuclear safety legislation the Radiation Inspection and Control Service (RICS), within the Department of Labour Inspection (DLI), Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance (MLWSI), has been established, as the Regulatory Authority (RA) of Cyprus. The RA is effectively independent from any use or promotion of ionizing radiation. The RA is collaborating with other governmental departments, institutions and local authorities for the efficient and effective implementation of the legislation.

The RA, also in collaboration with other governmental and local authorities, has established a fully operational emergency system and an action plan in case of radiological or nuclear incidents and accidents.

## **General information**

This is the first report on the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive (NSD) in the Republic of Cyprus and is submitted to the European Commission, in fulfillment of the provisions of Article 9 of the Directive on reporting.

The Council Directive 2009/71/EURATOM of 25 June 2009 on establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations has been fully transposed to national legislation by implementing the Protection from Ionizing Radiation and Nuclear Safety Law of 2011 (L.127(I)/2011) which amended the Protection from Ionizing Radiation Laws of 2002 and 2009 (L.15(I)/2002 and (L.8(I)/2009)). This law was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic and entered into force on 7.10.2011.

The above law harmonized the existing legislation with the provisions of the NSD, establishing a framework to maintain and promote the continuous improvement of nuclear safety and ensuring that appropriate national arrangements for a high level of nuclear safety to protect the workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiations from nuclear installations are in place.

Cyprus does not operate any nuclear installations or uranium or thorium mines and the main use of ionizing radiation in the country is for medical purposes with some applications in industry, construction and research.

## **Legislative, regulatory and organizational framework**

The legislative basis for radiation protection and nuclear safety in Cyprus consists of the Protection from Ionizing Radiation and Nuclear Safety Laws of 2002 to 2011, enacted in 2002 and amended in 2009 and 2011, and various sets of Regulations issued under these Laws. This legislative framework is fully in line with the European Union Acquis and the relevant international standards. The EURATOM and all relevant European regulations and decisions, conventions and other instruments ratified or signed by the EU apply directly in Cyprus as member state. Cyprus has ratified, signed or participates in a number of international conventions, protocols, agreements and other instruments in the field of radiation protection and nuclear safety and is a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Australian Group.

The above legislation covers all aspects related to the use of ionizing radiation and nuclear safety, is implemented following a graded approach and it allocates responsibilities and provides for coordination between relevant bodies. Among others, this legislation provides for the establishment of an effectively independent Regulatory Authority (RA), the application of the basic principles of radiation protection (justification, optimization and dose limitation), the authorization of practices and sources in relation to possession, use, manufacture, supply, handling, distribution, storage, import, export, disposal, recycling, commissioning, decommissioning etc. and prohibition of operation of nuclear installations without a license, appeals, obligations of employers and license holders, the establishment of a system of nuclear safety supervision (appointment and powers of a chief inspector and inspectors), enforcement

actions, including suspension of operation and modification or revocation of a license and penalties, the design, erection, commissioning and decommissioning of nuclear installations etc.

The RA is presently staffed with one Senior Labour Inspection Officer as Head and four Labour Inspection Officers; all qualified in engineering or science and well trained on radiation protection and nuclear safety matters. In addition, one new inspector will be recruited within 2010.

The RA is collaborating with and is supported by other institutions and laboratories, with capabilities in radioactivity analysis and measurements. A bilateral agreement with the Greek Atomic Energy Commission is in place, which covers all issues concerning radiation protection and nuclear safety.

Moreover, a comprehensive environmental radioactivity monitoring system, including an automated telemetric network is operated by the RA. The telemetric network is connected online to the EURDEP platform. The automated ambient gamma dose rate monitoring network is also the early warning system of the country.

A fully operational emergency preparedness and response plan in case of radiological or nuclear events is in place. The RA is also participating in the ECURIE and USIE systems.

The national framework is maintained and continuously improved, taking into account operating experience, insights gained from safety analyses of operating installations involving the use of ionizing radiation, any developments of technology and results of safety research.

## **Competent regulatory authority**

The Minister of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance (MLWSI), acting through the Radiation Inspection and Control Service (RICS) of the Department of Labour Inspection (DLI), is the regulatory authority in Cyprus for radiation protection and nuclear safety and has the responsibility for the administration of relevant legislation and authorization of all sources and practices involving risks of exposure to ionizing radiation.

RICS was established in 2002 within the DLI, in the framework of the implementation of the Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Laws of 2002 to 2011, aiming at the protection of individuals and the environment against risks due to exposure to ionizing radiation or dispersion of radioactive substances or radioactive contamination.

The RA is functionally separate from any other body or organization involved in the promotion or use of nuclear energy and ionizing radiation in general, and is effectively independent from undue influence in its regulatory decision making.

Based on the above legislation, the RA has the necessary legal powers and human and financial resources to fulfill its obligations under the national legislative framework. RICS carries out licensing, inspections and enforcement activities, which are financed through the annual budget of the DLI.

The RA and the supporting laboratories have recently been strengthened with new radioactivity monitoring and analysis equipment and their personnel received training on relevant matters.

A comprehensive environmental radioactivity monitoring system is operated by the RA which includes a fully automatic and state of the art ambient air telemetric monitoring network of gamma dose rate, which is connected online to the EURDEP platform. The telemetric network is also the early warning system of the country.

Ionizing radiation sources and practices, including nuclear installations, need prior authorization, under specified conditions and the RA conducts inspection and enforcement activities on a regular and systematic manner.

## **License holders**

The prime responsibility for radiation protection and nuclear safety within his premises or installations lies with the license holder, and this responsibility cannot be delegated. The license holder is responsible for carrying out his activities ensuring primarily safety and security of the sources or irradiators under his control, according to the conditions of the license, applying the basic principles of radiation protection, and taking all appropriate measures to protect workers, patients, members of the public, properties and the environment from risks arising from ionizing radiation.

The RA carries out inspections and enforcement activities in order to verify compliance with the existing legislation.

## **Expertise and skills in nuclear safety**

The current legislative and organizational framework requires the licensee to provide appropriate radiation protection and nuclear safety education, training and information to his personnel. This training and information shall be provided periodically and shall be documented.

Education and training is provided by universities and colleges, professional bodies, consultants, such as radiation protection experts, occupational and health professionals, etc.

The RA in cooperation with all stakeholders carries out activities and campaigns to improve safety culture in the country.

## **Information to the public**

The Protection from Ionizing Radiation and Nuclear Safety Laws of 2002 to 2011 require that information in relation to radiation protection and nuclear safety is made available to the workers and the general public. The established procedure for the approval of new legislation requires, among others, consultation with all parties involved including the public. Information is made available to the public in accordance with the national legislation and international obligations.

## Reporting

This report is submitted to the European Commission for the first time by 22 July 2014, in fulfillment of the provisions of NSD on reporting. Other reports will follow in three year periods, in conjunction with the review and reporting cycles under the Convention on Nuclear Safety and in periods specified in the NSD and its amendments.

The Protection from Ionizing Radiation and Nuclear Safety Laws of 2002 to 2011 require that, at least every 10 years, a self-assessment of the national framework and competent regulatory authority is arranged and an international peer review of relevant segments of the national framework and/or authorities with the aim of continuously improving nuclear safety is invited. Self assessment activities are continuously implemented by RICS/DLI, while an international peer review of the national radiation protection and nuclear safety framework has been scheduled for 2016.

## Conclusions

Cyprus has fully transposed to national legislation and implements the NSD and has in place a comprehensive system for radiation protection and nuclear safety, which is fully in line with the EU Acquis and the IAEA safety standards.

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