ONR Transport Competent Authority Newsletter

Quarter 2 2023/24

# Introduction

Welcome to the newsletter from our Transport Competent Authority (TCA).

The TCA is the competent authority, under the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009 (CDG), for the movement of class 7 (radioactive material) dangerous goods by road and rail within Great Britain (GB).

The TCA also provides support to the other UK competent authorities with respect to transport by sea and air, and by land in Northern Ireland. ONR is also the enforcing authority for the Ionising Radiation Regulations 2017 (IRR17) with regards to transport.

The TCA provides generic guidance and support on how dutyholders can comply with the legal requirements via our [website](http://www.onr.org.uk/transport/index.htm) and stakeholder events, this newsletter is part of that approach. For advice on specific transport activities, dutyholders should consult their Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA) and/or Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser (DGSA).

# Inspections and compliance activity

We undertake a programme of planned compliance inspection of dutyholders that have transport responsibilities. Inspections are undertaken physically at dutyholder’s premises or remotely.

Roadside Inspections

We are collaborating with the police and other agencies to undertake roadside stops of vehicles carrying class 7 dangerous goods. Details of recent roadside stops are published on our website: [https://news.onr.org.uk/2023/08/onr-joins-days-of-roadside-action-to-check-on-transport-of-radioactive-material/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.onr.org.uk%2F2023%2F08%2Fonr-joins-days-of-roadside-action-to-check-on-transport-of-radioactive-material%2F&data=05%7C01%7CPaul.Butler%40onr.gov.uk%7Cabb6c1bcfcde48b4b24d08dba4adf6e9%7C742775df807748d681d01e82a1f52cb8%7C0%7C0%7C638284839301445028%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rR01tpfCZt1ak9pYWkvHoYFyqOpAKVR1x7JVDfY5Zcg%3D&reserved=0)

Common Compliance Issues

Our inspections identify a number of non-compliances regarding class 7 dangerous goods transport activities. Below is a list of the most common non-compliances identified:

* Transport radiation risk assessments not being suitable and sufficient.
* Inadequate or absent transport emergency arrangements.
* Inadequate management systems.
* Failing to appoint in writing appropriate RPAs; receiving advice from unappointed RPAs or from Health Physicists who are not RPAs (and not part of an RPA body).
* Failing to appoint and seek advice from appropriate DGSA.

Guidance on the requirements for the above is available either from our website or by speaking to your RPA/DGSA.

# Incidents and operational experience

We are notified of transport incidents via our incident notification INF1 reporting process; such incidents, along with previously reported incidents, are reviewed on a regular basis. There have been no significant transport incidents this quarter.

Incidents should be reported using the process identified on the [Notify ONR - Contact us](http://www.onr.org.uk/notify-onr.htm) page.

There is a requirement to provide a follow up report within 60 days of an incident. Guidance on the content of this report is provided on our website (<https://www.onr.org.uk/notify-onr.htm> ). The intent of the report is to identify learning and any changes implemented as a result of the incident.

# Enforcement

Where non-compliances are identified during compliance inspections or following reported incidents, we will consider enforcement action in accordance with our enforcement policy statement (<https://www.onr.org.uk/documents/enforcement-policy-statement.pdf>).

Within the current financial year, we have served only one prohibition notice. Further information on this notice can be found on our website:

[ONR issues prohibition notice to Sondex Wireline Ltd - Office for Nuclear Regulation - News](https://news.onr.org.uk/2023/07/onr-issues-prohibition-notice-to-sondex-wireline-ltd/)

# Stakeholder engagement

We attend a number of stakeholder engagements to provide feedback on inspections / notifiable incidents / enforcement action to a range of different stakeholder groups. Some of the stakeholder groups we have had recent engagements with are:

* Society for Radiological Protection (SRP)
* Radioactive Material Transport Users Committee (RAMTUC)
* Transport Container Standardisation Committee (TCSC)
* Carriage of Dangerous Goods Practitioners Forum
* Institute of Physics, Engineering and Medicine (IPEM)
* IAEA Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC)
* Medical Radiation Liaison Group (MRLG)
* Scottish Non-Nuclear Industry Liaison Group (SNNILG)
* Small source Users Liaison Group (SULG)

If you believe ONR should be part of a stakeholder group/engagement, contact us by emailing [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

# Changes to regulations and ONR guidance

ADR/RID 2023:

As you will all be aware ADR/RID 2023 has now been in force for over six months. This means that ADR/RID 1.6.1.1 which states ‘the substances and articles of ADR may be carried until 30 June 2023 in accordance with the requirements of ADR applicable up to 31 December 2022’ no longer applies. A link to the latest versions of ADR/RID are provided below:

[ADR 2023 - Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road | UNECE](https://unece.org/transport/standards/transport/dangerous-goods/adr-2023-agreement-concerning-international-carriage)

[RID 2023 – OTIF – Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail](https://otif.org/en/?page_id=1105)

# Contingency and Emergency Planning

Regulation 8 of IRR17 requires employers (as the dutyholders) to perform a Radiation Risk Assessment (RRA) before undertaking work for the first time with radioactive material. This requirement includes carrying out work involving the transport of radioactive material. Dutyholders must ensure the RRA is suitable and sufficient and must review the assessment if there is reason to suspect it is no longer valid or there has been significant change in the work activity.

Dutyholders should use their IRR17 RRA to determine whether a radiation emergency can occur during transport (i.e. are estimated effective radiation doses above 1 mSv to any individual over a period of one year following a radiation accident).

When undertaking the assessment, the dutyholder should assess ‘reasonably foreseeable’ events, meaning something less than likely, but realistically possible.

Where the RRA indicates the possibility of an emergency situation resulting in a dose above 1 mSv, dutyholders must assume that a radiation emergency could occur and must prepare an emergency plan in accordance with CDG. This plan must also meet the requirements of IRR17 Regulation 13 contingency plans.

Where the dutyholder reaches the conclusion that no radiation emergency could occur, there is no requirement for a CDG emergency plan. However, IRR17 Regulation 13 contingency plans will still be required to be produced.

CDG emergency plans require more detailed planning for radiation emergencies than the contingency planning requirements set out in IRR17 Regulation 13 (further information is provided in schedule 2 of CDG). It may be possible to integrate CDG emergency plans and IRR17 contingency plans to reduce duplication in documentation and streamline emergency responses. However, if dutyholders choose to have one emergency plan covering multiple consignments that can and cannot result in a radiation emergency, it needs to be made clear which consignments can result in a radiation emergency and what additional actions are required to comply with CDG.

Further guidance on emergency planning for transport incidents and transport radiation risk assessment can be found at <https://www.onr.org.uk/transport/five-steps-transport-emergency-planning.docx> and [td-tca-gd-003.docx (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.onr.org.uk%2Foperational%2Fother%2Ftd-tca-gd-003.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) .

# International

SSR-6

The IAEA document SSR-6 (Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material) is part way through its revision process and is expected to undergo public consultation at the beginning of 2024.

# Competent Authority Approval

We are the GB competent authority for the civil transport of class 7 dangerous goods. We also act on behalf of other civilian UK competent authorities in cases where competent authority approval is required. Our ‘Applicants Guide'  
(<https://www.onr.org.uk/operational/other/tra-per-gd-014.pdf>) provides guidance to organisations applying to ONR for Competent Authority approval for new designs, renewal of existing approvals, validation of overseas approvals or modifications to approved designs. We have recently completed a periodic review and revision of this guidance. Revisions include the following:

* Inclusion of guidance for “Special Arrangement Approvals”
* Details of our expectations regarding Human Factors assessment
* Guidance on the expected duration of our assessment for different types of application
* Applications based on the structure / content of IAEA specific safety guide SSG-66 will reduce the risk of increased effort (time and cost) during our assessment.

A list of transport package designs and special form radioactive material that we have either approved or validated in 2023 can be found on our website ([ONR - Transport - Competent Authority approval](https://www.onr.org.uk/transport/competent-authority-approval.htm)). This list includes a copy of the regulatory report justifying the decision and the associated approval certificate.

GVH Projects

We have been made aware that GVH Projects (GVH) will be ceasing trading and are transferring their business to Extreme Cases ([https://www.extreme-cases.com/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.extreme-cases.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CPaul.Butler%40onr.gov.uk%7C25c17978d30a4250c6e608dbce3ee7a6%7C742775df807748d681d01e82a1f52cb8%7C0%7C0%7C638330541796413018%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tkQURCka6jsZ%2FZIW6XjyiHceSh7I5TXl%2Fc3ZqQDZUEg%3D&reserved=0)) who build and refurbish transport package cases.

If you are currently using any GVH packages and you have not been contacted by GVH, we recommend you contact GVH to discuss potential impact to your business.

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)

We get an array of FAQs from dutyholders, though we can only provide responses to FAQs which relate to legislation and guidance. For any other queries please contact your appointed RPA or DGSA.

Our FAQ webpage has been updated:

<https://www.onr.org.uk/transport/transport-faqs.htm>

# Security Issues

We have been made aware of a number of attempts of unauthorised personnel trying to enter nuclear medicine departments radiation medical areas within hospitals. On each occasion hospital staff followed their security procedures to stop / question unauthorised personnel.

Remember to have appropriate security arrangements as required under ADR 1.10 when transporting class 7 dangerous goods.

# Feedback / Contact Us

What information do you think should be included within the TCA newsletter?

If you want to provide feedback, or need more information regarding the transport of class 7 dangerous goods, our contact details are below:

**E-mail:** [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk)

**Website:** [ONR - Transporting radioactive material](http://www.onr.org.uk/transport/index.htm)