

***IRRS Good Practices***  
**Regulations and Guidance**  
**(Module 9)**

*Regulations and guides for decommissioning activities*

**Italy – Initial Mission**

Mission Date: December 2016

***Good Practice***

The use of up to date, state of the art safety standards from foreign regulatory bodies by the National Institute of Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) in the field of decommissioning and waste management, in order to cover gaps in the Italian framework, pending further regulatory updates, was considered to be a good practice because it required a superior performance to what was commonly observed in decommissioning and in the on site design, construction and operation of waste treatment facilities.

***Observation***

Although some of the Italian legal and regulatory requirements and guidance for nuclear safety were not up to date, ISPRA incorporated into its individual approvals, the “state of the art” of safety standards developed by other regulatory bodies. The IAEA team observed that the approval issued by ISPRA in 2015 for the construction of a new treatment system for liquid radioactive waste at Garigliano NPP required that the mechanical components for the collection, transfer and handling of radioactive liquids should be made in accordance with technical standards specified in the US NRC RG 1.26.

***Bases***

- (1) GSR Part 1 Requirement 14 states that *“the government shall fulfil its respective international obligations, participate in the relevant international arrangements, including international peer reviews, and promote international cooperation and assistance to enhance safety globally.”*
- (2) GSR Part 1 Requirement 14, para. 3.2 states that *“The features of the global safety regime include:*
  - a) *International conventions that establish common obligations and mechanisms for ensuring protection and safety;*
  - b) *Codes of conduct that promote the adoption of good practices in the relevant facilities and activities;*

- c) Internationally agreed IAEA safety standards that promote the development and application of internationally harmonized safety requirements, guides and practices;*
- d) International peer reviews of the regulatory control and safety of facilities and activities, and mutual learning by participating States;*
- e) Regular multilateral and bilateral cooperation between the relevant national and international organizations to enhance safety by means of harmonized approaches as well as to increase the quality and effectiveness of safety reviews and inspections, by means of sharing of knowledge and feedback of experience.”*

### ***IAEA Comments/Highlights***

This licensing process implied that safety related activities as highlighted in the decommissioning decree had to be undertaken after a prior approval by ISPRA.

References to the safety standards used, including the IAEA standards, were specified in the review, assessment and subsequent approval of detailed projects by ISPRA. It is to be mentioned that ISPRA had actively participated in the development of WENRA Safety Reference Levels (SRL), in particular for those related to waste storage facilities and decommissioning. The WENRA SRLs had been explicitly referred to in the authorization documents and they had been transposed into new technical guides, which were in the final stage of preparation when the IRRS mission was held.