



IAEA

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# Nuclear Security

ADVISORY SERVICES

## IPPAS | International Physical Protection Advisory Service

### Why is this important?

Physical protection against the theft, sabotage or unauthorized use of nuclear material has become a matter of strong national and international concern and commitment given the current global situation.

While the responsibility for establishing and operating an effective physical protection regime for nuclear material and facilities is the sole responsibility of each Member State, the IAEA can provide technical assistance in these efforts and also encourages international cooperation in this specified area of security.

The IAEA's International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) was created in 1995 to assist States, upon request, in establishing, maintaining and strengthening their national physical protection regimes. IPPAS provides peer advice on implementing international instruments and IAEA guidance on the protection of nuclear and other radioactive material, associated facilities and associated activities.

### What do I need to know?

An IPPAS mission includes an assessment of the existing practices of a State, in the light of relevant international instruments and IAEA nuclear security publications, and an exchange of experience as well as accepted international practices aimed at strengthening the security organization and the procedures and practices being followed by a State. This assessment includes a national level review of the legal and regulatory framework, and security measures and procedures in place to execute this framework at facilities and during transport.

A modular approach is utilized in this assessment. The following five modules are available:

- National Review of Nuclear Security Regime for Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities;
- Nuclear Facility Review;
- Transport Review;
- Security of Radioactive Material, Associated Facilities and Associated Activities;
- Computer Security Review.

The service is conducted by a team of international nuclear security experts, who also use their own extensive experience and international guidance to suggest improvements to the national nuclear security regime. Conclusions are made by consensus on the basis of combined expertise of the international team of experts.

## What actions are recommended?



Member States desiring advisory services should send a request to the IAEA Division of Nuclear Security.



The host State should establish a point of contact early on to assist the IAEA team leader in preparation activities.



The IAEA provides a confidential assessment report and a security support plan to the host State.



For nuclear security guidelines, see: [https://www-ns.iaea.org/security/nuclear\\_security\\_series.asp?s=5&l=35](https://www-ns.iaea.org/security/nuclear_security_series.asp?s=5&l=35)

## What are the objectives of an IPPAS mission?

The key objective of an IPPAS mission is to provide advice to key national competent authorities, operators, carriers and shippers, and other regulated entities based on an objective assessment of the status of the nuclear security regime and physical protection systems. The IPPAS mission experts evaluate the implementation of international instruments and the application of IAEA guidance, and take account of international good practices.

The findings of IPPAS missions are reflected in mission reports, which are treated by the IAEA as “Highly Confidential” information. The report is shared by the IAEA only with the host State.

An essential feature of this advisory service is the availability, upon request, of IAEA follow-up assistance, such as training, technical support and more targeted assessments of various elements of national nuclear security regime.

### Who should request this service?

Relevant government organizations, regulatory bodies and facility operators by providing a formal request to the IAEA Secretariat through official channels.

### Who conducts this service?

An IPPAS mission is conducted by a team of international experts assembled by the IAEA in consultations with the host State. Teams include a team leader and 4–6 other subject matter experts as well as the IAEA technical coordinator. Acceptance of the team composition is confirmed by the host State.

### What is the duration of an IPPAS mission?

IPPAS missions last two weeks.

## Resources

The *Nuclear Security Information Portal* (NUSEC) is accessible to all IAEA Member States. Go to <https://nusec.iaea.org> to register.

**Email:** [NuclearSecurity@iaea.org](mailto:NuclearSecurity@iaea.org)

**Visit:** <https://www-ns.iaea.org/security/default.asp?s=4&l=33>

