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(Summary)

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INTERNATIONAL GUIDANCE ON CLEARANCE CRITERIA  
FOR APPLICATION TO MATERIALS CONTAINING RADIONUCLIDES

(Prepared by G. Linsley, International Atomic Energy Agency)

Summary

The International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources establish the conditions whereby radiation sources can be released from control. The essential principle behind this concept, termed clearance, is that the risks associated with the released source should be trivially small. The concept has been widely applied and practically applicable clearance levels have been derived for use in regulating the recycling and reuse of materials originating from the nuclear industry.

Since materials released from controls may be traded between countries in the same way as any other material, it is necessary to have international agreements on acceptable levels of radioactivity in materials so as to provide a basis for regulating such movements .

The International Atomic Energy Agency, in concert with other international bodies, has for many years been engaged in promoting discussions between its Member States in this subject area. International guidance has been produced and discussions are continuing towards reaching a full consensus on internationally accepted clearance levels.