

Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

Off-site Source Recovery Project

Environmental Science and Waste
Technology Division/Waste Management
MS J552, P.O. Box 1663
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
(505) 665-8292
FAX 665-7913

Date: June 29, 2000
Refer to: OSRP:00-43

Dockets Management System
US Department of Transportation
400 7th St. SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Reference: Docket Number RSPA-99-6283

Dear Sir or Madam:

Attached are the comments of the Off-Site Source Recovery (OSR) Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory on the proposed harmonization of US DOT regulations with the IAEA's ST-1. While harmonization of packaging, labeling and activity content is beneficial, the total harmonization of US regulations with the international standards poses several problems as noted in our comments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

J. A. Tompkins
Project Engineer
Off-site Source Recovery Project

Attachment: ST-1 Comments

Cy: L. Leonard, E-WMOSR, MS J552
Ken Hargis, E-WMOSR, MS J591

ST-1 Comments

107 **Scope**

Add a provision to allow radiation protection personnel to carry excepted quantities of solid radioactive material (i.e. calibration sources) on passenger aircraft as checked baggage. This provision will allow radiation protection personnel to travel to a site with appropriate radiation detection equipment without the persistent worry that they are violating DOT regulations on transport of radioactive material that is not needed for medical or research purposes. This provision would be a very direct benefit to public health protection and since the quantities involved are 2-3 orders of magnitude less than the A₁ or A₂ limits, the risk is not significant.

236 **Definition of Radioactive Material.**

The current definition of radioactive material (70 Bq/g or less) has served the USA well for several decades. The benefit to be derived from a risk based system that spans 7 orders of magnitude is not significant compared to the simplicity of the present system. If the regulation was written as *70 Bq/g or the limits specified in paras 401-406, whichever is higher*, that would incorporate the best of both systems.

310 **QA Program**

This provision requires a QA program for the design, manufacture, testing, documentation, use and maintenance of radioactive material packages. An NRC type QA program for Type A, Special form, SCO, LSA, or IP packages is not necessary. This provision will only make it difficult for individuals and small companies to design and test their own packages. If by QA program it is intended that there be a level of record keeping sufficient to document the shipping packages, that is already required under US law. It would be much simpler for small entities to file test reports with DOT, who could maintain a centralized record of such packages.

General

ST-1 provisions for a European type radiation protection program were rejected when DOT deleted the proposed Subpart I additions to 49CFR172 on 9/30/97. These provisions will significantly impact common carriers of RAM and hence the ease of distribution of this material within the US, without a significant increase in transport personnel safety.

ST-1 provisions for placarding all 3 categories of *RADIOACTIVE* labels are unnecessary and do not add significant benefit to the Safety of RAM transport within the US.