VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Welfare

Act on Radiation Protection, No. 44/2002,
as amended by Act No. 28/2008, Act No. 88/2008, Act No. 82/2010, Act No. 162/2010, Act No. 126/2011 and Act No. 121/2013.

SECTION I
Objectives and scope.

Article 1

This Act is to secure that necessary safety measures are taken against radiation from radioactive materials and radiological equipment for the purpose of limiting the detrimental effects of such radiation. [When a decision to use radiation is taken, care shall be taken to ensure that the advantage entailed for the individual or for the community is greater than the possible damage resulting from its use, and that the level of exposure of persons to radiation is as low as possible, taking reasonable account of the purpose of the radiation in each instance and the economic and social factors involved.][1)]

The objectives of the Act shall be realized through detailed measures, *inter alia*, the inspection of any handling of radioactive materials and radiological equipment, studies and research, monitoring of radioactive substances in the environment, measures against radiological emergencies, and through education and guidelines on radiation protection.

[1)] Act No. 121/2013, Article 1.

Article 2

The Act applies to:

1. Safety measures against radiation [in all circumstances and all activities][1)] that could cause a risk of radiation exposure to persons, for example, upon the production, import, export, delivery, possession, installation, use, handling and disposal of radioactive substances and radiological equipment (*cf.* the fourth paragraph of Article 13).
2. Safety measures [in activities or circumstances which result][1)] in increased levels of natural radiation from the environment.
3. Safety measures against ionizing radiation from radioactive substances and radiological equipment insofar this does not fall under the auspices of other parties according to international conventions.
4. Monitoring and research in respect of radioactive substances in the environment and foodstuffs.
5. [The radiological aspect of measures [to combat radiation hazards of all types].[1)]][2)]

[1)] Act No. 121/2013, Article 2. [2)] Act No. 28/2008, Article 1.

Article 3

In this Act the definitions of the following terms are as follows:

1. *Radiation*: Ionizing and non-ionizing radiation.
2. *Ionizing radiation*: Radiation from radioactive substances, X-rays, or other radiation with similar biological effects.

3. *Non-ionizing radiation*: Ultraviolet radiation and all other electromagnetic radiation with longer wave length, for example, microwaves or other electromagnetic waves that have similar biological effects, as well as electromagnetic fields.

[4. *Radiological equipment*: Equipment which is powered by electricity and which produces radiation, e.g. linear accelerators, X-ray machines, solar lamps and laser light pointers.][1)]

[5. *Medical radiation*: The following types of radiation are considered to be medical radiation:
   a. radiation of individuals for the diagnosis or treatment of disease,
   b. radiation of the families or companions of patients and other persons (excluding, however, the employees of healthcare institutions), during diagnosis or treatment,
   c. radiation of participants in scientific research in the health sector.][1)]

6. *Activity*: Work activity that may cause ionizing radiation exposure to individuals.

7. *Effective dose*: A measure of the quantity of ionizing radiation where the health risk of an individual constitutes the basis.

[8. *Holder*: A person or entity who has received a license from the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority for use of radioactive materials or radiological equipment emitting ionizing radiation.][1)]

[9.][1)] *Designated supervisor*: An employee who has the appropriate education and experience, appointed by [a holder][1)] to act on his behalf as being responsible for an activity in respect of radiation protection.

[10.][1)] *Quality assurance*: Any organized or planned measure deemed as necessary to create sufficient trust in that facilities, system, system parts, or measures work in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with accepted standards.

[11.][1)] *Quality control*: The part of the quality assurance that applies to measures (planning, coordination, implementation) that are intended to maintain quality or improve it. Quality control entails controlling, assessing and keeping inside the set limits any characteristic factors regarding the effectiveness of equipment that may be defined, measured and monitored.

[12. *Forensic radiation*: Radiation of individuals for purposes other than medical, e.g. for the investigation of criminal cases or for safety purposes.][1)]

[1)] Act No. 121/2013, Article 3. [2)] Act No. 28/2008, Article 2.

SECTION II
The Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority.

Article 4

The Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority is an institute under the auspices of [the Minister].[1)] The institute's role is to undertake safety measures against radiation from radioactive substances and radiological equipment.

The Minister appoints the director of the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority for a term of five years at a time. The director shall have a university degree in the institute's sphere of activity. The director is in charge of the management of the institute. He shall see to it being operated in accordance with existing laws and regulations at all times, and is responsible for its daily operation.

[1)] Act No. 126/2011, Article 342.

Article 5

The Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority undertakes:

1. Monitoring and supervising the implementation of this Act, and the regulations ...[1)] set on grounds of the Act.
2. Any inspections and research deemed as necessary according to this Act and the regulations ...[1)] set on grounds of the Act.
3. Monitoring workers' exposure to ionizing radiation, and maintaining a dose register of the results of the dose estimates for every worker.

4. Regular assessment of the total ionizing radiation exposure of the general public from activities [and circumstances][1] covered by this Act.
5. Regular assessment of patients' exposure to ionizing radiation from medical radiationunder this Act.
6. Monitoring and researching radioactive substances in foodstuffs and the environment.
7. Instruction regarding radiation protection for workers who work with radiation, as well as disseminating information to the general public and the mass media.
8. Research in the field of radiation protection.
9. [The radiological aspect of measures [to combat radiation hazards of all types],[1] including the analysis of threat, coordination of precautionary measures with international standards, the operation of precautionary and monitoring systems and other related matters.][2]

[10. Necessary dosimetry and maintenance of national standards for use of ionizing radiation Iceland.][2]

[11.][2] Collaborating with foreign authorities in the field of radiation protection and nuclear issues.

[12.][2] Other factors pertaining to the implementation of this Act, and other projects in the field of radiation protection in accordance with further decisions thereon by the Minister.

The Minister may request the institute to address certain matters or projects relating to the duties under this Act.

The institute shall prepare, apply for and maintain accreditation regarding certain factors of research and inspections carried out by the institute.

The institute is authorised to enter into agreements on certain factors of the implementation with parties who meet the professional criteria of the institute.

Parties operating activities covered by this Act shall [assist the institute gathering the necessary information][2] to facilitate that the assessment under items 4 and 5 is as realistic as possible.

[1] Act No. 121/2013, Article 4. [2] Act No. 28/2008, Article 3.

Article 6

...[1]

[1] Act No. 121/2013, Article 5.

SECTION III
[Permit insurance and reporting for import etc.][1]

[1] Act No. 28/2008, Article 5.

Article 7

The production, import, [export],[1] ownership, storing, delivery, [use, recycling, re-use][2] and disposal of radioactive substances, be they pure, mixed with other substances or installed in equipment, are subject to licenses by the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority. The granting of licenses is subject to conditions set by the institute, including on the handling of radioactive substances upon the end of their use. Applications for such licenses shall be made on the institute's forms or in another format acceptable by the institute.

A license is not required in respect of radioactive substances if their total content or their concentration per mass unit is under the exemption limits as determined by the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority. Additionally, such licenses are not required for phosphorescence watches, pocket compasses, meters, and other such equipment containing very small quantities of radioactive substances, under further decisions by the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority.

The import of radiological equipment capable of producing ionizing radiation is subject to reporting [unless radiation from them is under the limits determined by the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority].[2] [Importers shall dispatch a notification to the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority no later than 1 February each year on any such equipment imported in the previous year. Domestic producers shall also dispatch such notifications on domestic buyers of equipment subject to reporting.][1]

[Use of radiation equipment that is subject to reporting requirements and that emits ionizing radiation is subject to licensing by the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority. Changes in activities that have an impact on radiation safety measures are also subject to licensing by the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority. The granting of licences is subject to conditions set by the authority. Applications for such licences shall be submitted on forms produced by the authority, or in another form approved by the authority. In the case of new types of activity, an assessment of the risks involved shall be stated specially (*cf.* Article 8).

Only persons who meet the requirements of the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority regarding qualifications and experience may undertake the installation and repair of radiation equipment that is subject to reporting requirements and that emits ionizing radiation. Those who undertake the installation of such radiation equipment shall notify the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority of such installation within four weeks of its completion.][2)]

The Minister may decide by means of a regulation[3)] that the import of certain categories of radiation equipment capable of producing non-ionizing radiation, be subject to reporting.

[1)] Act No. 28/2008, Article 4. [2)] Act No. 121/2013, Article 6. [3)] Regulation No. 954/2011.

SECTION IV
Assessment of the benefits and risks of using radiation.

Article 8

Any new types or categories of activities [or equipment][1)] that may cause ionizing radiation exposure to people shall be assessed in advance with respect to the economic, social or other benefits in comparison with the risk of detrimental health impact such radiation may have. [Parties intending to begin such activities or to manufacture or import such equipment shall send the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority a report on such an assessment of the intended activity or use.][1)] Commencement of the activities prior to receiving the consent of the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority, and of an evaluation by the Director of Health in the case of medical activities, is prohibited. A review shall be made of activities already taking place with respect to an assessment under the first sentence, when new essential information is available on its benefits or consequences.

[The Minister shall issue regulations containing more detailed provisions on the assessment of the benefits and risks of the use of ionizing radiation, and also on forensic radiation.][1)]

[1)] Act No. 121/2013, Article 7.

SECTION V
Use of radioactive substances and radiological equipment.

Article 9

...[1)]

[Individuals younger than 18 years old are unauthorized to use tanning lamps, for other purpose than medical, in places that have licence according to the Health and Safety and Pollution Control Act. The Minister may specify on implementation of this provision in a regulation. Monitoring, coercive measures and penalties are subject to the provisions of the Health and Safety and Pollution Control Act.][2)]

By means of a regulation[3)], the Minister may decide that the use of certain categories of radiological equipment emitting non-ionizing radiation be subject to authorization [and other limitations].[2)]

[1)] Act No. 121/2013, Article 8. [2)] Act No. 82/2010, Article 1. [3)] Regulation No. 810/2003. Regulation No. 954/2011.

Article 10

[The holder][1)] is responsible for ensuring that the use of radioactive substances and radiological equipment, and also all instruments, equipment and activities pertaining to radiation protection are in accordance with this Act, and the regulations and rules set hereunder.

Where activities employ ionizing radiation, [the licensee][1)] shall appoint a responsible person who possesses the appropriate qualifications and experience. The Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority shall be informed of his or her name, qualifications and experience. The appointment of the responsible person