



Engagement and Cooperation on IAEA Safeguards – Additional Protocol: VERTIC Initiative and Methods

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Summary

- VERTIC's Project on the Additional Protocol and Safeguards
- The need for experience-sharing in safeguards implementation
- VERTIC's safeguards database – a knowledge base on implementation approaches

Implementing IAEA Safeguards

- Nuclear Safeguards are an important international instrument, and are widely applied throughout the world. As of September 2014:
 - 181 States have brought a CSA into force;
 - 95 have operative SQPs;
 - 144 States have signed an AP, and 124 have brought one into force.

Implementing IAEA Safeguards

- Implementing Safeguards requires an understanding of several specific areas:
 - The content and obligations of safeguards agreements;
 - The kind of activities, materials and items that are covered by safeguards;
 - The kind of measures a country needs to take to identify, account for and report on the controlled materials and activities.
- It is also important that safeguards implementation is both **effective** and **efficient**, to avoid a waste of resources and efforts.

VERTIC's Additional Protocol and Safeguards project

- VERTIC's project focuses on raising awareness and building capacity in countries:
 - Research & analysis on implementation practices:
 - countries without AP (gap analysis);
 - countries that have already implemented AP (as examples);
 - In-Country Visits:
 - On invitation by governments only;
 - Awareness-raising and implementation assistance on Safeguards and AP

VERTIC's Additional Protocol and Safeguards project

- VERTIC also offers similar assistance on other instruments:
 - Convention for Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM);
 - International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT);
 - IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources;
 - UN Security Council Resolution 1540

National Approaches to Implementation

- Certain key provisions and arrangements are common to all states with safeguards agreements
- However: states adopt **different approaches** in implementing safeguards, based on different criteria:
 - Legal tradition;
 - National institutions;
 - Nuclear activities.
- Countries differ in their familiarity with safeguards instruments and capacity to engage with implementation:
 - Countries with less experience need to build a base of capacity before tackling the issue;
 - Even countries with significant experience need to review their processes and approaches

The Need for Experience-Sharing

- Building capacity can be a time- and resource-consuming process
- Knowledge-building and experience-sharing tools can **facilitate** this process as they work to:
 - **remove barriers** to knowledge;
 - **Increase** understanding of different approaches.
- This kind of tool can be useful for countries at various stages of the implementation process:
 - At the **start** of the ratification and implementation process;
 - As a country considers **revising** its own legislative framework;
 - As a country reviews its institutional practices to **improve** and **rationalize** an already-established system

Experience-Sharing to date

- Cross-fertilization and experience-sharing is common in many sectors
- Review of practices against international standards is important in many areas
- This is **already** going on in nuclear safeguards, through workshops and technical meetings
- VERTIC's database tool will complement these activities by providing a single, comprehensive repository of knowledge

VERTIC's Safeguards Database

An information resource on safeguards implementation which facilitates knowledge- and experience-sharing, by collecting information on various approaches to safeguards implementation in a flexible and searchable database.

Contents of the Database

- Country overview, including:
 - Geographical region;
 - General legal system and tradition;
 - Current and planned nuclear activities.
- Adaptation of Specific provisions in the CSA and AP:
 - Highlighting the way single provisions have been translated in the national legislative framework;
 - Including relevant legal references.

Contents of the Database

- Information on the organizational structure of safeguards regulators and on practical implementation aspects
- Overall description of implementation approach through narrative analysis, looking at evolution, practices and (when possible) underlying rationale.

Using the Database

Advantages of the database format: **Flexibility** and **Usability**

- Ability to generate tailored reports and result forms from information base;
- Different type of focus possible:
 - Overall information on country approaches;
 - In-depth analysis on the implementation of specific provisions, including by area (e.g. export controls, inspections, reporting);
 - Comparative analysis on implementation of selected provisions and areas across different countries.
- Ability to select countries with specific profiles to focus comparison

Concepts and Methodology

- Implementation information examined and categorized according to range of criteria:
 - *When*: identifying time-line of legislative implementation (e.g. before or after signature, EIF?)
 - *How*: identifying if provisions are implemented through
 - laws, regulations, or other instruments,
 - dedicated measures or use of other pre-existing measures?
 - *Who*: what institutions oversee or are involved
 - *Why*: what are underlying factors and rationale for the way a state has chosen to implement the AP and specific provisions?

Beneficiaries

- This tool is intended to help states and other stakeholders to share experiences, practices and lessons learned.
- It can help state officials directly involved in implementation:
 - Radiation protection and nuclear regulators;
 - Custom officials;
 - Legislators;
 - Diplomats.
- It can also be of assistance to institutions relevant to safeguards activities, but not involved in implementation:
 - Departments of energy, industry and mines;
 - Research and higher education;
 - Defence;
 - Public health officials.

Future perspectives:

- The database is currently under development, and its launch will be announced by VERTIC
- Criteria for external access to the database are being finalized
- The database is being designed with flexibility and future extension in mind.
- Initial prospects are being considered to extend additional areas:
 - **Nuclear Safety and Nuclear Security** to create an **integrated 3S Database**

Thank you!

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