

Optimisation principle: status and perspectives at the IAEA

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The International Atomic Energy Agency has two statutory safety functions: (a) establishment of standards of safety for protection of health against radiation exposure and minimization of danger to life and property, and (b) the provision for the application of these standards to its own operations, operations under its supervision or control and or at the request of a Member State.

Regarding the establishment of standards, the Agency has always paid attention to the implementation of the three principles of the radiological protection. In particular, attention has been given to the optimization principle and documents have been produced on its implementation in different areas.

As far as the application of its standards is concerned, the Agency has quite recently introduced a new approach, the so called “graded approach” which is, for example, referred to for the radiological monitoring for natural sources. Through its technical assistance to Member States, the Agency also promotes the implementation of the ALARA principle by supporting networks.

The objective of the presentation is to develop these examples, to indicate their integration into the general radiation protection programme at the Agency and to examine the perspectives as they could be derived from the next months, taking into account the publication of the new ICRP recommendations and the review of its Basic Safety Standards.