



ERPAN Survey

on life-time of sealed sources

Jean Claude Thiry

jean-claude.thiry@ms.etat.lu

Ministère de la Santé – Direction de la Santé – Division de la Radioprotection





Background

- Luxembourg decree:
 - initial from 2000: sources must withstand a leak-tightness test each 2 years after a lifetime of 10 years
 - amendment in 2011: replacement of radioactive sources mandatory after recommended working life
- Problems in practical implementation:
 - old certificates do not mention lifetime
 - sudden costly investments for smaller industries





Question

- Do regulations in other countries prescribe any maximum lifetime of sealed sources (fixed lifetime, mandatory exchange after end of recommended lifetime, ...)
- How is this handled in practice?





Survey results

No legislative requirements	SI, MT, IE, BE, SE
Leak-tightness test after a certain age or inspection results judge over license extension	CZ, CH, UK, <i>LU</i>
Mandatory replacement after a certain period	FR (10 years), <i>LU (life-time)</i>





Main aspects

- Leak-tightness and further inspections and tests increase safety
- Mandatory replacement avoids industries keeping obsolete sources to avoid take-back costs
 - problem also reported by IE
 - this was one of the reasons for the mandatory replacement decree in LU





Conclusion

- The Luxembourg legislation is one of the most restrictive ones concerning the working life of sealed sources
- Will be further discussed and *possibly* softened when a new legislation will be implemented (BSS)
 - back to 2000 decree, leak-tightness test only

