



Atoms for Peace and Development

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية

国际原子能机构

International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique

Международное агентство по атомной энергии

Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100, 1400 Vienna, Austria

Phone: (+43 1) 2600 • Fax: (+43 1) 26007

Email: Official.Mail@iaea.org • Internet: <http://www.iaea.org>

In reply please refer to:

Dial directly to extension: (+43 1) 2600-22013

The Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presents its compliments to the IAEA's Member States and has the honour to draw their attention to the following draft safety standard:

Criticality Safety in the Handling of Fissile Material
(DS516)

Member States and their experts are hereby provided with an opportunity to review and evaluate this draft safety standard, which is available online at:

<https://www.iaea.org/resources/safety-standards/draft-standards-for-ms-comment>

A hard copy of the draft text will be sent out upon request.

Any proposed changes to this draft text resulting from the review by Member States will be taken into account in the finalization of the safety standard.

Member States are kindly requested to provide comments on the draft text following the guidance given in the attached Explanatory Note.

The Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IAEA's Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.



2020-01-23

Enclosures: Explanatory Note

Form for Comments

Statement by the Commission on Safety Standards

Explanatory Note

Criticality Safety in the Handling of Fissile Material

(DS516)

The draft text for review, entitled *Criticality Safety in the Handling of Fissile Material*, was prepared as a draft Safety Guide to be issued in the IAEA Safety Standards Series.

The proposed Safety Guide was revised by amendment and the changes are displayed in the draft text. Member States are expected to provide their comments only on the text that has been modified. The draft text has already been reviewed through consultants' meetings, as well as by the Emergency Preparedness and Response Standards Committee (EPreSC), the Nuclear Safety Standards Committee (NUSSC), the Radiation Safety Standards Committee (RASSC), the Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC), the Waste Safety Standards Committee (WASSC), and also by the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC).

The objective of this draft text, as accepted by the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS), is to provide comprehensive, consistent and up-to-date guidance for implementing the safety requirements in *Safety of Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facilities* (IAEA Safety Standards Series No. SSR-4) and other relevant Safety Requirements as they apply to nuclear criticality safety. It addresses feedback from the users of the IAEA Safety Standards related to nuclear fuel cycle facilities, lessons from the events in the nuclear industry, including those occurring at nuclear fuel cycle facilities that were reported to the Fuel Incident Notification and Analysis System (FINAS) and experience gained from the Safety Evaluation of Fuel Cycle Facilities During Operation (SEDO) missions.

Comments are requested in relation to:

- Relevance and usefulness: Are the stated objectives appropriate, and are they met by the draft text?
- Scope and completeness: Is the scope appropriate, and is it adequately covered by the draft text?
- Quality and clarity: Does the guidance in the draft text represent the current consensus among specialists in the field, and is this guidance expressed clearly and coherently?
- Safety–security interfaces: Does the draft text appropriately address the interfaces between safety and nuclear security?
- Are the requirements established in IAEA Safety Standards Series No. SSR-4 (in particular Requirements 38 and 66) adequately addressed in the draft text?

Comments of an editorial nature will be considered; however, it should be noted that the draft text will be comprehensively edited by the IAEA Secretariat.

Any comments should be made in English, should refer to the relevant paragraph number in the draft text being reviewed, and should propose alternative text where appropriate. Please use the attached Form for Comments to record all comments.

The responsible IAEA officer is Mr Juraj Rovny of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, who may be contacted for further information in connection with this subject by telephone at: +43 1 2600 22013 or via email at: J.Rovny@iaea.org.

Any comments should be sent through the established official channels to the responsible IAEA officer by **22 May 2020**.

Form for Comments
Criticality Safety in the Handling of Fissile Material (DS516)

COMMENTS BY REVIEWER				RESOLUTION			
Reviewer:				Page.... of....			
Country/Organization:				Date:			
Comment No.	Para/Line No.	Proposed new text	Reason	Accepted	Accepted, but modified as follows	Rejected	Reason for modification/rejection

Statement by the Commission on Safety Standards

Publications in the IAEA Safety Standards Series are prepared and reviewed in accordance with a uniform process. To this end, the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) and five committees with harmonized terms of reference — the Emergency Preparedness and Response Standards Committee (EPRReSC), the Nuclear Safety Standards Committee (NUSSC), the Radiation Safety Standards Committee (RASSC), the Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC) and the Waste Safety Standards Committee (WASSC) — have been established. The CSS has a special overview role with regard to the IAEA's safety standards and provides advice to the Director General on the IAEA's overall programme with regard to regulatory aspects of safety.

The uniform preparation and review process involves organizing expert group meetings; arranging at different stages of preparation for the internal review of draft texts; submitting the texts to the relevant Committee(s) for review; submitting draft texts to the IAEA's Member States for comment; and submitting the approved final draft of the safety standard¹ for endorsement by the CSS before publication.

The CSS stresses the importance of Member States' comments to the preparation and review process for safety standards. Publications in the IAEA Safety Standards Series not only should be of the requisite quality but also should represent the consensus view of the Member States and should address the issues of importance to the Member States. While the CSS, the Committees and the Secretariat strive to provide safety standards that satisfy these criteria, the review of draft standards by experts in the Member States is an essential stage in obtaining the broadest possible technical consensus and the highest possible quality and relevance.

Member States are also encouraged to provide the IAEA with feedback on their use of the safety standards. The status of safety standards extant and in preparation can be seen on the IAEA's website, where there are also links to electronic files for existing publications, including those in other official languages.² The responsible IAEA officer is Mr Dominique Delattre, Head of the Safety and Security Publications Unit of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security. He may be contacted for further information in connection with this subject by telephone at: + 43 1 2600 22696 or via email at: D.Delattre@iaea.org.

¹ Safety Guides are published under the authority of the Director General. Safety Fundamentals and Safety Requirements publications require the approval of the Board of Governors, after endorsement by the CSS.

² See <http://www-ns.iaea.org/committees/files/CSS/205/status.pdf>.