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Document Preparation Profile (DPP)
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1. IDENTIFICATION

Document Category: Safety Guide – IAEA Safety Standards Series No. SSG-8 [Rev.1]

Working ID: DS545

Proposed Title: Radiation Safety of Gamma, X Ray and Electron Beam Irradiation Facilities

Proposed Action: Revision of the Specific Safety Guide No. SSG-8
Radiation Safety of Gamma, Electron and X Ray Irradiation Facilities,
SSG-8, 2010

Review Committee(s) or Group: RASSC (Lead), WASSC, TRANSSC, EPRESC, NSGC

Technical Officer(s): Haridasan PAPPINISSERI, RSM-NSRW

2. BACKGROUND

IAEA Safety Standards Series No. GSR Part 3, Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards, establishes requirements for the protection of people and the environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation and for the safety of radiation sources. The implementation of these requirements helps to ensure that the number of people exposed to radiation and their doses are kept as low as reasonably achievable and helps to prevent emergencies or to mitigate their consequences.

IAEA Safety Standards Series No. SSG-8, Radiation Safety of Gamma, Electron and X Ray Irradiation Facilities, is intended to implement the requirements of GSR Part 3 in respect of the radiation sources used in irradiation facilities. However, the publication, issued in 2010, predates GSR Part 3 and several other relevant safety standards.

As proposed during a consultancy meeting in August 2022, the revised publication will alter the current title, for better reflecting the content. The meeting noted several gaps or updating certain contents to that will represent the actual industrial practice being ongoing in Member States. The table of contents will be updated by including additional sections on Duties and Responsibilities, Safety Assessment, Radiation Protection Programme, Qualification and Training, and Protection of public and the environment. This Safety Guide will have an expanded scope to include all Categories of gamma, X ray and electron beam (eBeam) irradiators.

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE PUBLICATION

The revision of SSG-8 is necessary as it predates the current safety requirements established in GSR Part 1 (Rev.1), GSR Part 2, GSR Part 3, GSR Part 4, GSR Part 7 and SSR-6 (Rev. 1) and

recommendations in supporting Safety Guides. A revision is needed to ensure consistency with the current safety requirements and with the terminology of the IAEA Safety Glossary (2018 Edition).

Since the development of SSG-8, the application of ionising radiation technologies has expanded. The use of eBeam and X ray technologies are increasing in industrial and research settings. To meet this increasing demand new technologies are emerging. For example, low energy eBeam and X ray irradiation is gaining increased commercial attention. Since the publication of SSG-8 in 2010 more experience in safely handling of these technologies has been gained. The revised Safety Guide will capture this expanded knowledge.

Although SSG-8 continues to be used widely it is in need of revision. IAEA Radiation Safety Standard Committee (RASSC) eight term 2021–2023, assigned the revision of SSG-8 as high priority. The Committee considered several extant safety guides in need of revision, and this was identified as priority one.

4. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the proposed revision of SSG-8 is to provide recommendations and guidance on meeting the requirements established in GSR Part 3 concerning the design and use of ionizing technology-based irradiation facilities. This includes gamma, X ray and electron beam (eBeam) irradiation facilities.

The recommendations in this revised publication will also address SSR-6 (Rev. 1) and other relevant IAEA safety standards, Nuclear Security Series publications, and the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources in relation to ionizing technology based irradiation practices.

The recommendations in the proposed publication are targeted primarily at regulatory bodies and current and future operating organizations of industrial and research irradiation facilities, as well as their employees and radiation protection officers. This safety guide will also be of interest to qualified experts, equipment designers and manufacturers, and equipment service providers. The guidance will also be of interest to those who are utilizing industrial irradiation services.

5. SCOPE

This Safety Guide provides recommendations on how to meet the requirements of GSR Part 3 with regard to the safe design and operation of irradiation facilities [gamma irradiators (Categories I to IV), electron beams irradiators and X ray irradiators (Categories I and II)] that are used for the industrial radiation processing and research and development.

This Safety Guide will not include the X ray generators and other radiation sources used for security inspection purpose and for non-medical human imaging. It will not include the use of ionizing radiation for medical diagnosis and therapeutic applications, industrial radiography, heavy ions and cyclotrons, as these may be found in other IAEA safety guides. This Safety Guide will not duplicate the guidance in GSG-7 and GSG-8.

6. PLACE IN THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE RELEVANT SERIES AND INTERFACES WITH EXISTING AND/OR PLANNED PUBLICATIONS

This Safety Guide will interface with at least the following IAEA Safety Standards Series and

other publications (the list is not intended to be final or exhaustive):

- GSR |Part 1 (Rev.1) Governmental, Legal and Regulatory Framework for Safety, 2016.
- GSR Part 2, Leadership and Management for Safety, 2016
- GSR Part 3, Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards, 2014
- GSR Part 4 (Rev. 1), Safety Assessment for Facilities and Activities, 2016
- GSR Part 5, Predisposal Management of Radioactive Waste, 2009
- GSR Part 6, Decommissioning of Facilities, 2014
- GSR Part 7, Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency, 2015
- SSR-6 (Rev. 1), Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material, 2018
- NSS No. 11-G (Rev. 1), Security of Radioactive Material in Use and Storage and of Associated Facilities, 2019
- NSS No. 9-G (Rev. 1), Security of Radioactive Material in Transport, 2020
- NSS No. 14 Nuclear Security Recommendations on Radioactive Material and Associated Facilities, 2011
- RS-G-1.9, Categorization of Radioactive Sources
- Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and supplementary guidance
- GSG-7 Occupational Radiation Protection, 2018
- GSG-8 Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment, 2018
- SSG-45 Pre-disposal Management of Radioactive Waste from the Use of Radioactive Material in Medicine, Industry, Agriculture, Research and Education, 2019
- SSG-46 Radiation Protection and Safety in Medical Uses of Ionizing Radiation, 2018
- SSG-49 Decommissioning of Medical, Industrial and Research Facilities, 2019

All relevant sections in the IAEA's Department of Nuclear Safety and Security will be consulted, as appropriate, throughout the drafting and review process.

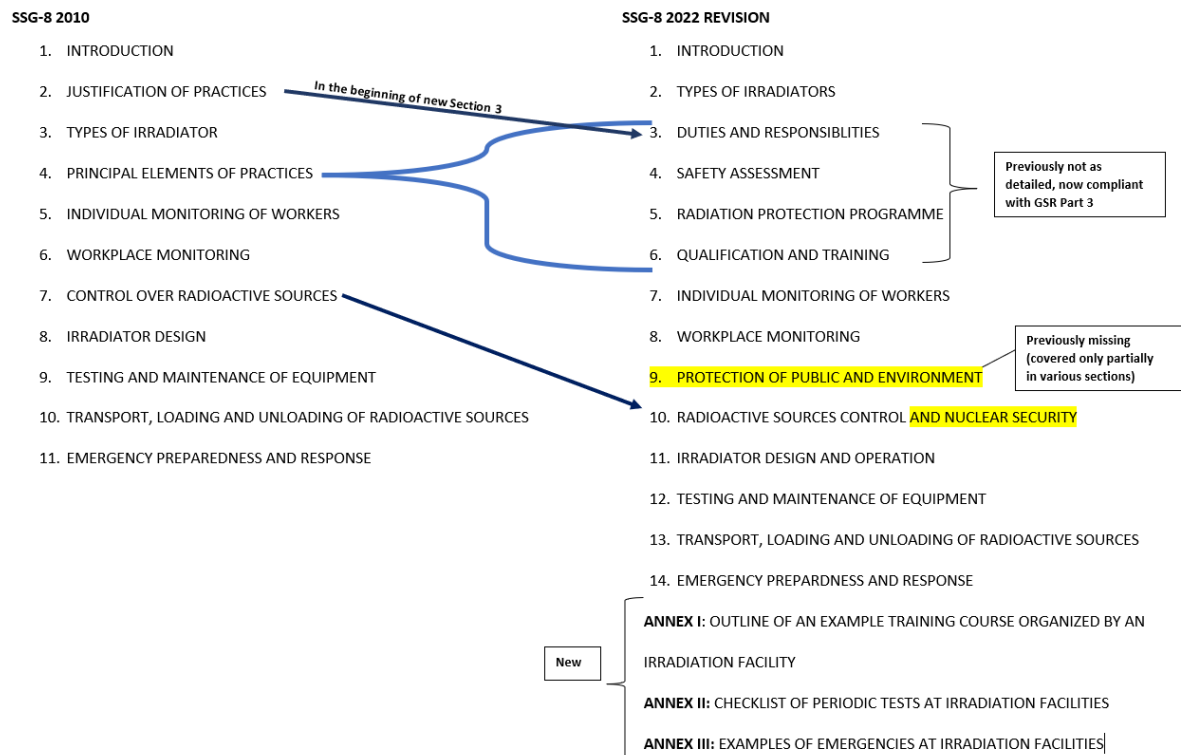
7. OVERVIEW

A consultancy meeting in August 2022 reviewed the current structure and content of SSG-8 and concluded that some changes in a revised version is needed, though the majority of the current structure has to be retained. The outline of the publication will be similar to that of the publication that is being revised. For the comparison of previous and proposed table of content please see the table below.

Moreover:

- All figures need update.
- The main title and some section titles have been modified.
- Some new sections and subsections have been added.
- The current table of contents has been extended to cover Category I gamma irradiators, self-shielded low energy eBeam and X Ray irradiators
- Three new Annexes are proposed.

Overall comparison of SSG-8 (2010) ToC vs. Rev. SSG-8 (2022) ToC Proposal



Proposed table of contents:

1. INTRODUCTION
 - Background
 - Objective
 - Scope
 - Structure

2. TYPES OF IRRADIATORS
 - Introduction of the categories of irradiators
 - Gamma irradiators – Category I to IV
 - Low energy electron beam and x-ray irradiators – Category I
 - High energy electron beam and x-ray irradiators – Category II

3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
 - Radiation protection principles
 - The government and the regulatory body
 - The operating organization
 - Radiation protection officers
 - Qualified experts
 - Workers
 - Clients

Suppliers and service providers
Safety culture
Management of disused radioactive sources

4. SAFETY ASSESSMENT

General
Methodology for the safety assessment – *by the category of an irradiator*
Outcomes of the safety assessment
Reviews of the safety assessment
Record of the safety assessment

5. RADIATION PROTECTION PROGRAMME

Objectives and scope
Structure and content
Management structure and policies
Education and training
Local rules and supervision
Designation of controlled/supervised areas
Workplace monitoring
Personal Protective Equipment
Individual monitoring
Health surveillance programme
Radiation protection officer
Periodic reviews and audits - management system and process improvement

6. QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING

General
Design of a training programme
Structure and content
Refresher training
Training assessments and certification

7. INDIVIDUAL MONITORING OF WORKERS

General
Dosimetry (equipment, measurement, testing, calibration and maintenance)
Dose limits/constraints for occupational radiation protection
Individual dose assessment
Investigation of doses
Record keeping

8. WORKPLACE MONITORING

Workplace monitoring equipment (radiation survey meters and radiation monitors)
Maintenance and calibration
Radiation monitoring and contamination measurement
Record keeping

9. PROTECTION OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENT

General

Dose limits/constraints for protection of the public

Dose assessment

Visitors

Public engagement

10. RADIOACTIVE SOURCES CONTROL AND INTERFACE WITH NUCLEAR SECURITY

General

Source control

Nuclear security considerations

11. IRRADIATOR DESIGN AND OPERATION

GENERAL

Siting requirements for powerful irradiators including to buildings and their load-bearing structures

Source assembly moving system

Shielding

Gamma (all categories)

eBeam – high and low energy

X-ray – high and low energy

Access to the radiation source and safety interlock systems

Safety interlock for the personnel access door

Backup access control – Personnel entry

Safety interlocks for product entry and exit ports

Backup access control – Product entry and exit ports

Removable radiation room shield plugs

Fixed radiation monitor with alarms

Control console

Access key

Emergency stop device at the control console

Disabling the radiation source

Internal design

Radiation resistant components

Product positioning systems

Gamma (all categories)

eBeam – high and low energy

X-ray – high and low energy

Product movement timer

Irradiation chamber

Safety delay timer with alarms

Emergency stop device

Emergency exit

Ventilation

Notices and symbols

- Audible and visual signals
- Signage and posting
- Irradiation source status indicators
- Irradiation status indicator colors
- Considerations with regard to external events

GAMMA IRRADIATORS

- Design of sealed sources

- Specific requirements for wet storage conditions
 - Certification and documentation

- Internal design

- Source holder and source rack
 - Source guard
 - Emergency source cooling system
 - Source travel timer
 - Emergency access ports
 - Source rack position indicators

- Access to radioactive sources and safety interlock systems

- Access to storage pools in Category III
 - Backup access control – product entry and exit ports
 - Removable radiation room shield plugs at gamma irradiators
 - Fixed radiation monitor with alarms
 - Backup system for bringing source back to the safe position
 - Product exit radiation monitor

- Wet source storage irradiators

- Radiation monitor of the water treatment system
 - Storage pool integrity
 - Materials of pool components
 - Water level monitoring and control
 - Water conditioning
 - Cooling of storage pool water
 - In-pool piping
 - Storage pool guard cover

- Fire protection

- Power failure

- Electrical power
 - Non-electrical power

ELECTRON BEAM IRRADIATORS AND X-RAY IRRADIATORS

- Safety considerations in the use of high energy electron and x-ray accelerators

- Shielding

- Disabling mechanism for the main acceleration system
 - Built-in monitoring of machine parameters
 - Built-in remote machine diagnostics

- Safety consideration in the use of low energy electron beam and X-ray systems

FACILITY MODIFICATIONS

12. TESTING AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT

- Periodic tests
- Leak testing of radioactive sources
- Records
- Facility maintenance programme
- Ageing management

13. TRANSPORT, LOADING AND UNLOADING OF RADIOACTIVE SOURCES

- Transport
- Loading and unloading of sources

14. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- General
- Functions for Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Infrastructure for Emergency Preparedness and Response

REFERENCES

ANNEX I: Outline of an Example Training Course Organized by an Irradiation Facility

ANNEX II: Checklist of Periodic Tests at Irradiation Facilities

ANNEX III: Summary of Selected Past Emergencies at Irradiation Facilities

8. PRODUCTION SCHEDULE:

	A*
STEP 1: Preparing a DPP	DONE
STEP 2: Internal review of the DPP (Approval by the Coordination Committee)	September 2022
STEP 3: Review of the DPP by the review Committee(s) (Approval by review Committee(s))	November 2022
STEP 4: Review of the DPP by the CSS (approval by CSS) or information of the CSS on the DPP	April 2023
STEP 5: Preparing the draft publication	2023, 2024
STEP 6: First internal review of the draft publication (Approval by the Coordination Committee)	August 2024
STEP 7: First review of the draft publication by the review Committee(s) (Approval for submission to Member States for comments)	November 2024
STEP 8: Soliciting comments by Member States	May 2025
STEP 9: Addressing comments by Member States	July 2025
STEP 10: Second internal review of the draft publication (Approval by the Coordination Committee)	August 2025
STEP 11: Second review of the draft publication by the review Committee(s) (Approval of the draft)	November 2025
STEP 12: (For Safety Standards) Editing of the draft publication in MTCD and endorsement of the draft publication by the CSS (For nuclear security guidance) DDG's decision on whether additional consultation is needed, establishment by the Publications Committee and editing	April 2026
STEP 13: Approval by the Board of Governors (for SF and SR only)	n/a
STEP 14: Target publication date	2026

9. RESOURCES

Estimated resources involved:

Secretariat (person-weeks): 40 weeks

Member States (number and type of meetings): 4-5 CSs, HBAs as needed.

ANNEX - 1

Chairperson report RASSC 50.

[Microsoft Word - RASSC 50 - draft report-Final_With_comments.docx \(iaea.org\)](#)