AUTORITÉ DE SÛRETÉ NUCLÉAIRE

ASN's Policy for the Management of Radiological Emergency Situations

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1. SCOPE

The law of 13 June 2006 relating to Transparency and Safety in the Nuclear Field (TSN) provides, in paragraph 4 of its article 4, that *"ASN (the French Nuclear Safety Authority) is associated with the management of radiological emergency situations resulting from events of a nature which could harm public health or the environment due to exposure to ionising radiation, occurring in France or likely to affect French territory. Within plans for the organization of response, it offers its technical support to the competent authorities for drawing up measures which take into consideration the risks resulting from nuclear activities as outline in articles 14 and 15 of law no 2004-811 of 13 August 2004 on the modernization of civil security. When such an emergency situation occurs, ASN assists the Government in all matters falling within its remit. It advises the competent authorities on measures to be taken regarding medical and public health issues and civil security. It keeps the public informed of the safety status of the facility that has given rise to the emergency situation, when the latter comes under its control, and of potential discharges into the environment and the related risks to human health and the environment"*. This article justifies ASN's intervention in the organization of national emergency response management.

Article 9 of ASN's internal regulations stipulates that ASN operates a centre for the management of radiological emergency situations. This article also stipulates that the director general of ASN guarantees the permanent availability of the Authority for the management of radiological emergency situations.

The protection of the general public features among the essential missions of public authorities as stated by the modernization of civil security law. Exercising this responsibility involves ASN, who provides support to the Government. ASN's intervention in managing radiological emergency situations aims at protecting human life and the environment. It is applied at all stages of civil security – the preparation, implementation and assessment of actions - and in all its component parts - risk prevention, informing and warning the public, and protecting persons, property and the environment. ASN is also responsible, in collaboration with the relevant ministerial departments, for establishing the framework and defining, preparing and implementing the provisions necessary to respond to post-accident situations.

The definition of an event capable of leading to a radiological emergency situation in the sense of this memorandum covers the very diverse situations described in the appendix. The diversity of the events and their extent and duration require adaptability on the part of the organization set up to manage the emergency.

2. OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

1. ASN's intervention in terms of radiological emergency situations is based on the principle that the primary responsibility of managing the risk[1] and limiting the consequences of the event falls to the operator.

2. The aim of ASN's intervention in terms of radiological emergency situations is to prepare, implement and assess the actions and means which will protect the public and the environment from the consequences of the event.

3. ASN's acts in the following ways: monitoring operators of a nuclear activity, advising the public authorities, informing the public and the authorities of international and European authorities and countries active in this field.

4. ASN implements an organizational structure which allows it to manage radiological emergency situations.

5. The support provided by ASN to the public authorities must demonstrate anticipation and lead to protection measures which are effective, realistic and known both to stakeholders and the general public.

6. The support provided by ASN must be appropriate to both the extent and the duration of the crisis. It should include the threat phase, the emergency phase and the post-accident phase.

7. When the event involves a defence-related installation or activity, ASN helps to improve the effectiveness of public authority actions, in collaboration with the nuclear safety and radioprotection representative for activities and installations relating to defence (the French DSND).

8. ASN periodically re-evaluates the structure in place for the management of radiological emergency situations, based on international best practices and the experience it has acquired.

9. Missions

   Application of these principles has resulted in twelve ASN missions being defined:

[1] For situations which do not exclusively involve activities connected with national defence

	Preparation	**Implementation Managing the situation**	**Evaluation**
Operator: ***ASN ensures that the operator manages the risk and limits the consequences***	1. Proposing the general technical regulations relating to management of emergency situations and, if necessary, making technical decisions Ensuring that the operator has an appropriate internal emergency plan	2. Evaluating the actions undertaken by the operator with the aim of managing the event	3. Checking that the operator adapts their operational plan to the nature of the risk and to exercises carried out on a regular basis Conducting a technical investigation to determine the causes of the event
Government: ***ASN supports the Government***	4. Helping to develop the national threat, emergency and post-accident phase organizational structure Representing the Government's preferred contact for handling the consequences of any radiological emergency situation Helping to inform persons involved in emergency situations of the risks to which they are exposed Setting up technical bases facilitating the development of Specific Emergency Plans and urbanization management	5. Advising the competent authorities on the measures to be taken regarding medical and public health issues, in terms of civil security and protection of the environment Ensuring that the decisions made by the public authorities regarding medical and public health issues and protection of the environment are appropriate and effective	6. Periodically evaluating the general organizational structure Suggesting ways in which the organizational structure can be developed
Lay public: ***ASN keeps the public informed***	7. Helping to keep the public informed preventively	8. Keeping the public informed of the safety status of the facility that has given rise to the emergency situation, of potential discharges into the environment and the related risks to human health and the environment	9. Evaluating the quality of the information delivered to the public Including, in its annual report, the results it obtains from exercises and real situations
International: ***ASN acts within an international context*** ***Competent national authority***	10. Putting forward the French position in international negotiations, with a view to harmonizing protection measures Establishing relationships with bordering countries in order to facilitate consistent management of the initial hours of cross-border emergency situation	11. Implementing the provisions of international agreements with regard to reporting the event and assistance Implementing bilateral information agreements	12. Taking part in international exercises and exercises overseas

3. RESOURCES

In order to achieve the missions allocated to it, ASN:

- has sufficient numbers of mobilizable agents, all of whom can guarantee that they possess the skills necessary for fulfilling their mission in an emergency situation. It has an organizational structure which allows it to ensure ASN's availability, and that it will alert its agents with regard to identifying an emergency situation and responding thereto. It has a skills management reference base. Its Chairman appoints the agents suggested by the Director General, based on this reference material.

- it has a centre for the management of emergency situations and facilities which ensure contact with its agents who are deployed to the accident site or to other control centres.

- it provides the technical resources needed in order to ensure that the public and international authorities are kept informed. To this end, ASN implements an organizational structure and deploys resources enabling it to inform and respond to the various stakeholders (authorities, the media, the general public, persons involved).

- given the health and environmental challenges involved, it relies on the expertise of the Institute of Radioprotection and Nuclear Safety. To this end, ASN signs agreements which organize dialogue on the subject.

- it defines with the DSND (Representative in charge of Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection for Defence-Related Activities and Facilities) the conditions for their mutual support and methods of exchanging the information they hold, in order to ensure optimum efficiency of public authority actions when the event involves a defence-related installation or activity. The organizational structure should result in just one authority being responsible for monitoring the event during the various phases of the emergency situation. ASN specifies this organization by agreement with the DSND.

- it provides a mechanism for evaluating ASN's activity in the field of emergency situations and national crisis organization. This mechanism relies on inspections of emergency organizations in France and overseas, a process for the exchange of experience and internal and external audits.

4. OPERATIONAL ORGANIZATION

ASN gives its departments the authority to ensure technical management of all emergency situations and report thereon to the College of Experts. As soon as they are informed of an emergency, the departments inform the College of Experts of the situation. Depending on the situation and its development, the College of Experts determines or modifies its degree of involvement in managing the situation.

Appendix
The emergency situations targeted

Public Health Code: article R 1333-76

It is an emergency situation when an event risks causing the discharge of radioactive materials or releasing a level of radioactivity capable of causing harm to public health, in particular with regard to the limits and levels of intervention fixed, respectively, by application of articles R. 1333-8 and R. 1333-80.

Such an event could result from:

1° An incident or accident which occurs when a nuclear activity defined in article 1333-1 is being carried out, including the transportation of radioactive substances;

2° A malicious act;

3° Contamination of the environment detected by the network for the measuring of radioactivity in the environment mentioned in article R. 1333-11;

4° Contamination of the environment reported to the competent authority as defined by international conventions or agreements, or decisions made by the European Community with regard to informing the public in the event of a radiological emergency.

Inter-ministerial directive of 7 April 2005: Definitions

According to this directive, we use the following defnitions:

1° "Event":- any incident, accident, malicious or terrorist act which could lead to a radiological emergency situation, as defined in article R. 1333-76 of the Public Health Code, and which:

- results from a nuclear activity as defined by article L. 1333-1 of the Public Health Code […];

- causes or risks causing an "abnormal discharge of radioactive materials" or an "abnormal irradiation without the discharge of radioactive materials";

- occurs on national territory, out at sea on board a French ship, or overseas;

- is capable of affecting either French territory or its nationals overseas;

- is of a nature that could be harmful to public health;

- is revealed by detection of an "abnormal level of radioactivity which could be harmful to public health" or the environment.

2° "Abnormal emission of radioactive materials": radioactivity emissions which could be harmful to public health, in particular with reference to the limits mentioned in article R. 1333-8 and the levels of intervention defined as stipulated by article R. 1333-80.

3° "Abnormal irradiation without discharge of radioactive materials": the discharge of ionizing radiation which could be harmful to public health, in particular with reference to the limits mentioned in article R. 1333-8 and the relevant levels of intervention defined in application of article R. 1333-80.

4° "Abnormal level of radioactivity which could be harmful to public health": level of radioactivity which could have acute biological effects or resulting a notable increase in the risk of cancerous or hereditary pathologies occurring.