



Executive Summary of the Defence-ARPANSA Liaison Forum (DALF) held on 10 May 2018

Terms of Reference

- Terms of reference for the Defence-ARPANSA liaison Forum (DALF) have been agreed by both Defence and ARPANSA.

Strategic View from Defence's Perspective

- Defence is committed to the development and continuation of a strong relationship with ARPANSA.
- Budgetary constraints will not affect the directorate responsible for radiation safety.
- Defence acknowledges that it needs to improve its processes in areas such as procurement, in order to ensure that due recognition is given to compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Defence intends to replace its current inventory/logistical management system by 2020.

Strategic View from ARPANSA's Perspective

- ARPANSA has been conducting a sustainability analysis and is now looking to the future to determine how it can meet its obligation as required by the Act.
- ARPANSA is reviewing its current model for annual licence charges.
- ARPANSA has requested that an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) be performed in Australia. This review is provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to member states to strengthen and enhance their regulator's effectiveness.
- A serious accident occurred within ARPANSA's jurisdiction in the last 12 months. This has caused ARPANSA to consider the quality of the risk assessments performed by its licensees and whether human factor elements have been adequately incorporated into the inspection program.

Update on ARPANSA Compliance Matters

Regulatory Performance Framework

- ARPANSA is about to undertake its third self-assessment under the Regulatory Performance Framework. This will allow the Agency to form a better understanding of how it performs against the six outcome based Key Performance Indicators. The self-assessment includes representatives from another radiation safety regulator, a licence holder and another branch of ARPANSA. The

report will be published on the website, submitted to Parliament and feedback/lessons learned will be taken on-board.

Inspection Approaches and Lessons Learnt

- ARPANSA's inspection schedule continues to be based upon regulatory priority, which aims to inspect high hazard sources more frequently than low hazard sources.
- Inspections usually result in the identification of areas-for-improvement (AFI), which aim for overall improvement in the licence holder's safety performance. Where an inspection identifies the potential for a non-compliance (PNC), a separate verification and remediation process is undertaken.

Regulatory Expectations

- Over the last 3 years a different approach to inspection and compliance monitoring was put in place allowing licence holders to be aware of what is being inspected/assessed in addition to a more proactive inspection schedule.
- ARPANSA encourages self-reporting and treats self-reported non-compliance more favourably than those identified by itself as it indicates the capacity for an organisation to identify their own problems.

Update on Defence Governance and Assurance Issues

RadSafe Governance Update

- Defence raised an issue regarding the calculation of annual licence charges. Defence was satisfied with ARPANSA's explanation that the charges, which are due for re-evaluation, are based on 3 years of regulatory activity data (exclusive of applications).

Source Inventory Management Update

- Defence sought approval for a new term ('encapsulated source') that would better describe a large percentage of their ionising sources such as gaseous tritium light sources (GTLS). ARPANSA has offered to engage with Defence on the matter.
- Discussion took place surrounding the revised IAEA code of practice for the security of sources and what this means for Defence.

Assurance Inspection Update

- Defence is on track to perform about 90 internal assurance inspections during the current financial year.

Facility and Precinct Update

- The directorate responsible for radiation safety has assumed responsibility for the management of the closed radioactive waste storage facility.

Incident Notification and Reporting Update

- Defence has undertaken to attach an extract from its corporate safety management reporting system to its quarterly reports, which will show any radiation safety event that occurred within the previous quarter.

Inspection Reporting

- ARPANSA and Defence have both been categorising 'areas-for-improvement' and 'non-conformances' identified during inspections. The results were compared and, despite using two separate approaches, the analysis identifying common weak areas was very similar.

Licence Applications and Amendments Update

- ARPANSA and Defence discussed the timeliness and assessment of regulatory applications.

Next Meeting

- It is proposed that the next meeting be hosted by Defence in Canberra, at a date that is yet to be agreed.