

# Defence-ARPANSA Liaison Forum (DALF)

*Executive Summary of 14 August 2024 Meeting*

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## Terms of Reference

- The meeting was held in accordance with the Defence-ARPANSA Liaison Forum Terms of Reference (DALF ToR) dated 23 Sep 20.

## Review Outcomes of Previous DALF

- The Executive Summary from the previous DALF, dated 07 Oct 22, was accepted by both parties. Copies are available on both the ARPANSA and DRSA websites.
- There were no outstanding actions / follow-up tasks from the last meeting.
- CEO ARPANSA and CJLOG signed the DALF ToR 2024-27.

## Strategic Overview from Defence's Perspective

- CJLOG advised that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) and Department of Defence had been drafted and detailed the operational roles and responsibilities of ASA and Defence.
- It was noted that in Aug 23 the Minister for Resources announced the Australian Government was no longer pursuing any previously determined sites for the establishment of a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility. This decision affects Defence. The Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA), ASA, and Defence are currently in discussion over whole-of-government solutions.
- CJLOG noted that Defence would be submitting multiple licence applications in FY 24/25 to support planned changes in Defence capability. The priority of each application was discussed.
- The next Defence Radiation Safety Board is scheduled for 01 Nov 24.

## Strategic Overview from ARPANSA's Perspective

- The CEO acknowledged this would be CJLOG's last DALF meeting and thanked him for his support over the last two years.
- The CEO advised that ARPANSA had reintroduced its graduate programme in early 2023 with a view to supporting future workforce requirements. In addition, the RAD Portal had been developed to assist Licence Holders manage their licences, inventory, inspections, and applications.

- The CEO recommended Defence give consideration to developing decommissioning strategies for the Defence Radioactive Waste Storage Facilities.
- The Head Regulatory Services indicated ARPANSA had created a waste storage / decommissioning section in Jul 23 to support Licence Holders ongoing and future requirements.
- The Licence Holder Forum held in May 24 was successful. ARPANSA would welcome suggestions on topics for the next Forum.

## **Update on Defence Radsafe Matters**

### **Source Inventory Management Update**

- Defence indicated there are no significant changes to the source inventory, with minor changes being submitted to ARPANSA quarterly.
- Defence is replacing its inventory management system with an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution in Oct 24. This is not expected to affect Defence's ability to comply with ARPANS Regulation 62.

### **Facility and Precinct Update**

- Defence requested ARPANSA reissue Defence Source Licence S0042 due to recent changes to some Group/Item categories.

### **Licence Applications and Amendments Update**

- Defence provided additional detail on the licence applications being submitted in FY 24/25.

## **Update on ARPANSA Regulatory Matters**

### **Defence Reporting to the Australian National Radiation Dose Register (ANRDR)**

- ARPANSA acknowledged Defence's move to PRMS, and advised Defence to provide PRMS with the authority to upload dosimetry data to ANRDR.

### **Review of ARPANSA Regulatory Business Processes**

- ARPANSA advised that it had commenced a review of its Business Processes in order to streamline and simplify processes for Licence Holders. The most significant review will centre on the section 63 process. Defence will have an opportunity to provide input.
- ARPANSA will also review its inspection process with a likely move to full scope and limited scope inspections.
- The review will also include compliance reporting and how Licence Holders interact with ARPANSA. The first stage of this review included the creation of the RAD Portal, which will provide Licence Holders with real time data, and immediate access to inspections and reports.

## Inspection Approaches

- ARPANSA discussed the processes and periodicity for facility and source inspections. Of note:
  - Most facilities will have an inspection period of three years; however, this will be determined by the risk rating. Defence facilities are expected to remain at three years.
  - The periodicity of source inspections is principally based on their Regulatory Priority, with inspection intervals typically matching the Regulatory Priority (eg Reg Priority 1 conducted yearly, Reg Priority 2 conducted two yearly).
- The option of conducting remote inspections via digital means was discussed.

## ARPANSA Compliance Inspections 2024

### Inspection Outcomes and Lessons Learnt

- ARPANSA discussed the outcomes and lessons learnt from the source inspections and facility inspection conducted during FY 23/24. Of note:
  - There were no Breaches or Potential Non-Compliances for S0042
  - There was one non-compliance breach for S0345
  - All Areas for Improvement were minor in nature and mainly related to the updating of Defence Plans and Arrangements.

### Inspection Outcomes and Lessons Learnt

- ARPANSA indicated it would be conducting two more source inspections and a possible facility inspection (depending on access requirements) before the end of 2024. Liaison for the next source inspection has already commenced.

## General Business

- CJLOG briefly discussed the latest ASIO threat assessment and what impact this would have on Defence.
- Defence noted it would be liaising with ARPANSA in the near future to discuss future licensing requirements and timeframes.

## Next Meeting

- ARPANSA will host the next meeting in Sydney in 2025.

## Follow Up Tasks

- No specific follow up tasks were identified outside routine business.