

Joint Guidance to ensure the operation of the contact point

Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "ÚJD SR"), Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic represented by the Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Information Service issue the "Joint Guidelines for Ensuring the Activities of the Liaison Point" (hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines").

Art. 1 *Subject of modification*

This guideline specifies the basic duties, scope and competences of the concerned state administration bodies (hereinafter referred to as "state bodies"), the necessary scope of measures to ensure the activity of the contact point in accordance with § 29 of Act no. 541/2004 Coll. on the peaceful use of nuclear energy (Atomic Act) and amendments to certain regulations as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Atomic Act") and the method of organizing the information flow for the needs of the point of contact.

The guideline regulates:

- a) mutual information procedure of the state bodies in the event of the occurrence or discovery of an event associated with sources of ionizing radiation,
- b) obligations to inform the population and the international community about significant events connected with the use of sources of ionizing radiation,
- c) criteria for informing the contact point.

Art. 2 *Definitions*

For the purposes of this guideline, it is considered to be

- a) the point of contact is a designated group of employees of the ÚJD SR, which ensures the receipt and sending of notifications, notices and other information in the event of a nuclear accident or radiation threat (such as an accident or accident at a nuclear facility, during the transport of radioactive substances, interceptions of radioactive materials, losses, findings or thefts of sources of ionizing radiation, in the case of radiological terrorist attacks in the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "SR") or similar events abroad),
- b) the international community is a common name for states and international organizations with which the Slovak Republic has concluded agreements on information in the event of a nuclear or radiation accident, or this follows from binding documents of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as "the EU") and the International Atomic Energy Agency (hereinafter referred to as "IAEA").

Art. 3

Criteria for informing the contact point of the state bodies

1. Legislation of the Slovak Republic, the European Commission, IAEA conventions and bilateral conventions

According to § 4 par. 1 letter f) of the Atomic Act, the ÚJD SR ensures the fulfillment of the function of the liaison point.

In accordance with § 29 of the Atomic Act, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic on behalf of the Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Information Service ensure immediate notification of the ÚJD SR about events with impacts on the population or the territory of the Slovak Republic or about events that could be of public interest and which consist of:

- a) loss or theft of a radioactive emitter or equipment containing a radioactive emitter,
- b) finding an abandoned radioactive emitter or equipment that contains a radioactive emitter,
- c) radioactive contamination of the biosphere caused by anthropogenic radionuclides released into the environment,
- d) contamination of food or drinking water,
- e) contamination of goods,
- f) severe exposure of persons,
- g) events during the transport of a radioactive emitter or equipment that contains a radioactive emitter,
- h) detection of a potential threat of misuse of ionizing radiation sources for illegal activity,
- i) illegal activity using a source of ionizing radiation,
- j) other events that pose a risk of exposure to people or contamination of the environment.

The requirements determining the contact point's obligation to inform are further included:

- a) in Article 1 of the EU Council Decision no. 87/600/EURATOM,
- b) in the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident,
- c) in bilateral agreements on early notification of a nuclear accident.

Formulations of the Atomic Act and Decree of the ÚJD SR no. 55/2006 Coll. on details in emergency planning in the event of an accident or accident, as amended by later regulations (hereinafter referred to as "Decree No. 55/2006 Coll.") are intended to cover the requirements for immediate notification of the international community, set forth in these documents.

2. Requirements for mandatory/immediate notification of the international community

In case of detection or suspicion of an event according to § 29 of the Atomic Act, the competent representatives of state bodies will contact the contact point. In order to fulfill obligations towards the international community in a timely manner, there are specific criteria for informing the point of contact without delay.

These are primarily the following cases:

- a classified accident at a nuclear facility according to § 27 par. 3 point c) of the Atomic Law,
- emergency situation, as a result of which protective measures were taken to mitigate serious adverse consequences of exposure to ionizing radiation on human health and safety, quality of life, property, environment or to mitigate the danger from which such serious adverse consequences could arise.

3. Requirements for voluntary/non-urgent information to the public and the international community

Informing about less serious events is determined on the basis of the participation of the Slovak Republic in the exchange of information within the INES system (International scale of nuclear and radiation events) and within the framework of respect for international standards for the field of emergency response. This area includes the following categories:

- informing about events rated with INES level 2 and higher,
- reporting on events that may have transnational significance in accordance with the IAEA standard GSR Part 7 - General safety requirements: Preparedness and response to a nuclear or radiation emergency,
- voluntary reporting recommended by ECURIE (European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange) Communication Instruction.

These events include events according to § 29 par. 3 of the Atomic Law, which do not meet the requirements of the criteria for mandatory immediate information and:

- unplanned medical radiation and emergency medical radiation,
- radiation accident,

information necessary to control the spread of unverified information and alarmist messages, including messages with extensive media coverage,

- detection of extraordinary values of the activity of radionuclides in the components of the food chain and the environment or the input dose equivalent in the components of the environment, which do not fall under the definition of an emergency situation according to § 102 par. 3 and 10 of Act no. 87/2018 Coll. on radiation protection (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 87/2018 Coll.")

4. Criteria determining the seriousness of the event for sending information about the event that occurred in the Slovak Republic from the state bodies to the ÚJD SR

The criteria for determining events that are serious from the point of view of the need to inform the point of contact are:

- a) loss or theft of a radioactive emitter or equipment containing a radioactive emitter:
 - an event related to radioactive emitters of category I, II and III) or other radioactive material with activity. the corresponding activity of radioactive emitters of categories I, II and III4).
- b) finding an abandoned radioactive emitter or equipment that contains a radioactive emitter,
 - an event related to radioactive emitters of categories I, II and III4) or other radioactive material with activity. the corresponding activity of radioactive emitters of categories I, II and III4).
- c) detection of significant deviations from the normally measured values of radioactive contamination of the biosphere in a given location caused by anthropogenic radionuclides released into the environment,

- d) detection of significant deviations from normally measured values of radioactive contamination of food or drinking water,
- e) detection of significant deviations from the normally measured values of radioactive contamination of materials and goods,
- f) serious exposure of persons according to the Radiation Protection Act,
- g) an event during the transport of radioactive material, a radioactive emitter of categories I, II and III4) or equipment that contains a radioactive emitter:
 - any leakage of radioactive material,
 - exceeding the exposure limits of workers or the population,
 - in the event of a significant reduction in the security function of the packaging file (for example, an increase in the dose rate by 20% compared to the original value),
 - when exceeding the limits of the level of ionizing radiation and radioactive contamination on the surface of the packaging set, the surface of the vehicle, at a distance of 2 meters from the vehicle or at the place of service,
- h) detection of a potential threat of misuse of sources of ionizing radiation for illegal activity,
 - potential misuse of radioactive emitters of category I, II and III4) or other radioactive material with activity. the corresponding activity of radioactive emitters of categories I, II and III4),
- i) illegal activity using a source of ionizing radiation,
 - an event related to radioactive emitters of categories I, II and III4) or other radioactive material with activity. the corresponding activity of radioactive emitters of categories I, II and III4),
- j) other events that pose a risk of exposure to people, contamination of the environment or components of the food chain, which do not fall under planned activities leading to exposure.

The reference for exposure limits for individuals and workers is Act No. 87/2018.

Art. 4

Method of informing the contact point of the state bodies

Method of notification in case of mandatory/immediate notification

For events that meet the requirements under Art. 3 point 2 and criteria in accordance with Art. 3 point 4 relating to mandatory reporting, it is necessary to send the initial information about the event to the contact point without delay, no later than within 24 hours of the discovery of the event or immediately after the evaluation of the state bodies that an event that meets these criteria has occurred.

Additional information about the event will be provided by state bodies to the contact point on an ongoing basis or upon request by the contact point. The final information about the event will be provided to the ÚJD SR, as a rule, one working day after the final processing of the event report.

Method of informing in case of voluntary/non-urgent information

State bodies sends a report to the contact point only after the final evaluation of the event. The report meets the requirements of § 21a par. 4 and 5 of Decree no. 55/2006 Coll.

Art. 5

Procedures for receiving messages and their confirmation by the contact point

The contact point can receive information in several ways:

- by phone to the number of the contact point according to the directory of contact points of the state bodies. At the same time as receiving the call, the employee of the ÚJD SR performing the emergency service of the point of contact will request the sending of written information through an official channel (via e-mail or fax by sending the completed form, which is listed in Appendix No. 1),
- by fax to the fax number of the contact point according to the directory of contact points of the state bodies by sending the completed form, which is listed in Appendix no. 1,
- by e-mail to the official e-mail contact of the point of contact according to the directory of contact points of the state bodies by sending the completed form, which is listed in Appendix no. 1.

Receipt of each fax/email information is confirmed by the point of contact by sending a return confirmation fax, e-mail or by telephone.

Art. 6

Event information content

State bodies sends information about the event by filling out the form in Appendix No. 1. This form contains all necessary data according to § 21a par. 4 and 5 of Decree no. 55/2006 Z. z..

The information provided includes:

- a) identification data of the organization that sends the information,
- b) a contact person who can provide more detailed information and their contact details,
- c) the contact person who is responsible for solving the event and their contact details,
- d) place, date and time of the event,
- e) type of event,
- f) description of the event,
- g) initially identified characteristics of the source of ionizing radiation,
- h) the initially performed estimate of the exposure of workers with sources of ionizing radiation and the population, if such an estimate was performed.

Depending on the circumstances of the occurrence of the event and the type of source of ionizing radiation, the information provided also includes:

- a) basic information about the meteorological situation in the place where the event occurred,
- b) measured values of surface contamination,
- c) measured power input values of the dose equivalent,
- d) image documentation,
- e) available accompanying documentation of the source of ionizing radiation,
- f) other additional information.

In the case of finding a radioactive emitter or radioactive material in accordance with § 97 par. 1 of Act no. 87/2018 Coll. will suffice instead of the form in attachment no. 1 form required by the ÚJD SR.

Art. 7
Informing by contact point

Informing the international community by the contact point about the event that occurred in the Slovak Republic

The ÚJD of the Slovak Republic as a contact point is the competent authority for informing the European Commission, the IAEA in Vienna and the countries with which the Slovak Republic has signed bilateral agreements on the exchange of information in the event of a nuclear or radiation incident in the Slovak Republic (for example, the Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, Germany, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania and USA).

After receiving the information from state bodies, the contact point compares and evaluates the received information with the requirements according to Art. 3 point 2, whether there was an obligation to inform the international community. In the event that the information to assess the situation is not sufficient, the contact point will request additional information from the OSS. After an overall assessment of the provided information about the event, he prepares a report in Slovak and English in parallel and consults the content of the report with state bodies, which sent the information about the event. Subsequently, the contact point will publish the information to the international community through the specialized ECURIE and USIE notification systems. In the event of a serious event that could have an impact on the population or the environment of neighboring countries or countries with which the Slovak Republic has signed bilateral agreements, it will also send a report in English to the contact points of these countries.

When assessing the seriousness of an event that occurred in the Slovak Republic, the contact point may request the cooperation of the relevant state bodies.

Informing state bodies about an event that occurred abroad

The point of contact will evaluate the seriousness of the event with the source of ionizing radiation, about which it is informed by the international community and compare it with the requirements according to Art. 3. The contact point will evaluate whether the event could be significant for the residents of the Slovak Republic or could concern Slovak citizens abroad and whether it is necessary to inform the public and state bodies.

In the event of an event with a serious impact on the territory of the Slovak Republic or the inhabitants of the Slovak Republic, the contact point prepares a report in the Slovak language and informs, in accordance with § 29 par. 2 of the Atomic Act, on the event of the Central Monitoring and Control Center of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "CMRS of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic"). The CMRS of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic forwards the information to the state bodies in accordance with the directive of the Government of the Slovak Republic, which establishes the method of notification of the declaration of war, the declaration of a state of war, a state of emergency, a state of emergency, an extraordinary situation or a degree of terrorist threat on the territory of the Slovak Republic, which was approved by Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. . 572 of December 13, 2017. At the same time, the contact point will inform the public through the website of the ÚJD SR.

In other cases, the contact point will inform the state bodies as a matter of priority according to Art. 7 guidelines.

When assessing the seriousness of an event that occurred abroad, the contact point may request the cooperation of the relevant state bodies. These are, for example, models of the spread of radioactive substances from the World Meteorological Organization provided through the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute.

Specific provisions of mutual information of the state bodies

In accordance with § 6 par. 2 and 4 and § 482 of Act no. 301/2005 Coll. Criminal Code as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 301/2005 Coll."), in the event of events in which law enforcement authorities act, these authorities are authorized to conceal those facts that could thwart or make it difficult to clarify and investigate the event.

Similarly, in accordance with § 2 par. 7 of Act 46/1993 Coll. on the Slovak Information Service, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 46/1993 Coll."), the Slovak Information Service provides information only under the condition that the fulfillment of a specific task of the information service or the disclosure of sources and means of the Slovak Information Service will not be jeopardized service or to reveal the identity of its members or persons who act for the benefit of the Slovak Information Service or to endanger international intelligence cooperation; this does not apply if the consequence caused by not providing the information would be clearly more serious than the consequence threatened by providing it.

Therefore, events according to § 29 par. 3 letters a), b), h) and i) of the Atomic Act and § 97, par. 1 of Act no. 87/2018 Coll. are notified to the contact point only after the end of the investigation or after the fulfillment of the obligation in accordance with Act no. 301/2005 Coll. and Act No. 46/1993 Coll.

In case of discovery of a radioactive emitter or radioactive material according to Art. 6 of this guideline, as a rule, written information is sent to the ÚJD SR by the radiation protection authority according to § 4 par. 1 letter d) to g) of Act no. 87/2018 Coll.

Art. 8

Contact details of the point of contact and state bodies

The contacts of the ÚJD SR, which fulfills the role of a contact point, are intended exclusively for use in the sense of fulfilling the obligations according to § 29 of the Atomic Act and according to this guideline.

The contact data of ÚJD SR and state bodies form a directory that is distributed to all contact points designated by state administration bodies in electronic form. The directory is not public.

State administration bodies are responsible for the up-to-dateness of contact point data and, in the event of a change, immediately report the new contact point data electronically, by fax or in writing to the contact point. After implementing the change in the directory, the point of contact will send the edited directory electronically to all contact points.

Art. 9
Final provisions

This guideline is drawn up in eleven copies, of which each concerned institution receives one copy.

This guideline becomes effective upon its signature by the competent representatives of the organizations concerned.

Date