



Euratom Exit Factsheet

The UK's current Nuclear Safeguards Regime

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IAEA safeguards in the UK

A fundamental principle of international civil nuclear safeguards is that verification is independent of the country, and is performed by international inspectorates.

The UK has concluded a voluntary offer safeguards agreement – a **Voluntary Offer Agreement** (VOA) – with the IAEA and Euratom. The VOA came into force in 1978, and specifies the UK's acceptance of the application of IAEA safeguards *"on all source or special fissionable material in facilities or parts thereof within the United Kingdom, subject to exclusions for national security reasons only."* (Article 1(a)).

The UK provides the IAEA with a list of its civil nuclear facilities (a '**Facilities List**'). Nuclear materials accountancy reports and basic design information for all these facilities are supplied to the IAEA via Euratom, and the IAEA may designate any of them for inspection. The UK facilities currently designated and inspected by the IAEA include parts of the Sellafield facility (containing separated plutonium product from the reprocessing of irradiated fuel), and the gas centrifuge enrichment facility at Capenhurst.

The VOA also reflects the right of the UK to remove facilities from the Facilities List and/or withdraw material from the scope of the VOA **for reasons of national security**. Such withdrawals from safeguards now involve only small quantities of material for use in instrument calibration or radiological detectors, or as analytical tracers or radiological shielding.

As part of measures to strengthen the global safeguards regime, the UK has agreed an **Additional Protocol** (AP) with the IAEA and Euratom, which supplements its VOA. The AP contains measures additional to the VOA that improves the efficiency of IAEA safeguards implementation in the UK.

Euratom safeguards in the UK

Alongside the IAEA safeguards standards, civil nuclear material in the Member States of the European Union is also subject to the safeguards provisions of the Euratom Treaty. The safeguards are applied by Euratom to provide confidence that nuclear materials in Euratom Member States are not diverted from their declared uses.

The safeguards reporting requirements that derive from the Euratom Treaty are detailed in **Commission Regulation (Euratom) 302/2005**.

The regulation sets out requirements for the provision of **basic technical characteristics** and programmes of activities for installations subject to safeguards, and for nuclear material accountancy reports and associated notifications, all of which must be provided to Euratom including:

- Inventory Change Reports;
- Materials Balance Reports;
- Physical Inventory Listings; and
- advance notifications of the import or export of material.

Regulation 302/2005 also includes provision for reduced safeguards reporting by organisations with smaller inventories of material.

All reporting is sent to Euratom via the ONR. Formal notification of safeguards inspections is also provided to the ONR, as are copies of Euratom's follow-up letters for each inspection.

Typical Euratom safeguards inspection frequencies range from very regular (every three out of four weeks) at sites like Sellafield, to monthly inspections at enrichment plants, less frequent inspections at power stations and inspections only once every several years at selected locations with smaller inventories of material. More than 100 UK facilities or other duty holders are currently subject to Euratom safeguards, with some 220 inspections (about 1,000 person days of Euratom effort) during 2014.