

NORGIR - an introduction

Sigurdsson Þ, Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority, Reykjavík, Iceland, chair of NORGIR 2012-2014, ts@gr.is

NORGIR

NORGIR is a Nordic expert group in non-medical radiation protection

NORGIR is one of several expert groups set up by and reporting to annual meetings of Nordic general directors of the Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish and Icelandic radiation safety authorities. The experts are employees of these authorities. The chairmanship rotates between countries.

NORGIR holds annual or biannual meeting. Information is also exchanged in emails.

The Nordic dimension

The working language is normally English but documents in the Scandinavian languages (Danish, Norse, Swedish) are frequently distributed and discussed at meetings.

The five Nordic countries are of similar sizes, except Iceland, their administrations are similar and there is a large culturally determined similarity in the perception of regulatory inspections.

An analogous group has recently been set up at a European level (Herca WG2) demonstrating the need for professional exchanges also in the European arena.

The purpose of NORGIR

NORGIR enlarges the pool of expertise available to the Nordic authorities in the field of non-medical use of radiation.

Furthering effective use of resources, making ideas, guidelines and inspection procedures available for a broader community.

Identification of specific fields of common interest where Nordic collaboration may provide better or best practice conditions, faster.

Identification of relevant international working parties, seminars, workshops with participation of one or more Nordic countries, and agreement on the conveyance of results or points of interest, to the remaining Nordic countries.

The experts cannot make binding decisions on behalf of their authorities but their meetings can make recommendations to the general directors.

Two examples on use of NORGIR

A discussion on security of blood irradiators was raised by Norway and a recommendation that X-ray machines should be considered in place of large sources for blood irradiation was adopted in a NORGIR 2012 meeting. See two posters at NSFS 2015 reporting further on the matter: S11-P1 and S11-P2

The first and unexpected instance of TENORM in Iceland was discussed in the 2014 meeting and members took home samples from it. See agenda item on Thursday at NSFS 2015.



Figure 1. Blood irradiators can pose a security risk



Figure 2. Geothermal applications can have TENORM