



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace and Development

Workshop on the Use of a Graded Approach in the Application of Safety Requirements for Research Reactors

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria

7 – 10 July 2025

Ref. No.: EVT 2403732

Information Sheet

Introduction

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors recognizes that research reactors have a wide range of hazard potentials and recommends the use of a graded approach in the application of the safety requirements for research reactors. Owing to the wide range of designs and utilization activities, the safety requirements for research reactors may not be required to be applied in the same way for each research reactor. For example, the way in which requirements are demonstrated to be met for a multipurpose, high power level research reactor might be different from the way in which the requirements are demonstrated to be met for a research reactor with low power and low associated radiological hazard to facility staff, the public and the environment. To provide support for the application of a graded approach by operating organizations, regulatory bodies and other organizations involved in research reactor safety, the IAEA published, in 2012, IAEA Safety Standards Series No. SSG-22, Use of a Graded Approach in the Application of the Safety Requirements for Research Reactors. It was revised and published in 2023 as SSG-22 (Rev. 1), and provides guidance for use of a graded approach throughout all stages of the lifetime of a research reactor, including site evaluation, design, construction, commissioning, operation utilization, extended shutdown and decommissioning.

Feedback from IAEA activities on research reactor safety indicates that while the concept of a graded approach is generally understood and accepted in the research reactor community, there are challenges in its practical application. These challenges include establishing technical thresholds for grading, defining the extent to which and how application of safety requirements can be graded while ensuring safety, and applying it to new research reactor projects. In the context mentioned above, the IAEA is organizing this workshop on the Use of a Graded Approach in the Application of the Safety Requirements for Research Reactors at its Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, during the period 7–10 July 2025.

Objectives

The purpose of the event is to provide the participants with practical information based on the IAEA Safety Standards on the use of a graded approach in the application of safety requirements for research reactors. The event will also provide Member States with a forum to discuss and exchange experience on the use of a graded approach in the application of the safety requirements for research reactors.

Target Audience

Participation in the workshop is subject to designation by Governments or national organizations. The workshop is open to participants from all IAEA Member States with existing or planned research reactors.

To ensure maximum effectiveness in the exchange of information, participants should be managers, designers or persons responsible for development and implementation of operational programmes at research reactors. Persons from regulatory bodies and technical support organizations responsible for safety of research reactors can also participate in the workshop.

Member States are strongly encouraged to identify suitable women participants.

Working Language(s)

English.

Topics

In addition to presentations by the IAEA representatives based on IAEA safety standards, the workshop will include presentations by the participants on their national practices and experiences on the use of a graded approach in application of the safety requirements for research reactors. The topics that are covered by this workshop include:

- IAEA safety standards on use of a graded approach in application of safety requirements for research reactors;
- Methodology for grading, including factors to consider in categorizing facilities and activities;
- Experience on use of a graded approach on application of safety requirements in relation to operational safety programmes, including periodic safety review and ageing management;
- Experience in use of a graded approach in regulatory supervision of research reactors, including in the review and assessment, licensing, inspection programmes, and enforcement;
- Considerations in use of a graded approach in development of national nuclear safety infrastructure for new research reactor programmes.

The presentations will be followed by discussions in working groups on practices and experience in use of a graded approach in the context of operational safety programmes and regulatory supervision.

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **7 April 2025**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
 - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
 - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register [here](#).
2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
 - Complete or update their personal details under ‘Complete Profile’ and upload the relevant supporting documents;
 - Search for the relevant event under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab;
 - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled ‘Designating Authority’ (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
 - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
 - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
 - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **7 April 2025**.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **7 April 2025**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page: www.iaea.org/events.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

IAEA Contacts

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.