

Requirement 36: Communication and consultation with interested parties

The regulatory body shall promote the establishment of appropriate means of informing and consulting interested parties and the public about the possible radiation risks associated with facilities and activities, and about the processes and decisions of the regulatory body.

4.66. The regulatory body shall establish, either directly or through authorized parties, provision for effective mechanisms of communication, and it shall hold meetings to inform interested parties and the public and for informing the decision making process. This communication shall include constructive liaison such as:

- (a) Communication with interested parties and the public on regulatory judgements and decisions;
- (b) Direct communication with governmental authorities at a high level when such communication is considered necessary for effectively performing the functions of the regulatory body;
- (c) Communication of such documents and opinions from private or public organizations or persons to the regulatory body as may be considered necessary and appropriate;
- (d) Communication on the requirements, judgements and decisions of the regulatory body, and on the bases for them, to the public;
- (e) Making information on incidents in facilities and activities, including accidents and abnormal events, and other information, as appropriate, available to authorized parties, governmental bodies, national and international organizations, and the public.

4.67. The regulatory body, in its public informational activities and consultation, shall set up appropriate means of informing interested parties, the public and the news media about the radiation risks associated with facilities and activities, the requirements for protection of people and the environment, and the processes of the regulatory body. In particular, there shall be consultation by means of an open and inclusive process with interested parties residing in the vicinity of authorized facilities and activities, and other interested parties, as appropriate [1]. Interested parties including the public shall have an opportunity to be consulted in the process for making significant regulatory decisions, subject to national legislation and international obligations. The results of these consultations shall be taken into consideration by the regulatory body in a transparent manner.

4.68. The authorized party shall inform the public about the possible radiation risks (arising from operational states and accidents, including events with a very low probability of occurrence) associated with the operation of a facility or the conduct of an activity. This obligation shall be specified in the regulations promulgated by the regulatory body, in the authorization or by other legal means.

4.69. Public information activities shall reflect the radiation risks associated with facilities and activities, in accordance with a graded approach.