



WP 3

Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

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WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Background

RPOs in hospitals, industrial companies or teaching and research institutions should have an adequate level of understanding of concepts related to radiation protection and understand the radiation protection issues pertinent to their radiation application. Therefore, the level and format of training required by an RPO is dependant on the complexity of that application.

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

EUTERP – Conclusions: role and duties of the RPO

- supervision and assistance in the local management of radiation protection.
- ensure compliance with the arrangements as described in the radiation protection programme, such as observance of procedures etc. on behalf of the licensee.
- RPO is often not the primary function of a person.
- the role and duties as well as the training of the RPO should be elaborated in a guidance document.

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

EUTERP - Conclusions: definition of the RPO

Currently there is no definition of the RPO in the Euratom BSS. However, many countries have arrangements in their regulations that address duties and competencies of the RPO as well as requirements how to achieve competence. It has been concluded that it is useful to incorporate the RPO in the revised Euratom BSS.

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Radiation Protection Expert (RPE)

an individual having the knowledge, training and experience needed to give radiation protection **advice** in order to ensure effective protection of individuals, whose capacity to act is **recognised by the competent authorities**.

Radiation Protection Officer (RPO)

an individual technically competent in radiation protection of matters relevant for a given type of practice who is designated by the registrant or licensee to **oversee the application** of the requirements of the standards.

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

EUTERP - Conclusions: competence of the RPO

The criteria to be established should be based on competence built by knowledge, training and experience. There was general support for the description of core competencies as proposed in the discussion document, but additional practice-specific elements were mentioned. The competence of the RPO should be elaborated in a guidance document.

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Objectives

- to define requirements for the competencies of RPOs according to their area of work and specific radiation protection tasks, and
- to establish European guidance for RPO training.

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Note

In many cases need for mobility of RPOs is not essential, however, in some of areas, for example, industrial radiography, where radiation protection is an important aspect of the work, there is a significant degree of movement of personnel between European countries. In such cases, mutual recognition of education and training might be beneficial and, consequently, some form of training “passport” might be an advantage.

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Milestones

Requirements for RPO competencies → Report in March 2010

European guidance for RPO training → Report in March 2011

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Description of work

- Organisation of meetings with the WP3 participants.
- Definition of a work programme for WP3 and subsequent division of tasks.
- Identification of the required level of knowledge, understanding and competence for RPOs across the range of applications of radiation.
- Establishment of European guidance on the content and mechanisms for delivery of RPO training.

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Work programme for WP 3

Description of elements defining the competence of RPOs

- minimum educational level
- appropriate training
- work experience
- ability to supervise

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Work programme for WP 3

Educational levels depend on skills and technical requirements of the job as well as on radiation protection needs,

- Minimum requirement: secondary level
- Some application might require tertiary level

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Work programme for WP 3

Training:

Provided in courses including practical exercises, case studies, OJT, etc.

- core knowledge
- further practice-specific training

- Define minimum duration of training for a variety of applications, criteria?

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Work programme for WP 3

Work experience:

Significant experience of routine procedures and emergency arrangements is needed before an individual is appointed as RPO

- Define minimum duration of work experience for a variety of applications
- Criteria: activity of the source, sealed or unsealed source, complexity of the application, etc.

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Work programme for WP 3

Ability to supervise:

- Communication skills
- Able to exercise some authority
- Close involvement with the work in question
- Knowledge and application of local procedures

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Work programme for WP 3

Assessment of competence:

after completion of the appropriate education, training and work experience,

it has to be assessed if the individual is

- able to apply knowledge effectively
- able to exercise sound judgement
- able to supervise

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Work programme for WP 3

Maintenance of competence:

- participate in refresher courses,
- update training,
- RPO takes pro-active role

WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Establishment of European guidance on the content and mechanisms for delivery of RPO training.

- Role, functions and duties of the RPO
- Competence requirements
- Training requirements
- Core syllabus
- Practice specific modules



WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Thank you for your attention!



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WP 3 Define requirements for RPO competencies and establish European guidance for RPO training

Deliverables

WD3.1 Report on requirements for RPO competencies

WD3.2 Report on European guidance for RPO training