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Nederlandse Vereniging
voor Stralingshygiëne

The role of Education & Training in developing a regulatory infrastructure in RP in Suriname

Hielke Freerk Boersma

Groningen Academy for Radiation Protection

Dutch Society for RP (NVS)

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- › Co-author: Whitney Coulor (chair NVS-chapter RP in Suriname & Caribbean area)





Republic of Suriname



Key numbers:
Area 165.000 km²
Pop. 600.000





A short history - 2019

- › NVS mission 2019
 - Recommendations concerning regulatory infrastructure & competence building in RP in Suriname
 - Inventory of applications of ionising radiation in Suriname
 - no nuclear, no nuclear medicine & research labs





A short history - 2020

- › NVS Chapter 'Radiation Protection in Suriname & the Caribbean area' (NVS-SC) established November 2020
 - Focus on
 - providing information on RP
 - competence building
 - Current membership ~ 30 members, primarily from
 - medical field (incl dentistry)
 - labor inspectorate



A short history – 2021 & 2022

- › E&T Activities
- › November 2022 – Symposium in Paramaribo
- › Discussions on system of E&T in RP for Suriname with
 - members NVS-SC
 - professional organizations (dentistry, radiology, etc)
 - regulators & inspectorate
- › Recommendations to Surinamese government
 - presented August 2022 to Minister of Labor





Recommendations - summary

- › Simple formal system of E&T for RPOs:
 - RPO for all X-ray equipment (incl. medical & dental equipment)
 - RPO for sealed sources

- › Guidelines for training of RWs
 - Basic RP courses for X-ray equipment & sealed sources

- › No formal RPE courses – (annual requirement ~ 5)



Recommendations - RPO

- › Target group:
 - persons supervising safe operation of low / medium risk applications
 - persons performing inspections / regulators
- › Ancillary target group:
 - persons working under supervision with higher risk applications
- › Nominal duration: ~ 4 days, including practicals & exam
- › Learning outcomes: roughly corresponding to Dutch BSS learning outcomes for RPOs



Recommendations - RWs

- › Target group:
 - persons working under supervision with low / medium risk applications
- › Ancillary target group:
 - persons with a general interest in radiation protection
- › Nominal duration: ~ 1 day, optional self test
- › Learning outcome: be able to safely operate non-intrinsically safe applications
 - list of topics



Recommendations – CPD & recognition of foreign certificates

- › Refreshers every three years (duration for RPOs ~ 1 day)
- › Recognize RPOs from NL or EU member states provided
 - adequate knowledge of Dutch or other common used language
 - adequate knowledge of Surinamese regulation
- › For high risk applications: require adequate level of RP comparable to RPE, obtained in NL or other EU Member State



Recommendations – Status Report

- › May 2023: presentation for Surinamese Government council meeting
 - focus on scope of RP in Suriname – call for action
 - outdated legislation/ membership IAEA
 - role of different stakeholders
 - need for capacity building
 - achievements of the NVS-chapter sofar
- › Well received
 - president Santokhi asks to add plan to raise awareness amongst the public



E&T Activities of NVS-SC

- › Don't wait until 'anything is arranged' (bottom-up approach)
- › Online....thanks to pandemic...
- › in cooperation with Groningen Academy for RP
- › Basic RP courses for dentist assistants (2021)
- › Combined basic RP course for X-ray applications & sealed sources (2022)



E&T Activities of NVS-SC

Course	Date	Participants	Passed test
Basic RP for Dentist assistants	5 March 2021	30	n.a.
Basic RP for X-ray applications	26 March & 9 April 2022	72	66
Basic RP for sealed radioactive sources	31 March & 9 April 2022	39	36



Outlook & Conclusion

- › RPO courses to be organized in 2024/2025?
 - hybrid courses

- › Focus on essential aspects (or: recommend graded approach)
 - Raising awareness
 - Provide basic instruction & information
 - → NORM not yet addressed



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Thank you!

