

Radiation Dose Assessment for Transport of Nuclear Fuel Cycle Materials

William L Wilkinson

World Nuclear Transport Institute
6th Floor
7 Old Park Lane
London, W1K 1QR
Tel. 0207 408 1944
Fax: 020 7495 1964

Summary

The IAEA Transport Regulations TS-R-1 now requires transport organisations to implement Radiation Protection Programmes to control radiation dose exposure to workers and the public. Dose assessment is a key feature and the likely doses to workers and the public determine the degree of dose monitoring, which is required.

This study makes an assessment of the likely doses to various types of worker in nuclear fuel cycle transport operations and also to members of the public based mainly on the extensive experience of actual operations. It covers the main nuclear fuel cycle materials from uranium ore concentrate through to spent fuel and the main modes of transport; that is, road, rail and sea.

The conclusion is that it is very unlikely any group of workers not classified as radiation workers, or any member of the public will receive annual doses in excess of 1mSv; that is, all the transport operations for nuclear fuel cycle materials should fall within the lowest group for dose up-take. In this group the requirements are the least onerous; in particular, no workplace or individual dose monitoring is required and such transport operations may require only basic implementation of the optimisation principle.

BACKGROUND

One of the elements in meeting the radiological protection objectives of the IAEA Transport Regulations is the establishment of a Radiation Protection Programme (RPP) for the transport of radioactive materials.

In the case of nuclear fuel cycle materials, radiation protection is carefully dealt with at the pre-operational stage of a shipment through the design of the package and the technical measures for controlling exposures to workers and the public. The radiological protection requirements for the handling and movement of radioactive materials within a nuclear establishment, e.g. a fuel plant, a nuclear power plant or a reprocessing facility, are covered under the site license and the Transport Regulations do not apply. However, it is at the other operational stages, notably handling (loading and unloading) and during shipment of radioactive materials, which involve workers who are not classified as radiation workers, as well as the public, where the Regulations call for an RPP to be established.

These RPPs are intended to provide and document the framework of controls applied by a transport organisation to limit the normal and potential exposure of workers and the public. They have to include details on the procedures to be adopted to achieve optimisation of protection and safety including such issues as dose assessment, segregation of packages, emergency response, training and quality assurance. Of these, dose assessment and evaluation is a key issue for RPPs and this includes both a dose assessment at the pre-operational stage to ensure that account has been taken of all reasonably practicable radiation protection measures and radiation monitoring, and dose assessment where appropriate during transportation to demonstrate compliance and to establish good practice.

The nature and extent of control measures in the RPP should relate to the magnitude and likelihood of radiation exposure. It is therefore possible to apply a graded approach to the RPP requirements. Where it is assessed that the dose:

- is most unlikely to exceed 1mSv/year (1000 μ Sv), very little action needs to be taken in this range for evaluating and controlling worker doses.
- is likely to be in the range 1 to 6 mSv/year, a dose assessment programme is necessary and can involve workplace or individual dose monitoring.
- is likely to exceed 6 mSv/year, individual monitoring of transport personnel is mandatory.

The 1mSv/year effective dose limit is the dose limit for members of the public and the requirements for an RPP are therefore considerably less onerous for operations below this level; in particular, no workplace or individual dose monitoring is required.

The IAEA Transport Regulations accept that the categories will generally be based on a prior radiological assessment using existing dose data for similar transport activities. This is the reason why it is important to collect reliable dose data relating to nuclear fuel transport operations.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS STUDY

This study makes an assessment of the likely doses to various types of worker in the transport chain and also to members of the public for the transport of various fuel cycle materials, for various modes of transport, based mainly on experience of actual operations, as follows:

- Workers – loading and unloading workers, crew/drivers, inspectors, supervisors
- Mode - rail, road, sea
- Materials - uranium ore concentrate (UOC), uranium hexafluoride (hex), oxide powder, new fuel, spent fuel, plutonium, mixed oxide fuel (MOX) and wastes.

DOSE ASSESSMENTS METHODS

The radiation doses received by workers and the public during radioactive transport operations depend on such factors as:

- Package dose rate
- Time of exposure
- Segregation distance
- Shielding arrangements

Taking account of these factors there are several methods of assessing the likely dose uptake based on:

- Computer codes
- Estimates using assumed scenarios and dose rates from packages
- Estimates based on the Transport Index
- Data from direct measurements

There are several published studies using these methods and covering the major nuclear fuel cycle materials. However the studies are fragmented and in some cases specific to particular situations. They require careful analysis to establish confidence in their accuracy and validity. Data from direct measurements or estimates based on assumed transport scenarios and dose rates from packages are the most reliable. Computer codes can also give a useful guide but estimates based on the Transport Index are not available. For accurate assessments the dose rates should be those in occupied areas combined with appropriate exposure times. The aim in this paper is to collect the best data, which represent current practice from both existing published sources and records of WNTI member companies

DOSE UP-TAKE OF TRANSPORT WORKERS

Road, rail and sea transport are all commonly used for nuclear fuel cycle materials. Air transport is carried out to a limited extent.

For road transport, non- irradiated nuclear fuel cycle materials, that is uranium ore concentrates (UOC), uranium oxide powder and uranium hexafluoride (Hex), are normally carried in containers on trailers with drivers' cabs separated by 1-2 m. Loading is by crane or lift-truck with limited access by workers. Similar conditions apply to rail transport. The quantities of UOC and Hex are quite large; for example, in the UK some 6000te per year of UOC are handled, about 1000te for use in the UK and 5000te for export after processing, mainly to Hex. Of the 2000 or so annual movements per year about two-thirds travel by road and one-third by rail. The situation will be similar in other countries with a fuel cycle industry. Low and intermediate level wastes are transported by road under conditions similar to those for UOC, that is packed in drums and loaded into ISO containers. Rail transport is similar.

Spent nuclear fuel is transported within Europe mainly by rail with road transport confined to the short journeys from reactor site to the railhead. Spent fuel is transported from Japan to Europe for reprocessing by sea in dedicated vessels to sea terminals close to the reprocessing plants followed by short road/rail journeys. For spent fuel crane handling of flasks is employed with limited access by workers. Some spent fuel is likewise transported from Europe to the UK. The limited transports of high level waste, for

example from la Hague in France to storage facilities in Germany or from Europe to Japan, are closely similar to spent fuel transport. MOX and plutonium transports are also similar.

The individual dose up-takes to workers and the public resulting from the transport of the various nuclear fuel cycle materials by different modes of transport are discussed below.

ROAD TRANSPORT

Non-irradiated fuel cycle materials (UOC, Hex, oxide powder and new fuel)

Reliable data from measurements are available for the road transport of non-irradiated fuel cycle materials in the UK ⁽¹⁾ covering some 1600 movements involving 26 drivers employed as radiation workers who would carry out other duties on nuclear sites and 50 contract drivers who would collect and deliver consignments only. The individual dose was estimated to be 100 μ Sv per year for drivers carrying out 20 - 40 journeys per year.

Other data ⁽²⁾ from Germany for Hex and new fuel transport showed typical dose rates at 1m from the load of about 3 μ Sv per hour. Assuming an occupancy of less than about 100 hours per year would give a dose of about 300 μ Sv per year for the loaders. The dose rate for drivers was generally less, about 0.5 μ Sv per hour, giving an annual dose rate of about 200 μ Sv for 400 hours per year (2 hours per day).

These estimates are backed up by direct dose measurements ⁽³⁾ on truck drivers carried out by Nuclear Cargo & Service GmbH which showed annual dose rates of 200 – 300 μ Sv for 8 drivers over the years 1990 – 1999 for a variety of materials including new fuel assemblies, Hex, low level waste, MOX fuel and irradiated samples in lead casks.

Direct measurements over several years on contract drivers in the UK for BNFL delivering front end non-irradiated materials showed a maximum of 670 μ Sv per year with an average of 430 μ Sv per year ⁽¹⁴⁾.

Japanese data ⁽¹⁵⁾ for new fuel transport by road showed that for both handlers and drivers the dose uptake for work outside the site only was below the limit of the monitoring film (100 μ Sv per month). Taking into account work in the operating area as well as outside the site the average dose in 1997 and 1998 was about 100 μ Sv per year with a maximum of 300.

Public exposure from road transport occurs as the result of the overtaking of vehicles carrying radioactive materials. In the worst case the dose is unlikely to exceed 4 μ Sv per year ⁽¹⁾.

Spent fuel

Dose up-take data are available ⁽¹⁾ for the road transport of spent fuel carried out in the UK. Dose records for 5 drivers who transported to the railhead 35% of the 471 Magnox flasks handled in one year showed a maximum individual dose of 500 μ Sv and an average of 370 μ Sv. Drivers who transported AGR fuel carried out fewer journeys and did not exceed 50 μ Sv in a year. Drivers delivering flasks entirely by road received 220 μ Sv as the maximum annual dose for transport.

Data from Japan ⁽¹⁵⁾ for spent fuel transport by road showed that for both handlers and drivers the dose uptake for work outside the site only was about 2 μ Sv per year with a maximum of 9. Taking into account work in the operating area also the average dose was 500 – 700 μ Sv per year for operators and 250 μ Sv per year for drivers. The maximum value for operators was 8100 μ Sv per year but this would be for a classified radiation worker with a range of duties and it is likely that not more than 10% of the dose would be due to transport operations. For drivers, the maximum was 500 μ Sv per year. For other

transports, e.g. combinations of materials, maximum doses for work outside the site were about 100 μSv per year and including work in the operating area about 500 μSv per year.

Low Level and Intermediate Level Wastes (LLW/ILW)

Data for the UK ⁽¹⁾ were obtained for 58 transport workers at the Sellafield reprocessing site and the associated low level waste disposal site at Drigg some 15 kms away. Disposal site duties required 8 out of the 58 to work there on rotation. Annual doses ranged from 400 to 4000 μSv . Likewise 6 drivers from the UK enrichment plant received maximum annual doses of 630 μSv with an average of 260 and 9 drivers from a Magnox power station who carried out 41 ILW movements and 63 spent fuel movements entirely by road received annual doses ranging from 600 to 1600 μSv . For all three groups, other site duties accounted for at least 90% of these doses so that the doses attributable to transport are only 10% i.e. from about 26 to 400 μSv per year.

Summary of maximum dose uptake for Road Transport (μSv per year)

Persons	Non- irradiated	Spent fuel	Wastes(LLW/ILW)
Handlers	300	<1000	
Crew	100-700	200-500	20-400
Public	<4	<4	<4

RAIL TRANSPORT

Non-irradiated fuel cycle materials

Measurements were carried out by the Institut de Protection et de Sûreté Nucléaire and the Office de Protection et de Sûreté Nucléaire (IPSN/OPRI) in France ⁽⁴⁾ in January 1999 to assess the radiation doses to railway workers for UO₂ transport. The consignment was a trainload of 0.5% U₃O₈ from Pierrelatte destined for the storage facility at Bessines and consisted of 10 wagons each containing 6-7 type DV70 containers ('green cubes') which can hold 6-12 tonnes each. Fifty trainloads per year were envisaged. The doses were evaluated for the various operatives. The most exposed person was the train assembler at Pierrelatte with a dose of 6 μSv . For the maximum of 50 trainloads per year the highest dose would be 300 μSv per year, that is well below the limit of 1000 μSv . The dose to the train driver was not much greater than the natural background.

A similar programme of measurements was carried out in France by IPSN/OPRI in April 1999 ⁽⁵⁾ on a trainload of 3.5% enriched Hex from Pierrelatte destined for Anvers en route to the USA. The consignment consisted of a total of 38 cylinders of type 30B. Measurements were taken of radiation levels along the train and also in contact with the cylinders. The results showed that the dose rates were very low, generally about 1-2 μSv per hour with the maximum values of about 6. It was concluded that the radiation doses received by the railway workers under normal conditions were well below the 1000 μSv per year limit. In fact by comparison with the transport of U₃O₈, since the dose rates for Hex are less than half and the number of shipments also likely to be less than half, the maximum dose would be less than one quarter, that is less than about 75 μSv per year.

Spent nuclear fuel

Measurements were carried out by IPSN/OPRI in September 1999 ⁽⁶⁾ to assess the dose uptake to railway workers handling wagons loaded with spent fuel at Valognes in France en route to la Hague. Doses were estimated for the various operations based on assumed durations and measured dose rates. The results showed that doses varied from 1.8 to 4.1 μSv which indicates that some 550 operations representing 140 hours of work or 250 consignments representing 500 hours of journey time would be needed to reach the

dose limit of 1000 μSv per year. These are far higher than railway workers would experience in the course of their normal work and the dose rates would therefore be substantially less than the limit.

In the UK in 1989 635 flasks of spent fuel were transported from UK nuclear power stations, 16 flasks from mainland Europe entering at a southern port and 104 flasks from Japan entering at Barrow were transported to Sellafield by rail. Data for this rail transport ⁽¹⁾ showed that a few handlers at busy railheads received annual doses of 140 μSv . The average dose was 40 μSv per year. Four inspectors received 75 μSv . Most other workers such as drivers, guards and shunters do not generally exceed 2 μSv per year.

Another study ⁽⁷⁾ on the dose assessment for spent fuel transport was carried out using a computer programme developed by IAEA for the calculation of collective and individual doses to workers and the public. Assuming the transport of 200 packages per year this showed that the maximum annual dose to the train crew would be about 800 μSv , to the handler at Valognes about 4000 μSv . These estimated doses are much higher than those from direct measurements. OPRI in France has concluded that doses to railway workers are less than 1000 μSv per year and they do not need to be classified but they should receive appropriate training.

For spent fuel movements by road or rail the most exposed individuals in 1989 were flatroll maintenance workers stationed permanently at the reprocessing site at Sellafield who recorded 1800 and 2300 μSv but whose doses halved the following year ⁽¹⁾. These doses do not arise directly from their maintenance work but also from other radiation sources.

The most exposed member of the public from rail transport is postulated to be a householder living on the boundary of a marshalling yard 100m from where spent fuel is being held. The maximum dose was estimated ⁽¹⁾ to be 6 μSv per annum. For persons living 50m from a railway line the dose would be very much less.

High level waste (HLW)

A theoretical study ⁽⁸⁾ has been carried on the transport of HLW together with some LLW bituminised waste shipments resulting from the reprocessing of German spent fuel at la Hague. The transport would be mainly by rail and road transport would be limited to the short journeys between la Hague and Valognes in France and Dannenberg and the storage facility at Gorleben in Germany. The dose rates at 1m from Castor HLW casks is about 100 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{hour}$, for TN28 flasks it is 40 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{hour}$ and for bituminised waste containers 200 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{hour}$. Assuming 15 HLW shipments and 50 bituminised waste shipments per year the doses at Valognes were estimated to be between 1700 and 700 μSv per year for the various handling operations, the train crews between 100 and 200 and the handler at Dannenberg 1000 μSv per year. The maximum estimated dose to the public was 20 μSv per year.

This study also included an analysis of the causes and consequences of potential transport accidents involving vitrified and bituminous wastes and concluded that these transports do not represent a significant risk to the public or the environment.

Low level and Intermediate level wastes

The radiation dose uptake during the transport of low and medium activity wastes in concrete moulds and metal drums from nuclear plants in France to the storage facility at Aube by both road and rail has been estimated in a 1992 study ⁽⁹⁾. It was assumed that 32,000 packages per year would be shipped, 30% by road and 70% by rail. By road the average distance was 350 kms 370 times per year, each truck containing two ISO containers. By rail each wagon would contain three ISO containers and 700 wagons per year would be sent to Aube, the average distance being 500 kms. Approximate collective doses in μSv per year were as follows:

	Rail	Road
Workers	150,000	80,000
Public	3,000	50,000

Individual doses are not available. However, collective doses for rail transport are stated to be much lower than for road transport. In the case of road transport the individual worker doses are less than 400 μ Sv per year and doses to the public are estimated to be less than 4 μ Sv per year.

Summary of maximum dose uptake for Rail Transport (μ Sv per year)

Persons	Non-irradiated	Spent fuel	Waste (HLW)	Wastes (LLW/ILW)
Handlers	300	200	1700	
Crew	<4	<2	200	<400
Public	<1	<6	20	<4

SEA TRANSPORT

A comprehensive study on the sea transport of radioactive materials was carried out by the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) in the UK in 1996⁽¹⁰⁾. This included measurements of dose rates from cargoes and dose rates to crew, dockworkers and the public for fuel cycle materials as well as radionuclides.

Front end non-irradiated materials

These materials arrived in the UK either by RO-RO (Roll on – Roll off) ferries, LO-LO (Load on – Load off) container ships or combined RO-RO/LO-LO ships. Most consignments consisted of materials with Transport Index values of less than 50 although a few were as high as 300 for a trans-oceanic route. The specified segregation distances were easily met and it was common practice to load these cargoes remote from occupied areas. In RO-RO ferries vehicles were driven into rows on the lowest decks and on LO-LO ships containers were stacked either below or on deck. In mid-1996 shipments commenced of large numbers of cylinders of depleted hex, each shipment consisting of 140 packages. In 1994 imports of non-irradiated fuel cycle materials into the UK were about 7000 tonnes. In addition some 9000 tonnes were in transit through UK ports. Non-irradiated fuel cycle materials were carried across the Atlantic on 10-20 day voyages or across the Pacific on 42 day voyages.

Back end irradiated materials

Spent nuclear fuel from LWR reactors has been transported by sea from Japan to Europe with over 170 voyages containing over 2000 flasks from 1970 to 2000. This transport was carried out in the dedicated vessels of Pacific Nuclear Transport Limited (PNTL). In addition there have been movements of spent fuel from Europe to the UK, initially in ferries and latterly in a dedicated vessel. This traffic increased over the 1990s at the time when shipments from Japan to Europe decreased.

Estimated doses for sea transport⁽¹⁰⁾

Exposure times for dockworkers and crew and passengers in regularly occupied areas and living quarters were estimated as well as transient and intermittent exposures.

Radiation surveys were also carried out on a range of vessels and cargoes and this included cabins, bridge areas as well as cargo areas. The results for three ferry vessels showed that in regularly occupied areas the dose rate was about 0.5 μ Sv per hour. On all other ferries dose rates were not measurable. For

two UOC shipments dose rates in regularly occupied areas were 0.04 and 0.2 μSv per hour, the difference being due to different loadings. The dedicated vessels carrying spent fuel gave readings of about 0.07 μSv per hour in the bridge area with a corresponding time of exposure of 600-1000 hours.

Using this methodology most crew and dock workers were estimated to have received annual doses of less than 100 μSv . Up to 20 crew members with duties within the cargo areas on longer trans-oceanic routes record doses of some 300 μSv per voyage. On short ferry voyages the critical group of drivers travelling weekly are unlikely to receive annual doses greater than 32 μSv . Members of the public travelling less frequently on ferries are unlikely to exceed annual doses greater than 10 μSv . Estimated maximum doses to crew and passengers are listed below in μSv per year. These have been corrected for natural background.

Route	Material	Passengers	Crew
Cross-Channel	Radionuclides	30	25
Cross-Channel	Non-irradiated	2	25
Baltic/Arctic	Non-irradiated	0	25
Atlantic	Non-irradiated	10	10
Pacific	Non-irradiated	20	300
European	Irradiated	0	600
Pacific	Irradiated	0	680

Another study has been carried out to assess doses during manual cargo handling. In one year three ships carrying UOC in transport containers (CTUs) docked and all unloading operations required manual handling for releasing tie-downs and twist-locks on containers. The consignments consisted of 25, 27 and 29 CTUs with dose rates of 10 – 20 μSv per hour at 1m. Individual dose meters were issued to selected workers for the duration of the cargo handling. The doses in μSv received by workers on board vessels during loading and discharge of containers are shown below.

Vessel	Cargo	Time spent	Dose received
Modern RO-RO	29 containers	4 h	10 – 12
Modern LO-LO	27 containers	8 h	~ 20
Older LO-LO	25 containers	2 – 6h	11 – 38

These results show that a dockworker, discharging a cargo of non-irradiated nuclear material (UOC) consisting of about 20 – 30 container units (CTUs) and requiring manual handling would receive between 10 and 30 μSv over a 6 hour period. With an average cargo of say 5 CTUs the dose is unlikely to exceed 5 μSv . Good supervision is needed to avoid unnecessary doses to workers and the public, for example, by keeping them away from CTU stacks whenever possible.

In Sweden irradiated fuel is transported in a dedicated vessel from nuclear stations to the storage facility. Some 80 flasks are transported per year and no member of the crew has received a dose greater than 1000 μSv per year⁽¹¹⁾.

Dosimetry data for six voyages between 1998 and 2000 in PNTL ships transporting spent fuel from Japan to Europe⁽¹⁶⁾ showed a maximum dose of 120 μSv per voyage.

A special study has also been carried out at the Barrow Terminal of PNTL which is a dedicated port for handling spent fuel employing a group of eight dockworkers. Individual dose meters are issued to these workers because their doses are 15 to 20 times greater than those encountered in other ports. Their work involves the close manual handling of spent fuel flasks prior to loading onto rail wagons for transport to Sellafield. Their annual workload is more than 5 times greater than for similar workers in other ports and the levels of exposure are around the target of 1mSv per year. This lends support to the assumptions made for all other groups of dock workers who handle fewer packages at lower dose rates.

High level waste

Dose measurements ⁽¹⁶⁾ carried out during three shipments of HLW from Europe to Japan between 1999 and 2001 showed a maximum dose of 550 µSv per voyage which includes the return journey transporting spent fuel. It is unlikely that anybody would carry out more than one such journey per year.

MOX and plutonium

Dose measurements ⁽¹⁶⁾ carried out during two shipments of MOX and one of plutonium from Europe to Japan showed a maximum dose uptake of 160 µSv per voyage. Two such shipments per year are feasible giving a maximum dose of about 320 µSv per year.

Summary of maximum dose uptake for Sea Transport (µSv per year)

Persons	Non-irradiated	Spent fuel	Waste (HLW)	MOX/Plutonium
Handlers	<300	<1000	<1000	<1000
Crew	<300	<700	<600	<200
Public	<20	<1	<1	<1

DOSE ASSESSMENT MODEL

The data obtained from the study of the sea transport of nuclear fuel cycle materials ⁽¹⁰⁾ are very comprehensive and allow a dose assessment model to be developed which can be used to predict the doses likely to be received by dockworkers (the critical group) under a wide range of scenarios. For example, on a container ship transporting non-irradiated materials there would be one or two groups of dockworkers handling twistlocks and lashings etc. The dose received from a small cargo of, say, 5 containers would be about 10µSv in less than 1 hour and for a large cargo of 25 containers about 30µSv in about 4 hours. From the size of the port and the number of nuclear cargoes to be handled per year the annual doses to dockworkers could be estimated. So for, say, 1 cargo per month, 11 small and 1 large in the year, then the annual dose would be about 11x10 plus 1x30, that is 140µSv. This model is considered to be robust and unlikely to be in error by more than a factor of two. It indicates that it is very unlikely that any dockworker employed in a general port (as opposed to a dedicated port such as the Barrow Terminal of PNTL) will exceed the target dose of 1000 µSv per year.

AIR TRANSPORT

Radiation doses to aircrew from the transport of radioactive materials are said ⁽¹²⁾ to be low because radioactive cargoes are well shielded by their own packages and are surrounded by other cargoes which provide additional shielding. Data ⁽¹³⁾ for a specific transport of plutonium/MOX by air from Europe to North America clearly indicates this. The result is that doses are low when compared with the dose received from natural radiation for aircrew members which is about 4000 µSv per year, that is about twice the average for members of the public. At present not sufficient data are available to draw conclusions for all materials transported. However, the number of air shipments of fuel cycle products is very small.

SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL DOSES FOR NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE MATERIALS

The expected maximum dose up-takes in μSv per year under normal conditions for the various materials and for the various modes of transport are summarised below.

Material	Persons	Road	Rail	Sea
Non-irradiated Materials	Handlers	300	300	<300
	Crew	100-700	<4	<300
	Public	<4	<1	<20
Spent fuel	Handlers	<1000	200	<1000
	Crew	200-500	2	<700
	Public	<4	<6	<1
Waste (LLW / ILW)	Handlers			
	Crew	20-400	<400	
	Public	<4	<4	
High level waste	Handlers		1700	<1000
	Crew		200	<600
	Public		20	<1
MOX / plutonium	Handlers			<1000
	Crew			<200
	Public			<1

COLLECTIVE DOSES

Although it is the individual doses to workers and the public which is of primary importance in transport operations the collective dose, that is the sum of all the individual doses, is also of interest to the regulators. Data available ⁽¹⁾ for collective doses for radioactive transport in the UK for 1989, summarised, show that the annual collective dose to workers for nuclear fuel cycle transport in the UK was about 30 man mSv, substantially less than that for radionuclide transport which was about 380 man mSv. It should be recalled that the annual collective dose to the UK population from natural background radiation is over 100 million man mSv.

ALARA

The International Basic Safety Standards (BSS) requires operators to reduce doses to as low as reasonably achievable, the ALARA principle, which is normal practice in the nuclear industry including the transport industry. For nuclear fuel cycle transport, the ALARA principle can be met by demonstrating that attention has been paid to minimising dose up-take and best practice adopted, for example in the segregation and storage of containers, the shielding of drivers, the supervision of working practices, operator training, etc. Operations resulting in low occupational doses such as nuclear fuel cycle transport may require only basic implementation of the optimisation principle.

CONCLUSION

Analysis of the data on dose up-take during the various modes of transport of nuclear fuel cycle materials indicates that it is very unlikely that any group of workers not classified as radiation workers or any member of the public will receive annual doses in excess of 1000 μSv (1mSv) under normal conditions,

that is the transport of nuclear fuel cycle materials should fall into the lowest category which is the least onerous for which no workplace or individual dose monitoring should be required and only a basic implementation of the optimisation principle may be necessary.

REFERENCES

- (1) Gelder, R 'Radiation exposure from the normal transport of radioactive materials within the UK', NRPB – R255, May 1992
- (2) RSB Logistic GmbH, Germany, Private Communication 16 March 2001
- (3) NCS GmbH, Germany, Private Communication 13 December 2000
- (4) Rannou et al, 'Estimation of the external exposure of SNCF workers', IPSN/OPRI Report on Transport of U3O8 - 6 January 1999
- (5) ibid, IPSN/OPRI Report on Transport of Hex - 23 April 1999
- (6) ibid, IPSN/OPRI Report on transport of spent fuel - 16 September 1998
- (7) Juanola, M, 'Estimation of doses related to spent fuel transport with the code Intertran2', IPSN/SEGR/SAER, October 1999
- (8) Fett, H J et al, 'Transport risk assessment study for reprocessing waste materials to be returned from France to Germany', IPSN/CEPN/GRS Report GRS-141 September 1997
- (9) Tort, V et al, 'Analysis of the transportation of low specific activity waste to the Aube storage area' Report CEPN 206 September 1992
- (10) Gelder, R 'Radiological impact of the normal transport of radioactive material by sea', NRPB – M 749 December 1996
- (11) EC-DG XVII Contract 4.1020/D/97-003, NRG/GRS/NRPB/SSI, February 1999
- (12) Wilson, C K et al, 'Radiation doses arising from the air transport of radioactive material' PATRAM 1989, Washington D.C.
- (13) Edlow International Company, USA, Private Communication, 13 June 2001
- (14) BNFL plc, UK, Private Communication, 11 June 2001
- (15) Nuclear Fuel Transport Co.Ltd. Japan, Private Communication, 5 July 2001
- (16) Pacific Nuclear Transport Ltd., Private Communication, 26 July 2001