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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS ON THE CONCEPTS OF EXCLUSION, EXEMPTION AND CLEARANCE

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been involved for many years in the elaboration of principles and criteria to assist in determining what should be subject to regulatory control and what does not need regulating. The publication in 1988 of the Safety Guide "Principles for the Exemption of Radiation Sources and Practices from Regulatory Control" (Safety Series no. 89), developed jointly by IAEA and NEA, was an important step in establishing an internationally agreed approach in this area. Subsequently, the ideas and concepts were further developed and codified in the International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources (BSS) (Safety Series no. 115, 1996). Quantitative guidance on exemption levels has been given in the BSS and on clearance levels in Safety Series no. 111-P-1.1, (1992) and in two IAEA-TECDOCs.

More recently, work has started on the revision of Safety Series no. 89, aimed at further clarification of the concepts - especially the concept of exclusion - and their application to circumstances involving exposure from naturally occurring radioactive materials.

This paper reviews the present status of international guidance and introduces new developments with regard to these concepts relevant to the subject of this meeting.