

ICRP Committee 4 Meeting

November 6, 12-13 2022 – Vancouver, Canada

The Committee 4 (C4) annual meeting was held over three days in conjunction with the ICRP2021⁺¹ Symposium. The agenda covered the Committee's entire programme of work, as well as interactions with other committees. Discussion focused on essential items, thanks to the preparation conducted at the C4 summer meeting held virtually on 2 September 2022.

Contributing to the revision of the system through new Task Groups (TG) and analysing the applicability of potential future changes

Committee 4 is taking up the challenge of preparing for the next general recommendations in Radiological Protection (RP) with new TG addressing three main priorities related to the application of the System: (1) **TG124 on application of the principle of justification**, including a critical analysis of the consideration of well-being; (2) **TG125 on ecosystem services in environmental radiological protection**, including links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals; and (3) **TG127 on exposure situations and categories of exposure**, including specific consideration of the graded approach. Cross-cutting issues to the entire C4 program of work more generally include reflection on the underlying ethical framework for applying the System, the management of uncertainties, and support for strengthening RP expertise worldwide. C4 also plans to participate in new TGs under other committees to analyse the applicability of current developments if the proposed ideas are to be integrated into the System. This is highly relevant for new topics discussed during the joint Committee meetings, such as the implications of "individualisation/stratification of radiological protection" vs. averaging approaches in different application areas, as well as potential updates to the radiation detriment, the latter of which will include consideration of using the concept of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs). C4 also interacted with the Special Liaison Organisations (SLOs) represented on the Committee to discuss further synergies.

Top achievements of the C4 ongoing Task Groups

TG97 on "Radiological Protection in Surface and Near-Surface Disposal of Solid Radioactive Waste" is nearing approval for public consultation.

TG110 on "Radiological Protection in Veterinary Practice" report is approved for publication as Publication 153. Preliminary reflections are underway on how this area may challenge the current exposure categories under examination by the new TG127.

TG98 on "Radiological Protection in the Management of Exposure in Areas Contaminated by Past Activities" revised its draft report emphasising a holistic and integrated approach, making clear the RP management of workers in the framework of existing exposure situations. The document should be ready for a pre-consultation period with some SLOs mid-2023.

TG99 on "Reference Animals and Plants (RAPs) Monographs", TG105 on "Considering the Environment when Applying the System of Radiological Protection" and TG125 on "Ecosystems Services in Environmental RP" agreed on the mechanism of having regular leadership meetings for a clear and non-overlapping articulation of their respective outputs, progress and vision of their work programs to consolidate the general framework for environmental radiological protection.

TG106 on "Application of the Commission's Recommendations to Activities Involving Mobile High Activity Sources" agreed on the multi-fold aspects to be covered for the different types of mobile sources, with consideration of the relationship of RP with radiation safety culture and ALARA implementation.

TG109 on "Ethics in Radiological Protection for Medical Diagnosis and Treatment", a joint C3-C4 task group, report is ready for a postal ballot by the Main Commission to start the public consultation.

TG114 on "Application of Tolerability and Reasonableness in the System of Radiological Protection" is finalising the findings from the workshop held in June 2022 to explore the link of tolerability and reasonableness with justification and optimisation in the medical field. The first draft report of the TG should be ready by the end of 2023 and will propose refinement of the RP framework; the latter will be challenged against practical implementation in various sectors.

TG120 on "Radiological Protection for Radiation Emergencies and Malicious Events" now includes nuclear detonation, and is working to extend the recently published advice for protection of the members of the public from the first 24 hours to 72 hours.

Two virtual C4 meetings are planned in April and September 2023, prior to the annual face-to-face meeting on 6 and 10 November 2023, in conjunction with the ICRP symposium (7-9 November 2023) in Tokyo, Japan.