NMMSS news

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2004 NMMSS Users Training Meeting

The presentations from the 2004 NMMSS Users Annual Training Meeting are now available at www.nmmss.com. Click on 'Annual Meeting' and then on '2004 Users Training Meeting – Presentations'. The NMMSS forms and the current Foreign Obligations table are also available on the same webpage.

The following five articles were prepared to clarify several issues that participants at the Users meeting asked to be addressed.

1) Using Miscellaneous Shipment and Receipt Codes

The A-M transaction with the Miscellaneous Shipment code (54) or Miscellaneous Receipt code (34) may be used only under limited circumstances. Such circumstances include:

To document a shipment or receipt at a DOE facility when the other party to the transaction is an NRC facility and the material involved is not reportable by the NRC facility according to the NUREGs. For example, if a DOE facility is selling lithium to an NRC facility and the NRC facility is receiving the lithium as privately-owned, then the DOE facility may use the miscellaneous shipment code (54) to remove the lithium from their NMMSS books.

To document the receipt of several receipts which contained less than reportable quantities, but total to a reportable amount of material. For example, if a facility has four receipts of 0.25 grams of plutonium each individual receipt is below the threshold for reporting. However, the four receipts together add to a reportable quantity. The plutonium should be added to the receivers NMMSS books by using the miscellaneous receipt code (34).

If a facility you are shipping to or receiving material from states that they do not have a RIS, contact NMMSS for assistance. DOE and NRC will determine whether the facility needs to establish a RIS. The establishment of a RIS can usually be accomplished within two business days.

2) Establishing or De-Activating a RIS for NMMSS Reporting

- In order for a new DOE RIS to be established in the NMMSS, the requesting organization must contact their field element or site office. The field office will provide the required information to DOE Headquarters, Office of Materials Inventory and Technology Development (SO-20.3). After SO-20.3 coordinates with the appropriate DOE Headquarters program offices and the Office of Financial Policy, they will instruct the NMMSS operator to assign the new RIS. The deactivation of a DOE RIS occurs when a facility's authorization to store/handle nuclear materials inventory is withdrawn. Before deactivation all inventory must be removed to a balance of zero. Notification of deactivation is sent from the field element or site office to SO-20.3. After SO-20.3 coordinates with the appropriate DOE Headquarters program offices and the Office of Financial Policy, they will instruct the NMMSS operator to deactivate the RIS.

- In order for a new NRC or Agreement State Licensee RIS to be established by NMMSS, the requesting organization must contact Brian Horn at NRC Headquarters who in turn will instruct NMMSS to assign the new RIS. Before deactivation all inventories must be removed to a balance of zero. Prior to deactivation, the NRC will request confirmation from NMMSS that the nuclear material balance is zero, and will subsequently instruct NMMSS to deactivate the RIS.

3) Data Correction Timeliness Requirement

DOE Manual 474.1-2A states "Corrections of data previously submitted and found to be in error must be submitted to NMMSS within one working day following notification of the error." The statement refers to transaction or inventory data that does not pass the NMMSS edit checks. This requirement does not address previously submitted data that needs to be adjusted due to additional facility analysis such as shipper-receiver difference investigations.

Facilities are notified of transaction data that does not pass the NMMSS edit checks by receiving a TJ-1X report and/or a phone call from a NMMSS analyst. A NMMSS analyst will contact any facility that has inventory data containing errors.

4) NMMSS Upgrade and Current Reporting Formats

The NMMSS Upgrade will support all of the reporting formats the current NMMSS accepts. This includes both the 80-column and XML formats. Users can currently use the XML format to report to NMMSS. The advantage of using the XML format for reporting is the ability to include additional information in the file, which is needed by the user but not captured by NMMSS. When using XML, industry, without government involvement, has the option to set a format standard that they will use among themselves. The 80-column format is more structured and restricts the amount and type of information reported.

5) Clarification of NMMSS Document D-24 Personal Computer Data Input for Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensees

Page 23 of the D-24 provides instructions for structuring the electronic reporting of material balance data. The instructions for Lines 22 and 71 of Form 742 are to be used when reporting an ICT (Inventory Change Type) code related to uranium blending or degradation activity such as enriched uranium to depleted uranium. These Codes consist of two alpha characters and can be located in NUREG/BR-0007, page 5. When reporting electronically in the 80-column format, columns 56 –57 correspond to lines 22 and 71.

2005 NMMSS Users Annual Training Meeting

The 2005 NMMSS Users Annual Training Meeting will be held May 24-26, 2005 in New Orleans. Facility representatives are encouraged to present papers at the meeting. If you would like to present a paper or have a topic you would like to see covered at the next meeting, please let Brian Horn (for NRC licensee facilities) or Peter Dessaules (for DOE contractor facilities) know of your intent. You may contact Brian at 301-415-8128 or by email at bgh1@nrc.gov. Peter can be contacted at 301-903-4525 or by email at Pete.Dessaules@hq.doe.gov