

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE (MD)

MD 5.12 INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL EVENT SCALE (INES) PARTICIPATION DT-12-03

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Management Directive (MD) 5.12 is being revised and updated to define NRC participation in the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES), as described in the Office of the Secretary (SECY) papers, SECY-11-0105, SECY-01-0071, and NRC Information Notice 2009-27. MD 5.12 incorporates the guidance provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regarding the use of the INES, as contained in “The International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) User’s Manual, 2008 Edition.”

Directive Handbook (DH) 5.12, containing the 2001 INES User’s Manual, is being eliminated because it was updated in 2008 and its guidance incorporated into this revised directive.

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I. POLICY

It is the policy of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to participate in the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES), jointly developed in 1990 by international experts convened by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA). This participation includes the evaluation of all events (reactor, fuel cycle facilities, transportation, and licensed materials), except medical events, reported to the NRC Operations Center for transmission of the INES Event Rating Form (ERF) to the IAEA. ERFs are issued for all events rated as level 2 or higher, or on rare occasions, for level 0 or 1 events that attract international public interest.

II. OBJECTIVE

Ensure that the rating of events involving reactor, fuel cycle facilities, and NRC or Agreement State licensed materials is performed in accordance with the guidance provided in “The International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) User’s Manual, 2008 Edition.”

III. ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY

A. Executive Director for Operations (EDO)

1. Oversees NRC participation in the INES.
2. Ensures the cooperation and support of all NRC offices in providing cognizant personnel to support the rating of events using the INES.

B. Director, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)

1. Ensures that INES ratings are performed accurately, efficiently, and in a timely manner (transmitted to IAEA within 48 business hours).
2. Designates a U.S. "INES National Officer" to represent NRC in matters involving the further development and use of the INES in the United States.
3. Calls on other NRC offices to provide resources needed to quickly and accurately rate events using the INES.
4. Provides the INES National Officer and the Headquarters Operations Officers to facilitate the coordination of rating events using the INES and disseminates these ratings to the IAEA and other member countries.
5. Supports training for individuals performing INES rating of events.
6. Coordinates with other Federal Government and State agencies through various interagency working groups in matters involving the use of the INES.

C. Director, Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)

1. Provides personnel to rate events using the INES, involving academic, industrial, medical, or research and development licensees that use nuclear or radioactive material.
2. Supports training for individuals performing INES rating of events.
3. Provides office procedures for the rating of events involving materials licensees, except for medical events.
4. Coordinates with Agreement and Non-Agreement States to provide for timely and accurate ratings of INES events occurring in these States.

D. Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)

1. Provides personnel to rate events using the INES involving fuel cycle facilities, transportation events, and licensed nuclear or radioactive material.
2. Supports training for individuals performing INES rating of events.
3. Provides office procedures for the rating of events involving fuel cycle facilities, transportation events, and licensed radioactive material.

E. Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)

1. Provides personnel to rate events using the INES involving nuclear power and research reactor facilities.
2. Supports training for individuals performing INES rating of events.
3. Provides office procedures for the rating of events involving nuclear power and research reactor facilities.

F. Director, Office of Public Affairs (OPA)

Responds to requests from the news media and the general public, in coordination with the INES National Officer, about the INES regarding the rating of specific events. OPA response is normally within 48 business hours after the event has been reported to the Headquarters Operations Center.

IV. APPLICABILITY

The policy and guidance in this directive apply to all NRC employees.

V. DIRECTIVE HANDBOOK

“The International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) User’s Manual, 2008 Edition,” published by the IAEA and co-sponsored by the OECD/NEA, serves as the handbook for this directive (see the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML092230008). It contains information regarding the rating of events using the INES.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

A. General Guidance

In general, the NRC’s implementation of the INES will be performed in accordance with the guidance and rating methodology provided in “The International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) User’s Manual, 2008 Edition.”

B. Additional Guidance

Several additional points regarding the NRC’s participation are summarized below:

1. Review of events for potential transmission to IAEA using the INES will be incorporated into the normal event assessment process of the respective program office.
2. The methodology for reviewing events using the INES will follow the methodology provided in “The International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) User’s

Manual, 2008 Edition.” Each program office will be responsible for developing specific review criteria and procedures for timely transmittal (within 48 business hours) to the INES National Officer.

3. It is recognized that there will be occasions when a longer time scale (greater than 48 business hours) is required to know or estimate the actual consequences of the event. In these circumstances, a provisional rating should be given to the INES National Officer and sent to IAEA, with a final rating provided at a later date.
4. ERFs will be transmitted to IAEA according to the agreed criteria in “The International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) User’s Manual, 2008 Edition” which are—
 - (a) Events rated at level 2 or above, or
 - (b) Events attracting international public interest.
5. Provisional and final ERFs require approval by a first-tier SES manager.
6. For those rare INES level 0 or 1 events that have attracted international public interest per Section VI.B.4(b) of this directive, the staff should provide a draft ERF to the Commission for a three business day review before transmission to the IAEA. If the Commission takes no action during that time, the level 0 or 1 ERF may be transmitted to IAEA.
7. The INES National Officer or Headquarters Operations Officer shall transmit INES event ratings to the IAEA.

VII. DEFINITION

International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES)

INES is a tool for promptly communicating to the public in consistent terms the safety significance of reported nuclear and radiological incidents and accidents, using a seven level numerical scale. Levels 4-7 are termed “accidents” and levels 1-3 are “incidents.” Events without safety significance are classified as “Below Scale/Level 0” (see <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness/emerg-classification/event-scale.html>).

VIII. REFERENCES

Commissioners’ Assistants Note, “Notification of Planned Minor Revision to Management Directive 5.12, “International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale Participation,” June 10, 2011 (ADAMS Accession No. ML11159A193).

FSME-09-052, All Agreement States and Non-Agreement States, “Revised International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) User’s Manual,” July 13, 2009 (ADAMS Accession No. ML091880143).

FSME-10-027, All Agreement States and Non-Agreement States, "Revised International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) User's Manual," March 15, 2010 (ADAMS Accession No. ML100600368).

International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale:

<http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness/emerg-classification/event-scale.html>.

NRC Generic Letter 92-09, "Limited Participation by NRC in the IAEA International Nuclear Event Scale," December 31, 1992 (ADAMS Accession No. ML031070459).

NRC Information Notice 2009-27, "Revised International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale User's Manual," November 13, 2009 (ADAMS Accession No. ML092510055).

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2002-01, "Changes to NRC Participation in the International Nuclear Event Scale," January 14, 2002 (ADAMS Accession No. ML013200502).

SECY-01-0071, "Expanded NRC Participation in the Use of the International Nuclear Event Scale," April 25, 2001 (ADAMS Accession No. ML003735913).

SECY-11-0105, "Proposed Minor Revision to Management Directive 5.12, "International Nuclear Event Scale Participation," August 4, 2011 (ADAMS Accession No. ML111881153).

Staff Requirements Memorandum, SECY-01-0071, "Expanded NRC Participation in the Use of the International Nuclear Event Scale," May 31, 2001 (ADAMS Accession No. ML011510164).

Staff Requirements Memorandum, SECY-11-0105, "Proposed Minor Revision to Management Directive 5.12, International Nuclear Event Scale Participation," August 31, 2011 (ADAMS Accession No. ML112430583).

"The International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) User's Manual, 2008 Edition" (ADAMS Accession No. ML092230008).