

# **NIGERIAN NUCLEAR REGULATORY AUTHORITY (NNRA)**

## **AUTHORIZATION FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT OF RADIOACTIVE SOURCES IN NIGERIA**

The Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority [NNRA (Authority)] established in February 2001 pursuant to the provisions of Section 1 of the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act 19 of 1995, is given the responsibilities for nuclear safety and radiological protection regulation in Nigeria. The Authority in Section 6 of the Act is empowered to “categorize and license activities involving exposure to ionizing radiation, in particular, the possession, production, processing, manufacture, purchase, sale, **import, export**, handling, use, transformation, transfer, trading, assignment, transport, storage and disposal of any radioactive material, nuclear material, radioactive waste, prescribed substance and any apparatus emitting ionizing radiation.

### **PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING NNRA IMPORT/EXPORT LICENCE**

#### **Authorization To Import Radioactive Sources:**

You must possess authorizations to Store and Use Radioactive Sources for the current year in which you are applying to ensure that you have the requisite expertise and facilities to handle radioactive materials

#### **Step I**

Obtain and submit a duly completed Standard NNRA Notification and Application for Authorization Forms (*the forms can also be downloaded from the NNRA website: [nnra.gov.ng](http://nnra.gov.ng)*) together with a written application/ providing the following information:

- a. detailed information of the sources
- b. port of entry
- c. the source certificates, leak test report obtained within the last 6 months
- d. a written agreement from the source manufacturer /supplier that the sources shall be accepted back when they are spent or disused,
- e. evidence of Police Bomb Squad Escort authorization
- f. evidence of a Custom licensed and NNRA approved freight forwarder
- g. a copy of transportation arrangement for the movement of the sources from port of entry to storage bunker
- h. Pay the requisite NNRA importation fee

#### **Step II**

The NNRA then evaluates the submissions of the organization

#### **Step III**

Authorization is granted if all requirements are met

### **Responsibilities Of The Licensee**

For the purpose of Regulatory Authority Information System (RAIS), the Licensee must notify the NNRA of the date and time of receipt of the radioactive sources stating the following information in a tabular form:

- a. Source Serial Number
- b. Initial Activity/Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
- c. Recommended Working Life
- d. Source Manufacturer
- e. NNRA Licence No
- f. Date/Time of Receipt (MM/DD/YYYY)
- g. Location and
- h. Date /Time of Export (MM/DD/YYYY)

## **Authorization To Export Radioactive Sources:**

### **Step 1**

Submit a written application providing the following information:

- a. detailed information of the sources
- b. port of export
- c. a copy of transportation arrangement for the movement of the sources from storage bunker to port of exit
- d. attaching documentations earlier submitted during the Import application of the radioactive sources as indicated in 2.1 (**Step I (c-f)**) above

### **Step II**

The NNRA then evaluates the submissions of the organization. This leads to the issuance of an Export Licence **FREE OF CHARGE!** However, this is not an approval for you to export the radioactive sources

### **Step III**

The NNRA schedules the facility for a pre-shipment inspection to verify adequate packaging, labelling and Radiation Protection Programme

### **Step IV**

The inspection report is written, submitted and evaluated

### **Step V**

Approval to export the radioactive sources is communicated to the responsible facility

### **Responsibilities of the Licensee**

- i Responsible facility to notify the NNRA of date of departure of the radioactive sources out of the country
- ii Obtain a letter from the manufacturer/supplier indicating receipt of the radioactive sources after exportation and a copy forwarded to the NNRA

Importers and users of radioactive sources should also be aware of the additional requirements for import and export of radioactive sources. These include:

- i. All imports or exports shall be notified to the Authority and the appropriate authorization obtained;
- ii. The Authority will grant the authorizations only to radiation employers who have been authorized to use and store radioactive materials or devices incorporating radioactive sources for Importation
- iii. In the case of exempted materials, the Authority may in accordance with Section 17 of the Act and Regulation 83 of NiBIRR grant an Exemption Certificate to enable a Licensee carry out the necessary transaction;
- iv. All Licensees prospective of importing or exporting regulated substances or equipment shall in addition to the requirements for the appropriate authorizations, in the case of sources in Categories 1 and 2 provide:
  - a. an Export license from the regulatory body of the country of origin in the case of application for authorization to import sources
  - b. a written agreement from the source manufacturer or an authorized handler that the sources shall be accepted back when they are spent or disused in the case of application to import sources or equipment
  - c. an import license from the regulatory body of the receiving country in the case of application for authorization to export the substances or equipment

Advance notification prior to shipment is required for importation of Category 1 and 2 sources

Safety and security especially in the import and export of radioactive sources is however further guaranteed by a close working relationship between the NNRA and other Law Enforcement Agencies including the Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria Police, Nigeria Immigration Service and the Department of State Security Services amongst others. The NNRA has also put in place a system of control of practices and radioactive sources called the Regulatory Authority Information System (RAIS) to improve the control of radioactive sources and to provide information concerning their actual location at any time.

The NNRA is using this medium to create awareness on the step by step procedure for Authorization for Import/Export of Radioactive Sources and to oblige all importers and users of radioactive sources to comply with NNRA requirements in the import and export of radioactive sources.