

Govt. Decree 165/2003. (X.18.) Korm. on the rules of public communication in nuclear or radiological emergency

Based on the authorization given by sub-paragraph *e*) of paragraph of Section 67 of the Act CXVI of 1996 on atomic energy the Government orders as follows:

Section 1

The scope of this decree extends over the organizations and bodies of the National Nuclear Emergency Response System.

Section 2

Under the scope of this decree

a) nuclear emergency: such situation occurring for any reason that results in unplanned radiation exposure to the people, release of radioactive substances into the environment, when a radiation level or contamination harmful for the population and the environment actually occurs, exists or may occur, and when state or local level actions are or may be required to respond to or mitigate the consequences affecting the population;

b) directly affected population: in the case of a nuclear emergency the population living in the vicinity of the source of danger and directly endangered by it, who needs special preparation during the preparedness period (evacuation, sheltering, iodine prophylaxis);

c) indirectly affected population: group of population living farther away from the source of danger and so not anticipated to be directly affected by a nuclear emergency;

d) early phase of the emergency: a period before, during and directly after the (potential) release of radioactive substances, which typically lasts for 1 week;

e) late phase of the emergency: a longer period following the environmental release of radioactive substances, during which the survey and elimination of consequences of the accident is the major activity;

f) information during the preparedness period: basic and regular information provision task in normal situation, during which beyond the state and municipal organization also the population is prepared for their emergency tasks;

g) recovery plan: a plan that determines the elimination of long term consequences of nuclear emergencies.

Public Information Plan

Section 3

(1) A Public Information Plan shall be developed to provide authentic and timely information to the population:

a) on national level,

b) on sectoral level,

c) on county level,

d) in nuclear facilities and in facilities producing, using or storing radioactive materials.

(2) The national Public Information Plan – based on the guideline of the governmental coordination organization performing the preparation of disaster management decisions of the Government and sectoral coordination of the protection related tasks (hereinafter referred to as: governmental coordination body) – shall be developed by the central organization of the professional catastrophe management organization.

(3) The Public Information Plan determined in Paragraph b) of Subsection (1) shall be developed by the concerned ministries, organizations having nation-wide competence taking into account the characteristics of the sector under their control and supervision.

(4) The Public Information Plan determined in Paragraph c)-d) of Subsection (1) shall be developed by the central organizations and bodies of the National Nuclear Emergency Response System, and those organizations obligated to prepare a nuclear emergency response plan.

Section 4

The national Public Information Plan shall contain:

a) the major areas of information,

b) the rules of cooperation,

c) the method of coordinated information flow,

d) the directly and indirectly affected population,

e) the major tasks of information plans prepared on sectoral, county and facility level, the rules of activities, and

f) the international information plan.

Section 5

(1) The development of Public Information Plans along with uniform principles shall be ensured by the manager of the competent working organ of the professional disaster management organization (hereinafter referred to as: information coordinator), who shall direct and verify on national level the development of the Public Information Plans. At the organizations and bodies of the National Nuclear Emergency Response System the coordinators assigned by the manager shall perform the information-related tasks.

(2) The task of the information coordinator shall be to ensure that planning, exercising and further development of public information at the various areas and management levels is carried out according to the accepted principles.

(3) At the organizations and bodies obligated to develop a plan a public information working group (hereinafter referred to as: Public Information Working Group) shall be established. In nuclear emergency the coordination of central information tasks shall be performed by the working organ of the governmental coordination body, the Public Information Working Group.

(4) The implementation of the Public Information Plan is the task of the coordinators in the preparedness phase and the Public Information Working Groups in the emergency phase.

(5) The Public Information Plan shall be managed as part of the Emergency Response Plan. The verification of the plans can be duly implemented and its modification if necessary shall be performed annually by means of exercises.

Section 6

(1) The basic principles of public information are included in *Annex 1*.

(2) The content of Public Information Plans, the special attributes of information in early and late phases of a nuclear or radiological emergency are described in *Annex 2*.

(3) The instruments of public information are included in *Annex 3*.

Organizations and organs of the National Nuclear Emergency Response System and the nuclear and radiological facilities performing independent public information

Section 7

(1) The organizations of the National Nuclear Emergency Response System authorized to perform independent public information are:

- a) central organ of the professional disaster management organization,
- b) governmental coordination body,
- c) working organ of the governmental coordination body,
- d) atomic energy oversight organization,
- e) sectoral nuclear emergency response organizations,
- f) county and capital defence committees.

(2) Nuclear and radiological facilities authorized to perform independent public information:

- a) Paks Nuclear Power Plant,
- b) Central Physical Research Institute Atomic Energy Research Institute (KFKI AEKI) research reactor,
- c) Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME) training reactor,
- d) Püspökszilágy Radioactive Waste Treatment and Disposal Facility,
- e) operators of irradiators using Co-60 and other radiation sources,
- f) Spent Fuel Interim Storage Facility.

(3) The organizations, organs and facilities listed in Subsections (1) and (2), in parallel with the independent public information, shall inform the Public Information Working Group of the working organ of the governmental coordination body in a nuclear or radiological emergency, while the central organ of the professional disaster management organization in the prevention phase.

(4) The information generated in the Nuclear Emergency Information and Evaluation Centre and in the sectoral and territorial information centres shall be published for the public by the Public Information Working Group of the working organ of the governmental coordination body, the organizations and organs and facilities listed in Subsections (1) and (2).

Closing provisions

Section 8

This decree shall enter into force on the 15th day following its promulgation.

Section 9

Cancelled.

Section 10

This decree contain provisions coordinated with the Council Directive 89/618/Euratom on informing the general public about health protection measures to be applied and steps to be taken in the event of radiological emergency, in accordance with Section 3 of Act I of 1994 promulgating the European Agreement signed in Brussels on December 16, 1991 on the association of Hungary, the European Community and its member states.

Annex 1 to Govt. Decree 165/2003. (X. 18.) Korm.

Basic principles of public information

1. The Public Information Plan shall be prepared in the interest of the public, and shall contain those available information principles, methods and instruments based on which the information can effectively be provided. Its purpose in the prevention phase is to obtain and build the public confidence and to substantiate the effective information exchange, while in emergency phase the protection of health of the population.

2. Based on the information strategy elaborated by the information coordinator an effective cooperation shall be realized between the nuclear operators, supervision organizations and the intervention staff at national, territorial and local level.

3. The research results of communication, socio-psychology and other relevant scientific areas shall be used for the conceptual elaboration and continuous development of information strategy and methods.

4. The strategy established shall divide the area of communication according to scope of competences between the concerned organizations and organs at national, sectoral, county and facility level.

5. In addition to what mentioned above the information material of the organizations directed and controlled by the Public Information Working Group of the working organ of the governmental coordination body shall be verified to screen out any contradictions.

6. The information activity shall make clear difference between the directly and indirectly affected populations. The information provided for the population living in the vicinity of a nuclear facility shall be more detailed to provide a clear and effective implementation of the activity.

7. The information activity shall be active, proactive and shall not wait for demands.

8. After information it shall be verified if the information reached the addressee, the possibility of feedback shall be created.

9. The information, containing the rules of code of behaviour meant to avoid any health consequences, shall be clear, comprehensible, which increases confidence and helps avoiding panic reaction of the population, but shall be quick at the same time to avoid any uncertainty.

10. All organization or organ providing information shall be responsible for the authenticity of the information published by it.

Annex to 2 to Govt. Decree 165/2003. (X. 18.) Korm

Contents of the Public Information Plans

1. The content of the Public Information Plans for the prevention phase, to establish media relations:

a) specification of the tasks originated from the national Public Information Plan at the level of the given organization,

b) survey of information demands and development of own information plane based on the relevant requirements,

c) basic rule of communication with the media,

d) requirements on regular preparation of the media representatives,

e) basic functional activity during exercises, rule on the use of communication systems, on verification of continuity of media relations,

f) information of potential emergency tasks of the population, including the following knowledge (information material):

- fa) basic information on radioactivity, its effect on humans and environment,
- fb) various types of radiological and nuclear emergencies, and their consequences,
- fc) planned protective actions to protect the population,
- fd) tasks of the population in emergency (e.g. following the instructions from authentic sources of information, switching on the radio and television).

The following concepts and definitions shall be described in information materials:

- a) knowledge related to radioactivity (units, activity, dose, dose-rate, natural and artificial radiations),
- b) the effect of radiation on humans and environment (irradiation and contamination, early and late delayed, propagation of radioactive isotopes in the food-chain),
- c) various type of radiological emergencies and their consequences (international INES scale),
- d) protective actions planned to protect the population (alert, general protective actions: iodine prophylaxis, evacuation, sheltering, resettlement).

The possible forms of implementation:

- a) inclusion into high school schedules, university education programs,
- b) using and dissemination of publications like "With or Without it", „Our radiating environment”, publications of the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international publications,
- c) using the instruments of electronic media,
- d) dissemination of disaster management journals to the concerned ones.

2. The content of the Public Information Plans in a nuclear emergency, activation of media relations to inform the public in the early phase of the accident:

- a) rules of authentic public information on the type of the potential and actually occurred emergency and where possible on its attributes (e.g. reason, extent and anticipated development, consequences),
- b) the rules of recommended protective actions depending on the type of emergency, which may cover:
 - ba) limitation of consumption of potentially contaminated foodstuffs, introduction of special supplementary hygienic rules, prescriptions on decontamination, sheltering, dissemination and use of protective equipment and materials, resettlement, evacuation,
 - bb) information on special supplementary protective actions for particular population groups,
 - c) rules of cooperation with the authorities,
 - d) prescriptions on information of institutions, description of tasks,
 - e) recommendations for certain specially sensitive groups (children, pregnant women),
 - f) provisions on media queries and official information related to nuclear emergency response organizations, goal and methods of intervention, and its cancellation,
 - g) rules of organization of press conferences,
 - h) rules on continuous repetition of recommended protective actions and tasks,
 - i) rules of information feeding back and processing.

3. The content of Public Information Plans on the elimination of accident consequences in the late phase of the accident:

- a) main provisions of the recovery plan within the own area of competence related to the elements affecting the population,
- b) rules of dissemination of information on the long term protective actions, including: on the borders of sustained closing of areas, instructions on moving back, schedule, scope of recovery operations, limitation on consumption of foodstuffs and water, information on duty services to answer public questions,
- c) provisions on recovery operations, decontamination, registries on closed areas,
- d) rules on information materials, publications in relation to longer term activities.

Annex 3 of Govt. Decree 165/2003. (X. 18.) Korm.

Instruments of public information

1. Instruments of public information in the prevention phase:

- a) Description of modes of information to the public laid down in the a Public Information Plan, and protective actions developed in the Emergency Response Plan,
- b) inclusion of radiological knowledge into public education and university education plans, programmes and thematic,
- c) dissemination of information publications of the authority and the operator,
- d) dissemination of flyers and posters of local authorities and the operator,

e) instruments of electronic and printed media, electronic mail, such as Hungarian Television teletext announcements containing the data of national radiation monitoring network, websites of central organizations,

f) establishment of possibility of mutual communication: public phone numbers, e-mail addresses, professional forums in the media etc.

2. Instruments of public information in the early and late phase of radiological emergency:

a) authentic sources of news determined in law as the instrument of disaster alert,

b) publication of necessary public information on the sites and by the instruments (radio and television) of electronic media, teletext announcements,

c) local public communication instruments, loud speakers,

d) instruments of the electronic mail,

e) media,

f) websites of the organizations and organs of the National Nuclear Emergency Response Systems.