

ABOUT THE INTEREST OF AN AGREEMENT FOR A EUROPEAN PASSPORT FOR WORKERS IN EUROPEAN NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE INSTALLATIONS

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ABSTRACT :

The European directive 96/29 applicable to EEC member states is, or will be transposed in each country according to national conditions which could prove to be more restrictive than the demands of the directive.

Additionally, specific organisations in each country, reinforce the disparities where radioprotection, and medical and dosimetric follow-up are concerned.

In April 2001, initiated by a group of French company medical officers (EDF CEA COGEMA), a meeting with company medical officers of the EEC: Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Germany, was organised in order to bring to attention the issue of the movement of contract workers in European nuclear power plants.

The findings were that, although the rules, procedures and organisations might be very different, the objectives of medical and dosimetric follow-up remain the same.

The group proposes the creation of a « European Worker Passport », with knowledge and agreement of all.

This passport, property of workers, could contained (apart from indispensable official data on the employee, his employer, the company medical officer and the radiation monitoring service) :

- dosimetric data
- medical fitness data
- level of training
- establishment in return of a radiation pass book with an ongoing account of exposure received by the worker on the nuclear power plant.

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In summary:

- For the objective of dosimetric follow-up :

- A regulatory individual dose limit of 20 mSv per year
- A career limit for certain countries, e.g. Germany, 400 mSv
- Monitoring of external exposure by external dose measurement equipment (TLD, film badges...) considered as the legal dose recording, and by electronic dosimeter
- Monitoring of internal exposure by whole-body counts and radiotoxicological measurement examinations using the recommendations of the ICRP to calculate the level of intake, under the responsibility of the radioprotectionist or health physic services or of the health occupational service according to country
- Dosimetric data to be recorded either in medical files, or in a data base under the responsibility of specific authorities.

- For medical follow-up

- A medical certificate, for exposure to ionising radiation, issued by agreed or appointed doctors for a period of six months to a year
- And of professional qualification for exposure to tedious/tiring work.....
- Establishment of a detailed job description and obligatory setting up of post-exposure and post-occupational follow-up, according to country
- Obligation of employees to be trained and informed about the risks, as well as the basic principals of radioprotection.

There already exists in each country, a personal entry passbook for each employee. This entry passbook contains data relating to the following.

- Official data concerning the worker
- Data regarding the employer
- Data from the company medical officer
- Level of professional training followed
- Professional qualifications

- Medical fitness for exposure to ionising rays, and even other risks
- Monthly and cumulative dosimetric data
- Dates and also results of examinations of internal dosimetry

An additional document exists, edited under the aegis of the European communities by the ISPRA research centre in Italy.

It is also useful to note the case, peculiar to France, on the confidentiality of dosimetric data which cannot be communicated to the employer, as well as the responsibility of the company medical officer where internal dosimetry is concerned.

On the subject of the movement of contract workers within the European arena, it is necessary that medical and dosimetric follow-up should be more efficient and less redundant, and the best adapted to specific work situations in each nuclear power plant. The objective of transferring data and keeping track of exposure to risks of whatever type, cannot be ignored.

A system for data transmission in both directions must be put into place. This system must be compatible with all member states.

In actuality, the question arises, of the validity of the information concerning each employee on different complementary aspects: authorization of access to controlled zones taking into account training, medical fitness, authorization to work under certain risks bound by specific rules (tedious work, heat, carcinogenic substances).

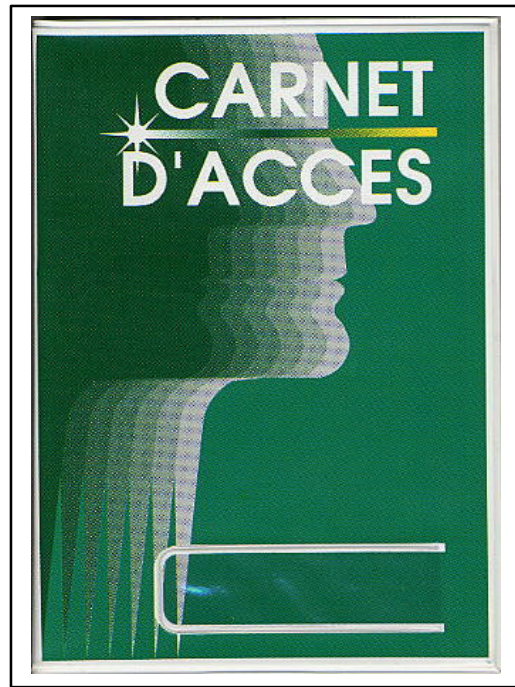
In return, the employee must be furnished with information regarding both the result of internal and external dosimetric follow-up carried out by the NPP, and the state of exposure to other risks.

The group proposes the creation of a « European Worker Passport », property of the worker, containing apart from indispensable official data on the employee, his employer, the company medical officer and the radiation monitoring service, dosimetric data, medical fitness data, the level of training.... as well as the establishment in return, of a radiation pass book with an ongoing account of exposure received by the worker on the nuclear power plant.

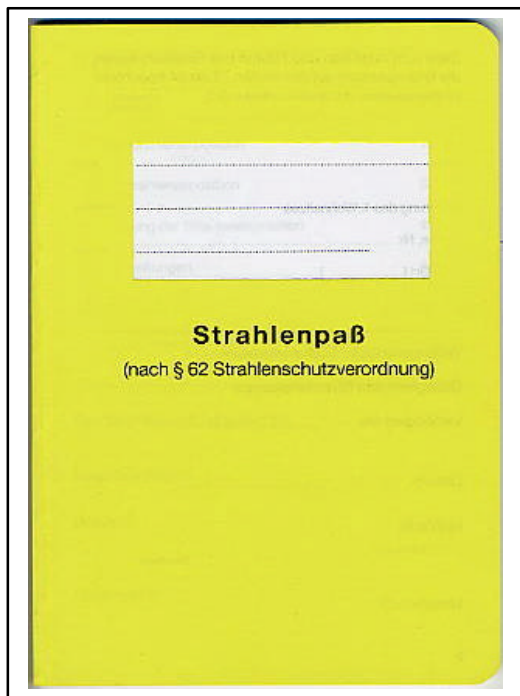
It must be independent of all national data concerning the occupational health of workers. The objective of the « European Worker Passport » is to facilitate movement of contract workers within the European area, to reinforce their dosimetric and health medical following in conformity with the law of each country.



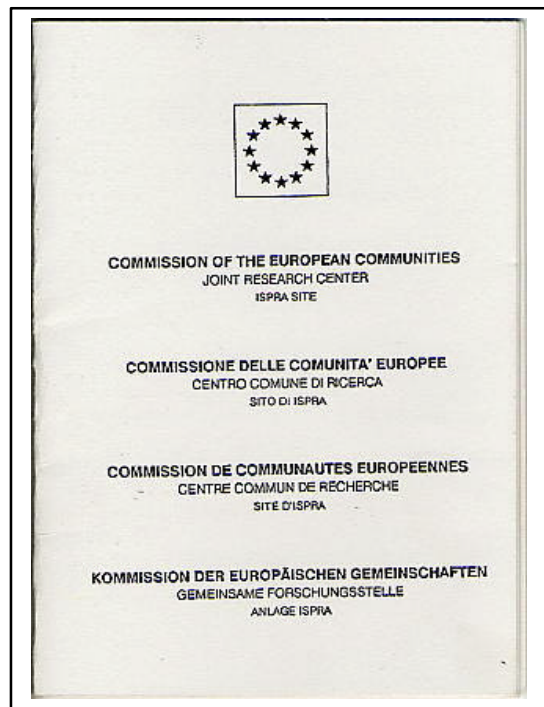
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