

Radiation protection (radioactive material, radioactive substances)

1 Legal foundations

The following acts and ordinances are applicable:

- Radiological Protection Act of 22 March 1991 (RPA; [SR 814.50](#))
- Radiological Protection Ordinance of 22 June 1994 (RPO; [SR 814.501](#))
- Civil Protection Ordinance of 11 November 2020 ([SR 520.12](#))

These are applicable to radioactive material and appliances and objects which contain radioactive material.

2 Radioactive substances

The terms used in connection with radioactivity have the following meanings:

- «Radioactive material»

Solid, liquid or gaseous substances, mixtures, raw materials and finished products and articles manufactured therefrom.

- «Radiation protection»

Protects people and the environment against dangers from ionising radiation.

- «Nuclear materials»

Natural uranium, depleted uranium, enriched uranium, uranium 233, thorium and plutonium 239 in any form are deemed to be nuclear materials. Uranium and thorium ores are not deemed to be nuclear materials.

- «Radioactive waste»

Radioactive materials that are no longer used.

The radioactive materials or substances are listed in Tares on the «Display details» page, next to «Authorisation obligation» with the note «Radiation protection».

3 Authorisation obligation

Activities such as the storage, transport, import, export and the transit of radioactive material, require authorisation.

Depending on the type of goods, the competent authority for the area of radioactivity is the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH – Radiation Protection), the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI - material for and from nuclear facilities) and the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE - nuclear materials and radioactive waste).

The notes to be found on the «Display details» page under «Authorisation obligation» refer to the measures applicable in particular cases when bringing into free circulation (import). Goods declared in the transit procedure, imported under the arrangements governing customs warehouses and in temporary admission are subject to the same regulations.

4 Customs declaration

Anyone who imports, exports or transits radioactive material must declare this in the customs declaration.

Statement on the authorisation obligation in e-dec and NCTS customs declarations

The declaration regarding the authorisation obligation is made in e-dec and NCTS via the authorisation obligation code «1 subject to authorisation» and the authorisation office «FOPH».

Statement on the authorisation obligation in the Passar goods declaration

If the goods declaration is made in Passar, the restriction «1 yes» and the Restriction Code «601 FOPH – Radiation Protection» must be entered.

Additional information

Regardless of the type of declaration, the following information must be provided for all radioactive substances:

- exact description of the goods;
- radionuclides;
- total activity per radionuclide in Becquerel; and
- authorisation number.

5 Information

Information can be obtained from:

- Radiological protection: Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), Radiological Protection Division, 3003 Bern, Tel. +41 (0)58 462 96 14, www.bag.admin.ch
- Substances for and from nuclear facilities: Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI), Transport and Predisposal Section, Industriestrasse 19, 5200 Brugg, Tel. +41 (0)56 460 84 00, www.ensi.ch
- Nuclear materials and radioactive waste: Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE), Safeguards Section, 3003 Bern, Tel. + 41 (0)58 462 56 11, www.bfe.admin.ch