



Current Activities & Challenges in Vendor Inspections

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Background of the Vendor Inspection Cooperation Working Group

- Before joining the CNRA in 2023, the VICWG -*Vendor Inspection Cooperation Working Group*- was part of the MDEP :
 - The VICWG was approved by the MDEP policy group in March 2008
 - Multinational regulatory membership
 - Met bi-annually but also engaged throughout the years on different topics
- Since 2023, the VICWG has moved to the CNRA under a new group: the WGSUP (*Working Group on Supply Chain*)

Main Achievements of the VICWG

Vendor Inspection Cooperation

- Technical reports on assessment of multinational vendor inspection
- Covid -19 impacts on inspection practices
- Shared findings of the inspection programme

Common Positions

- Common position on Safety Culture
- Common position on mitigating the risks of Counterfeit, Fraudulent and Suspected Items (CSFI)

IAEA TecDoc

- Acceptance of Commercial Grade Items in Nuclear Power Plant Safety Systems

Transfer to the Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities (CNRA)



- In 2023, the VICWG has been transferred to the WGSUP (Working Group on Supply Chain) into the CNRA:
 - The new group will continue
 - to routinely cooperate on joint & witnessed international inspections
 - to routinely share inspection reports and programme outcomes
 - to work on common positions and vendor inspection good practices

Main Objectives of the WGSUP

- **The WGSUP provides a mechanism for nuclear safety regulators and technical support organizations**
to share their knowledge in making policy and licensing decisions related to the supply chain.
- **The WGSUP seeks to facilitate an active and timely exchange of commendable practices as well as lessons learned**
to help regulators perform these functions more effectively and efficiently.
- **The WGSUP is used to support the control of the Supply Chain for the construction and the operation of power reactors**
to share experience including emerging risks and CFSI in the related to the supply chain.

New Challenges for the WGSUP

- How to enhance vendor inspection cooperation between regulators?
 - Objective to exchange on good practices between regulators
- How to better coordinate Supply Chain Regulation between the regulators involved?
 - Objective to maximize the results and share lessons learned between regulators
 - Objective to identify areas of emerging risk during vendor inspection including CFSI
- How to enhance cooperation with stakeholders and to support in harmonizing standards and common positions?

Multinational and Joint Inspections under the VICWG and the WGSUP

2014

- **VALINOX, FRANCE**
- NRC (lead), ASN, ONR

2016

- **AREVA Creusot Forge, FRANCE**
- ASN (lead), CNSC, NNSA, STUK, NRC, ONR

2019

- **ENSA, SPAIN**
- NRC (lead), ASN, ONR

2021

- **FRAMATOME Saint Marcel, FRANCE**
- ASN (lead), ONR, NRC, STUK, NNR

2021

- **FLOWSERVE and FAIRBANKS, USA**
- NRC, ASN

2023

- **JSW, JAPAN**
- ONR (lead), ASN, NRC, STUK, NRA, SURO

MVI inspections of the regulators



Stakeholder Engagement

Current stakeholders engaged with the WGSUP :

- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**
 - Opportunities to support the development of management systems of supply chains and to facilitate co-operation in the nuclear industry
- **World Nuclear Association (WNA)**
 - Opportunities to effectively interact with industry groups to clarify regulator's perspectives on related activities and review and comment on associated industry standards

Workshop on Challenges of Supply Chain in Paris

The workshop purpose is to influence Supply Chain activity of the WGSUP, IAEA, WNA and will be in partnership with these 3 organizations.

- Date to be defined: end of 2023 or spring 2024
- Workshop of 2 or 3 days in Paris
- Topics will be dedicated to the new challenges of the supply chain
- The Workshop will also focus on the future SMR's supply chain
- Speakers interested can contact the WGSUP Bureau or the CNRA to be involved in the conference



Provisional workshop Scope :

- **Challenges of recent worldwide disruptions in supply chain: how can we collaborate?**
 - How can the industry overcome challenges (Covid, energy prices, etc...)?
What can we collectively do to prevent CFSI?
- **New challenges of SMR's:**
 - How can regulators accept “Commercial Grade Dedications” and what will be the new manufacturing approach?
- **Challenges of quality delivery: how can we improve/enhance arrangements?**
 - What are the lessons learned on the Commercial Grade Dedications and the use of the ISO 19443?
- **Safety Culture: how do we continue to ensure the global supply chain ?**
 - How can safety culture prevent CFSI? Is Safety Culture integrated in other industries?

Members of the Working Group



Thank you !

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