

International Safeguards for New Reactors in the UK

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Nuclear Safeguards



Measures to verify that countries abide by their commitments to use nuclear materials (plutonium, uranium and thorium) for peaceful purposes

International confidence based on independent verification by international safeguards inspectorates

UK Safeguards Obligations

- Follow from UK commitment to the global and European non-proliferation regimes
 - the UK ‘voluntary offer’ safeguards agreement with the IAEA and Euratom in connection with the NPT, and an Additional Protocol to that agreement (INFCIRC/263)
 - Euratom Treaty safeguards, which apply equally to all civil nuclear material in the European Union
- The detailed requirements are part of the UK nuclear regulatory framework – but are applied by the safeguards inspectorates of the European Commission and the IAEA

UK Government Interest

- the safeguards 'regulators' are the international inspectorates, but safeguards obligations in the UK result from the UK Government's signature of Treaties and agreements
- so the UK Government maintains its own overview of safeguards application and compliance in the UK in the form of the UK Safeguards Office (UKSO) within HSE's Nuclear Directorate

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- will be subject to all current UK safeguards obligations (the Euratom Treaty and in connection with the NPT)
- must fulfil safeguards reporting requirements, verification of which will include inspection by the Safeguards Directorate of the European Commission (and, if it chooses to, the IAEA)

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But,

- generic safeguards measures for Light Water Reactors are well developed and implementing them should not be onerous, and
- early engagement with the safeguards authorities (UKSO ,the European Commission and the IAEA) should ensure that safeguards requirements for new reactors built in the UK are met as effectively and efficiently as possible

Further Information



- the website of the UK Safeguards Office,
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/safeguards/index.htm>
- or by email,
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