

Transposition of EU BSS with regard to radon in Sweden

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Abstract

The transposition of the 2013/59/Euratom directive with regards to radon will mainly lead to changes in how radon exposure is managed at workplaces as well as the establishment of an action plan in Sweden. Present recommendation for existing dwelling and regulatory limit for new dwellings, both set at 200 Bq/m³ are in line with the requirements of the directive and will not be revised.

Despite decades of experience with radon issues, there is currently no action plan for working with radon issues in Sweden. The requirement to have an action plan is seen as an opportunity to evaluate existing programmes and incentives and to revise and improve them as appropriate.

One key difference in Sweden's transposition of the directive in regards to other countries is that there will be little consideration to 'radon prone' areas as the current viewpoint is that the whole of Sweden is a radon prone area. This implies that radon control will be mandatory for almost all workplaces as there is a significant risk for elevated radon concentration anywhere in Sweden.

The responsibility for radon at workplaces will be shared between the Swedish Work Environment Authority which will ensure that workplaces measure radon and the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority which will regulate workplaces that have measured radon concentrations exceeding the reference level of 200 Bq/m³.

Workplaces for which the radon concentration continue to exceed the reference level despite appropriate mitigation actions will have to register to the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority. Furthermore, workplaces whose workers risk an annual radon exposure exceeding a time integrated radon exposure value of 0.8 MBq h/m³, corresponding to an annual dose of 6 mSv, will have to register the workers and their exposure in a national radon exposure register. In order to ensure that radon exposed workers will not receive a much higher average dose than radiation workers in other fields an annual radon exposure limit of 1.4 MBq h/m³, corresponding to an annual dose of 10 mSv, is proposed.