The International Atomic Energy Agency: A Snapshot

Introduction

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA, or Agency) is the organization responsible for verification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), conducted through the provisions of individual Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols thereto. The IAEA was established in 1957 as an autonomous organization under the United Nations and is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. Qualified citizens of the more than 137 Member States may serve on its staff.

Basic Organization

The Statute of the IAEA establishes the organization and its major components. The primary policy-making organs of the IAEA are the General Conference and the Board of Governors. Day-to-day operations of the IAEA are run by a cadre of international civil servants within the IAEA’s Secretariat.

The Conference comprises all Member States of the Agency and meets annually to consider and approve the IAEA’s program of work and budget. The Conference also decides on membership in the Agency, suspension of privileges and other matters Member States raise to the Conference, the Board, and the Director General.

The Board is the executive organ of the IAEA and meets five times annually. It comprises of 35 Member States, determined on the basis of state of advancement of their nuclear fuel cycle and geographic considerations. These criteria virtually assure the permanent membership of the United States on the Board. The Board is authorized under the IAEA Statute to carry out the functions of the Agency including approval and implementation of Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols concluded thereto. The Board is responsible for the determination and reporting of compliance issues.

The Secretariat is responsible for day-to-day operations and verification activities, to include inspections conducted pursuant to Safeguards Agreements or complementary access conducted under the Additional Protocol. It comprises the IAEA permanent staff and is led by a Director General elected by the Board. The Secretariat employs approximately 2,200 scientific, technical, managerial and professional staff.

The following organization chart depicts IAEA elements relevant to Safeguards and Additional Protocol implementation:

Operations Divisions (SGO A, B, C)

The Department of Safeguards contains three Operations Divisions based on geographic responsibilities. The United States is included in Division B, along with XXX. These Divisions are responsible for implementation of the verification activities necessary to support the IAEA’s safeguards system, including activities pursuant to the Additional Protocol, such as:

- Preparation for and implementation of safeguards inspections and Additional Protocol complementary access visits;
- Collection of information for future inspections and complementary access visits;
- Verification of design information at declared facilities;
- Analysis, review and evaluation of data submitted by Member States; and
- Analysis, review and evaluation of inspection and complementary access visit results, databases and open sources.

Safeguards Technical Support Division (SGTS)

SGTS is responsible for the management of safeguards equipment (including that for use during complementary access visits), including training, required by the Operations Divisions. The division also provides analytical services associated with nuclear material and environmental
inspection sample analysis. SGTS supports surveillance, unattended and remote monitoring systems as well as non-destructive analysis systems and seals.

Safeguards Information Technology Division (SGIT)

SGIT collects, stores and analyzes information related to Member States’ declarations. The division also collects, analyzes, and disseminates nuclear-related information from media, scientific and technical literature as well as from public sources. It engages in assessments and confirmation of Member State compliance with Safeguards and Additional Protocol requirements. Other SGIT activities include the management and operation of information systems infrastructure and information technology products and services.

Safeguards Concepts and Planning Division (SGCP)

SGCP develops and standardizes safeguards concepts, approaches, procedures and practices for the non-discriminatory application and verification provisions of Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols. The division also analyzes data and material balance evaluations, and monitors safeguards data quality.

Safeguards Inspectors

The IAEA personnel involved with Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol verification must have at least six years of experience in the nuclear field, preferably in the operation of nuclear facilities, and have a university degree in:

- Nuclear engineering;
- Applied nuclear physics/applied physics;
- Radiochemistry/chemistry; or
- Other engineering (chemical, metallurgical, process, electrical, electronic, or mechanical).

Inspectors are prohibited under the Statute of the IAEA from disclosing any industrial secret or other confidential information coming to their knowledge by reason of their official duties for the Agency.

Further Information

For more information on the IAEA or Additional Protocol, see BIS Outreach Publication AP-001 (“The Additional Protocol to the U.S.-IAEA Safeguards Agreement”). For questions relating to the Additional Protocol and BIS’s implementation of the Additional Protocol for U.S. industry, please contact the Bureau of Industry’s Treaty Compliance Division at 202-482-1001 or visit the website at www.AP.gov.