



ANIVERSARIO

Autoridad Regulatoria Nuclear
PRESIDENCIA DE LA NACIÓN





The Nuclear Regulatory Authority (ARN) is the **Argentine State agency dedicated to the regulation and oversight of nuclear activity** in the areas of radiological and nuclear safety, physical protection and security, safeguards and non-proliferation.

The ARN is an autonomous entity under the jurisdiction of the Presidency of the Nation, created in 1997 by National Law No. 24804 on Nuclear Activity. The ARN is the successor of the National Nuclear Regulatory Entity (1994-1997), which in turn was the continuation of the regulatory branch of the National Atomic Energy Commission (1950-1994).

The mission of the ARN is to maintain an adequate level of protection of people, the environment and future generations against the harmful effects of **ionizing radiation**.

To fulfill this mission, the ARN operates as the **competent national regulatory body in four areas**, as defined by the National Law on Nuclear Activity:

- Radiological Safety
- Nuclear Safety
- Physical Protection and Security
- Safeguards and Non-Proliferation

REGULATORY FUNCTIONS

The ARN performs the functions established by the National Law on Nuclear Activity:

● ELABORATES AND ESTABLISHES REGULATORY STANDARDS AND GUIDES

The ARN, as the competent national authority, **establishes regulatory standards and guides** that make up the **regulatory framework** of nuclear activity in the Argentine Republic.

Thus, it elaborates and updates **regulatory standards of mandatory compliance** for activities that generate ionizing radiation. The standards establish the requirements for facilities and practices, and for the personnel who operate the facilities or perform the mentioned practices. Compliance with regulatory standards minimizes radiological risks.

It also elaborates **regulatory guides associated with the regulatory standards**, of a guiding nature, which contain recommendations for complying with the requirements of the related standards.

The ARN also participates in the development and revision of international standards and guides and technical documents.

● LICENSES FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

The ARN establishes legal ties with authorized parties in the regulated activities through licensing processes. That is, the ARN issues **licenses and authorizations for specific practices**, as well as **individual licenses and permits and specific authorizations** to personnel with relevant functions at regulated facilities. It also issues **approval certificates for transport package designs** and radioactive materials. In all cases, prior to licensing, detailed assessments and inspections verify that the facilities and their operators meet the requirements set out in the regulatory standards.

Licensing evaluations are carried out following specific procedures that consider different aspects such as the type

of facility (industrial, medical, mining, production, reactors, among others) and the life cycle of the facility (design, construction, commissioning, operation or decommissioning). For the transport of radioactive material, the type of package, shipments by Special Agreement or radioactive material in special form are considered.

● AUDITS AND CONTROLS

In facilities and activities with a license in force, the **ARN performs regulatory controls through inspections, evaluations and audits**, in order to verify the validity of the license conditions. This includes the **control of compliance with regulatory standards and requirements** on the facilities, their practices, their personnel and the impact on the site and its environment; also covering the transport of radioactive material.

These controls include aspects of radiological and nuclear safety, physical protection and security, and the objective of ensuring that activities are carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes (safeguards). In addition to the national regulations it generates, the ARN monitors **compliance with international safeguards agreements**.

● ENFORCES REGULATIONS

Regulatory audits and controls are complemented by **measures that reinforce compliance with standards and requirements**, through monitoring, inspections and exchanges at different levels of formality, up to the issuance of **formal requirements** and the application of a wide range of **sanctions**. Within this framework, all licenses and regulatory authorizations can be suspended and even revoked in case of relevant non-compliance.

● INTERVENES IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The ARN performs functions in which the State regulates activities involving radiological risk, maintaining an operational **Radiological and Nuclear Emergency Intervention System**, which acts in situations that may compromise the control over radioactive or nuclear material, or the lack thereof. In nuclear activity, emergencies are defined as a non-ordinary situation in which radioactive materials are involved and which requires the prompt adoption of measures to avoid and mitigate adverse consequences for health and the environment.

As a condition of licensing for ARN regulated facilities, their licensees are required to develop **emergency plans or procedures** to mitigate the consequences of an eventual emergency. These plans are tested through **exercises or drills**, and their scale and scope will depend on the risk associated with the facility. In the case of nuclear power plants, the drills are supervised by the ARN. These drills involve, in addition to the facility itself, the surrounding communities, civilian organizations, security forces and the armed forces in immediate response actions.

ARN is also a **member of the National Council of Integral Risk Management and Civil Protection**, according to Law No. 27287, which establishes the National System of Integral Risk Management and Civil Protection (SINAGIR).

● MONITORS THE ENVIRONMENT AND EVALUATES RADIOLOGICAL IMPACTS

The ARN is the institution responsible for assessing the **environmental radiological impact of any activity it licenses**, through the monitoring, study and follow-up of the incidence, evolution or possibility of environmental damage that may result from such activities. For this purpose, the ARN carries out an **environmental radiological monitoring** in the surroundings of the relevant regulated facilities in the country, totally independent from the one carried out by such facilities, by taking samples of air, water and soil, among other environmental matrices. These samples are processed and measured in its own laboratories.

The ARN has its **own laboratories specialized** in different areas to perform radiochemical, physical, internal and biological dosimetry analyses that guarantee the **radiological protection of workers, patients, the public and the environment**. These laboratories are organized under a **quality management system** and several of them are accredited by the Argentine Accreditation Body (OAA), according to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard, thus ensuring the quality of their tests and calibrations. The ARN also has **specialized personnel** to perform radiological safety assessments that make the control and supervision of regulated facilities.

In case of potential emergency scenarios involving accidental releases or exposures, the ARN has the capacity to monitor internal exposure and external exposure of people and the

environment. In addition, it has the capacity to perform dose estimations by means of computational dosimetry, and their personnel are trained to perform radiological safety assessments in case of radiological incidents or emergencies.

● INFORMS AND ADVISES

The ARN has established **effective channels to promote communication with interested parties and the public**. This includes an updated website (www.argentina.gob.ar/arn) with news and information on events of regulatory interest, social media, publications and informative materials, technical meetings and informative talks, and participation in public hearings, among others. Likewise, upon notification of the existence of radioactive material out of control, the ARN issues **alerts and disseminates information for the protection of the population**, through its own channels and with the collaboration of the media.

The ARN **advises the branches of government** that require it on matters within its competence, and participates in the implementation of the **international obligations assumed by Argentina** in the areas of radiological and nuclear safety, physical protection and security, safeguards and non-proliferation.

● EDUCATES AND TRAINS

For more than forty years, **Argentina's educational activity in the field of radiological and nuclear safety has been incessant**. Since 1980, it has uninterruptedly offered Postgraduate and Specialized Courses for the training of professionals throughout the region, and this trajectory has achieved **broad national and international recognition**, which has been maintained over time. In 2008, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) declared the Argentine Republic as a **Regional Training Center in Nuclear, Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCR)** and the ARN, as responsible for its management.

The CCR annually offers **two Postgraduate Courses** in Radiological Safety and Nuclear Safety, which are provided in conjunction with the School of Engineering of the University of Buenos Aires (FIUBA), and a **Basic Course in Radiological Protection** for technicians, taught by professionals from the ARN. All of these educational and training activities are sponsored by the IAEA and their international scope includes the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The ARN also organizes training **courses and workshops in response to specific needs**, aimed at both its own personnel and various interest groups, such as personnel at facilities and practices regulated by the ARN, first responders in radiological and nuclear emergencies, security forces, armed forces, Foreign Ministry and Customs.



NUCLEAR REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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