

Purpose of the Revision of the Ionizing Radiation Ordinance for Decontamination

- The Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters and the National Reconstruction Agency revised the classification of the evacuation area around the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (restricted area and planned evacuation area) into 3 zones on 1 April 2012: (1) Areas for which evacuation orders are ready to be lifted; (2) Areas in which the residents are not permitted to live; and (3) Areas where it is expected that the residents will have difficulties in returning for a long time.

Table. Relationship between the evacuation areas and zoning in decontamination related laws

Evacuation areas	New evacuation areas	Zones specified in the Act on Special Measures Concerning Handling of Radioactive Contamination	Zones Specified in the Ionizing Radiation Ordinance for Decontamination
Restricted areas, planned evacuation areas	Areas for which evacuation orders are ready to be lifted	Special decontamination areas	Special decontamination areas, etc.
	Areas in which the residents are not permitted to live		
	Areas where it is expected that the residents will have difficulties in returning for a long time		
—	—	Intensive contamination survey areas	

- In the “Areas for which evacuation orders are ready to be lifted”, activities can be started for: (1) restoring local infrastructures other than decontamination; (2) restarting businesses such as manufacturing industries; (3) preparing to reopen hospitals and welfare facilities; (4) restarting agriculture and forestry industries; and (5) transportation services associated with these activities.
- “Ionizing Radiation Ordinance for Decontamination” which came into force on 1 January 2012 is applicable only for decontamination operations (decontaminating soil, and collecting, transporting and storing waste). For application to the above activities, revision of the Ordinance was required.
- Therefore, the specialist committee organized to discuss decontamination operations was reorganized to discuss measures to protect workers from radiation hazards in the evacuation areas. The committee compiled their discussions and issued a secondary report on 27 April 2012.
- Based on this report, the Ionizing Radiation Ordinance for Decontamination was revised and guidelines were prepared that summarize relevant laws and regulations comprehensively and in an easy to understand way.
 - ※ Under this revision, “specified contaminated soil handling work (tasks handling soil with a cesium concentration exceeding 10,000 Bq/kg)” and “work under specified high radiation dose rate (tasks performed in the areas where the mean air dose rate exceeds 2.5 μSv/h)” (excluding decontamination operation, etc.) were defined.
 - ※ Assumed work: specified contaminated soil handling work: activities (1) and (4) above; work under specified high radiation dose rate: activities (2), (3) and (5) above (it is unlikely that the mean air dose rate exceeds 2.5 μSv/h for indoor operations).

Radiation dose control, etc. during restoration/reconstruction work to be started associated with the revision of evacuation areas

<Fundamental principles>

- (1) Employers should make efforts to minimize exposure dose.
- (2) When implementing specified contaminated soil handling operations and specified high radiation dose work, the minimization of exposed dose received by workers should take priority, and work places should be decontaminated in advance.

