

Guidelines on Maintaining and Improving Health of Emergency Workers at Nuclear Facilities, etc. (Overview)

Section 1 Objective

These guidelines were established to support appropriate and effective implementation of measures to maintain and improve the health of workers presently or previously engaged in the designated emergency works, etc. specified in the Ordinance on Prevention of Ionizing Radiation Hazards (hereinafter referred to as “emergency workers”) when they are engaged in the said designated emergency works, etc. or radiation works.

Section 2 Actions for long-term health care

1. An on-site health care system should be established appropriate for the scale of each workplace to implement medical examinations and stress checks, and individual direct guidance based on the results.
2. The following examinations should be provided to workers depending on the exposure dose (effective dose) that the workers had during emergency works:
 - A cataract examination once a year for workers whose exposure doses are higher than 50 mSv.
 - A cancer screening, etc. once a year for workers (thyroid examination: once in three to five years) whose exposure doses are higher than 100 mSv.
3. Health guidance should be provided to all emergency workers.
4. The stress check should be provided to all emergency workers even at workplaces with the number of workers less than 50, considering the mental impact to workers engaged in highly urgent works.

Section 3 Mid- to long-term exposure dose controls for the emergency workers who received radiation beyond the dose limit for regular works

1. Radiation control for the dose control periods subsequent to the dose control period including the time when the accident occurred.

For the radiation control in the dose control periods subsequent to the dose control period of 5-years including the time when the accident occurred, employers should set a dose limit per 5 years for each individual emergency worker, by multiplying 5 by the value obtained by dividing the remaining dose (which is the lifetime dose of 1 Sv minus accumulated dose at the time) by the remaining working period.
2. Radiation control for the regular radiation exposure work during the dose control period including the time when the accident occurred.

Employers may assign emergency workers whose total for the emergency exposure dose and regular exposure dose exceeded 100 mSv per 5 years (which is the dose limit for regular works during the dose control period in regular radiation works), to engage in regular works within an additional exposure dose not exceeding 5 mSv per a year, provided that the workers are limited to those personnel essential to secure safe operation of the nuclear facilities.

Section 4 Development of the database for emergency workers

1. Employers who assign their emergency workers to engage in the emergency works or radiation works should report to the Japanese government the results of their medical examinations and provide the status report on their radiation dose control.

The same rule for reporting requirements should apply for workers who had been emergency workers but engage in radiation works after they moved to another employment.

2. A registration card for the database established by the Japanese government should be issued to emergency workers. The emergency workers should be able to obtain copies of their records for exposed dose and medical examination results by presenting the registration card at the national contact point.
3. Emergency workers whose radiation exposure dose is higher than 50 mSv are eligible to receive a passbook describing the dose.

Section 5 Support by the Japanese government

1. Recommendations for cancer screening and other examinations to emergency workers.
2. Health consultations and guidance to emergency workers at the contact point.
3. Full or partial financial support for the expenses for emergency workers who fall under categories described in Section 2-2 above.