

TASK GROUP 124

Application of the Principle of Justification

ICRP 2023
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Mandate

The principle of justification is intended to ensure the net benefit of a proposed activity that would alter radiation exposure. While the concept is simple to understand, its application, including the basis for judgements and the process for reaching a decision, is not straightforward. Task Group 124 is deliberating on practical application of the principle of justification.

The TG takes particular note of situations where radiation exposure is a major concern, and at the same time, societal and ethical values are considered to have important implications. The following are guiding questions that were identified by the TG to focus discussions and development:

- How to implement a holistic approach to justification in the context of wellbeing?
- How to consider the social impact of activities involving radiation, whether or not it leads to actual exposure?
- How to value benefits in health, economic and societal contexts, and how to compare them with harmful effects of radiation including those from potential exposure?
- How to balance individual rights and the common good?
- How to consider and value the benefit of protecting non-human entities and ecosystems?
- How to identify and involve stakeholders in the process of justification, and who is responsible for the final decision?
- How to keep consistency of the principles of radiological protection as a whole?

Members

Nobuhiko Ban (Chair), NRA, Japan
Julie Burt (Secretary), CNSC, Canada
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Hazem Suman (Representative, IAEA)
Bernard Le Guen (Representative, IRPA)
Christopher Mogg (Representative, OECD/NEA)
Emilie van Deventer (Representative, WHO)

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Process

Open topical workshops are organised in cooperation with liaison organisations in formal relation with ICRP to draw lessons from past experience. The workshops are expected to involve experts in different fields to cover various aspects of justification.

Digital Workshop (15–16 May 2023)

Application of Justification Principle: Setting the Scene



Introduction

Nobuhiko Ban



Planned Exposure Situation: Medical Application

Moderator: Kimberly Applegate



Planned Exposure Situation: Non-Medical Sector

Moderator: Andy Mayall



Emergency Exposure Situation

Moderator: Jessica Callen-Kovtunova



Existing Exposure Situation

Moderator: Mika Markkanen



Closing

Nobuhiko Ban

ICRP 2023 Session “Justification”

8 November 2023

- **Unique Aspects of Justification in Medicine: An Ethical Way Forward for the RP Community**
Sergio Salerno (on behalf of Kimberly Applegate)
- **All-Hazard Approach to Preparedness and Response for Complex Disasters**
Terumasa Niioka
- **Panel Discussion**
IAEA, IRPA, OECD/NEA and WHO

Future Plan

After holding another workshop, the TG will compile a draft report that identifies essential elements and key perspectives in the decision-making process for justification. It aims to clarify what “do more good than harm” means in society today and on what basis the judgement should be made.

Arrangements will be made for wide consultation on the draft report. An open webinar will be organised to share the findings after the report is published.

Stay Tuned!