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Operational Safety
Performance

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OPERATIONAL SAFETY PERFORMANCE

OSART missions highlights

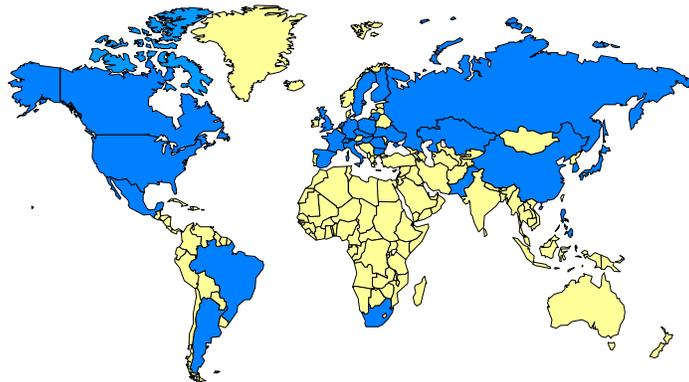
During 2002, 3 OSART missions to France, Spain and Brazil and 5 OSART follow-up visits to Switzerland (twice), USA, France and China were carried out.

The follow-up visit is a unique strength of the OSART programme that is used to measure operational safety improvements at nuclear power plants. It is normally conducted 18 months after the OSART mission to evaluate the actions taken by the nuclear plant to address the issues identified by the OSART. Follow-up visits therefore become an important element in the OSART programme that can be used to directly measure the outcomes of this safety review service and be used as input for future revisions to IAEA Safety Standards.

From the follow-up visits conducted in the first half of 2002, 93% of original OSART issues were resolved or in satisfactory progress. Improvements were observed overall in the areas of safety management, industrial safety and plant material conditions. Additional improvements were also seen in the reporting criteria and analysis of low level events, improved standards for quality management systems and expanded use of safety performance indicators. At the Belleville NPP in France, notable improvements were observed in senior managements commitment to raise the standards in working processes and further integrate radiation protection and nuclear and industrial safety into their risk assessment processes.

The follow-up visit to Mühleberg NPP in June, 2002 completed the scheduled OSART programme for all four nuclear power plant sites in Switzerland. Switzerland has made aggressive efforts to enhance nuclear safety with overall improved results seen in the areas of safety culture, quality management systems and configuration management. In a letter to the Agency, the director of the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate indicated that the OSART missions and the Agency conducted IRRT mission had improved the overall safety of nuclear power programs in Switzerland.

Future requests for OSART missions in 2003 and 2004 have been received from China, Ukraine, France, Brazil, Canada, Iran and Pakistan.



OSART missions conducted (dark colour)

20 Year Anniversary of the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) Programme

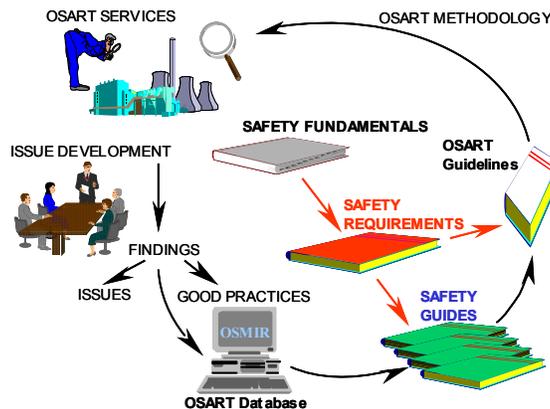
The OSART programme was added to the Agency's safety services in 1982 to assist Member States in the enhancement of operational safety of nuclear power plants. Since the first OSART mission to Ko-Ri NPP in Republic of Korea in 1983, 115 missions and 59 follow-up visits have been conducted in 31 countries.

As the standards for nuclear safety in the industry improved over the past 20 years, so have the standards being used in the OSART programme. An inherent strength of the OSART is its harmonization to the Agency's Safety Standards. The OSART review is conducted using guidelines that are continuously updated and based on IAEA Safety Standards in Operation and best international practices. Therefore, the results of OSART missions become a necessary and valuable feedback source for future revisions to the IAEA Safety Standards. Guidelines are being developed for other IAEA safety services in Operational Experience (PROSPER^{*1}) and Safety Culture (SCEP^{*2}) to be used to further strengthen the OSART review.

Results of the missions since 1991 are stored as a database called OSMIR, available on CD-ROM and can be obtained from the operational safety section on request.

*1: Peer Review of Operational Safety Performance Experience

*2: Safety Culture Enhancement Programme



OSART – IAEA Nuclear Safety Standards Interface