



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS COMMAND,  
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS TAGCIVED  
AND FORT MONMOUTH REGION I  
FORT MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY 07703-5000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

'04 DEC -9 P12:51

December 7, 2004

Directorate for Safety

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region I  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

MS 16  
J-5

Attention: Ms. Donna Janda  
Health Physicist  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

This refers to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission License (NRC) Number 29-01022-14, Docket 030-29741, Mail Control Number 135238, our letter of June 28, 2004, your September 20, 2004 Email, Subject: Questions Regarding VACIS Unit and your November 8, 2004 Email, Subject: Questions Regarding Screening.

The following additional information is provided in response to questions addressed in the November 8, 2004 Email to us:

Question: There is a certain probability of detection of contraband associated with scanning a person with a hand-held device or during a pat down of the driver. There is also a certain probability of detection of contraband associated with scanning a person who remains in the vehicle's cab during the vehicle screening process using VACIS. Is there a difference between these probabilities of detection of contraband? In other words, is the Mobile VACIS unit better at detecting contraband than screening by hand or by pat down? If not, do you consider it to be an acceptable trade off in that keeping the driver in the cab during screening increases the safety and security of the driver? In other words, maybe you don't know that the screening of the driver in the vehicle cab has a higher probability of detection than hand screening, but you're willing to accept this uncertainty based on the decreased safety risk to the inspector and because it would be faster and therefore cheaper to keep the driver in the vehicle cab during screening.

Response: Due to the fact that the probability of detection with any screening method is dependent upon the type of threat, the level of shielding, bodily placement, and combination of screening techniques used, no specific values of detection can be associated with each method. The primary drivers for using the VACIS as opposed to hand screening is for protection of the inspectors/operators and the general population in the vicinity of the area being screened

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(i.e., avoiding direct contact with threat/contraband) and the volume of material that can be effectively evaluated in a short period of time.

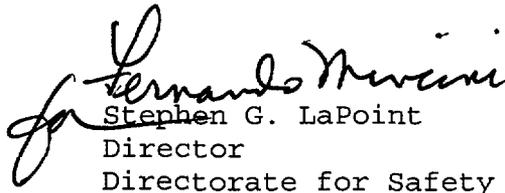
The VACIS is more effective at screening bulk cargo, vehicles and their content than a manual hands on search would be. This is due to shielding, hidden compartments, internal placement, etc., that would not be visible to the human eye. In addition, the use of remote screening allows the operator to view the potential target without making direct contact, and allows them to quickly arrange for follow-up corrective actions to help secure the situation should a threat be identified.

The purpose of requiring drivers of vehicles to remain in the vehicle cab during the scanning process is primarily to assure that the screening process can and does detect potential harmful substances/devices in the vehicle cab or on the vehicle driver, i.e., bombs, other explosives devices and/or weaponry, etc. This is needed to prevent harm to the members of the military forces and its supporting civilian personnel, the general population and property in the vicinity of the area being screened. The trade-off of using this method with individuals remaining in the vehicle's cab during the vehicle screening process greatly outweighs the risk associated with placing any human population in harms way, should the driver be wearing explosive laden devices, or other weaponry, on their person.

We have an immediate need for your position on this issue as it relates to the support of current military operations and would appreciate your expeditious processing of this request as this issue is a matter of national security and safety of our military troops.

We trust you will find the information provided adequate to grant the requested amendment. In the event that you require additional information, our points of contact are Mr. Craig S. Goldberg, RSO, and Mr. Barry J. Silber, Health Physicist at (732) 427-7454 and (732) 427-7459, respectively.

Sincerely,

  
 Stephen G. LaPoint  
 Director  
 Directorate for Safety

Copy Furnished:

Commander, U.S. Army Materiel Command, ATTN: AMCPE-SG-R (MAJ Dunavant), 9301 Chapek Road, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5527