

QUESTION 6:

It is my understanding that licenses issued by the NRC for domestic sales of tritium include provisions for: (1) records of receipt, transfer, and disposal of the material; (2) reports of theft or unlawful diversion; (3) inspection of records kept pursuant to the license; and (4) tests of the material, facilities, monitoring instrument, etc. Do NRC licenses for exports of tritium include the same requirements? If not, how can the NRC be sure that exported tritium is not improperly transferred or diverted from peaceful uses?

ANSWER:

Domestic licenses issued by the NRC for possession of tritium include the cited provisions for health and safety purposes. Export licenses issued to domestic firms, on the other hand, impose only requirements to maintain records of all shipments pursuant to a license and to make those records available to NRC for inspection at any time, thus giving NRC the ability to conduct shipping record audits.

Additionally, the Executive Branch performs a review independent of the NRC which focuses on the country to which the export is being made to determine that the export is not inimical to the common defense and security. In making this determination, the factors considered include the proposed end use and whether the export is in accordance with U.S. policy. This gives NRC additional assurance that exported tritium would not be improperly transferred or diverted from peaceful uses.