
Manual Chapter 1240

UNESCORTED ACCESS AT POWER REACTORS

1240-01 PURPOSE

To provide a process for NRC and contractor inspectors to obtain unescorted access to protected and vital areas at nuclear power plants.

1240-02 OBJECTIVE

To provide assurance that NRC and contractor inspectors requiring unescorted access to protected and vital areas are trustworthy and reliable, and do not constitute an unreasonable risk to the health and safety of the public, including a potential to commit radiological sabotage.

1240-03 RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

03.01

Regional Administrator (RA) designees issue letters to power reactor licensees requesting unescorted access for NRC and contractor inspectors to protected and vital areas.

03.02

Regional Branch Chiefs identify inspectors who require unescorted access to protected and vital areas of power reactor facilities.

03.03

Headquarters Division of Facilities and Security (DFS) certifies that background investigation requirements have been met for contractor inspectors, and that DFS has no security objection to their interim or continuing unescorted access. DFS also coordinates security clearances for NRC employees, including temporary waivers for new employees. See NRC Management Directive (MD) 12.3, NRC Personnel Security Program”.

03.04

Inspection Program Branch (IIPB), Division of Inspection Program Management, NRR coordinates with contractors and DFS to obtain required input for the regional letters requesting unescorted access for contractor inspectors.

1240-04 REQUIREMENTS

Regional letters to licensees requesting unescorted access for NRC and contractor inspectors to protected and vital areas are based on the following elements.

04.01

10 CFR 73.56, "Personnel Access Authorization Requirements for Nuclear Power Plants", requires a background investigation designed to identify past actions which are indicative of an individual's future reliability within a protected or vital area of a nuclear power reactor. The background investigation must verify an individual's true identity, and develop information concerning employment history, education history, credit history, criminal history, and military service. The investigation must also verify character and reputation.

For contractors, Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) background investigation includes the above items. Based on the status and favorability of the OPM review and DFS' background investigation, DFS determines contractor eligibility for interim or continuing unescorted access.

For NRC inspectors and contractors, a valid Federal Government-issued security clearance (e.g., Q or L security clearance) is evidence that the background investigation requirements have been met.

In accordance with Section 145b of the Atomic Energy Act, DFS investigates the background of new NRC employees to provide the basis for a temporary waiver of a security clearance. This allows interim approval for unescorted access for the employee while Office of Personnel Management conducts an investigation to provide the basis for granting a security clearance.

04.02

10 CFR 73.56 requires a psychological assessment designed to evaluate the possible impact of any noted psychological characteristics which may have a bearing on trustworthiness and reliability. Per MD 12.3, DFS' background investigation includes review of the psychological assessment.

NUMARC 89-01, "Industry Guidelines for Nuclear Power Plant Access Authorization Programs, dated August 1989 is endorsed by Regulatory Guide 5.66, "Access Authorization Program for Nuclear Power Plants", dated June 1991. NUMARC 89-01 states that utilities shall not authorize unescorted access where the individual's unescorted access has been interrupted for more than 365 calendar days. In such cases, the regional

letter requesting unescorted access must verify that the psychological evaluation has been updated from the date of the previous investigation.

04.03

10 CFR 73.56 requires behavioral observation, conducted by supervisors and management personnel, designed to detect individual behavioral changes which, if left unattended, could lead to acts detrimental to public health and safety. If the licensee observes any such aberrant behavior, the licensee should follow the same procedures for NRC and contractor inspectors.

04.04

10 CFR 19.12 requires individuals who are likely to receive annual occupational doses greater than 100 mrem to receive instruction related to radiation and/or radioactive material. This requirement is satisfied for NRC and contractor inspectors by their initial training and annual refresher in generic physical security and radiation protection.

04.05

10 CFR 26, "Fitness for Duty Programs", requires contractor personnel to be subject to either the licensee's fitness for duty program, or a program formally reviewed and approved by the licensee which meets the requirements of 10 CFR 26. For contractors, 10 CFR 26.24, "Chemical and Alcohol Testing", requires chemical testing within 60 days prior to initial granting of unescorted access. Therefore, chemical testing at one site may apply to a second site if conducted within 60 days of required unescorted access at the second site.

NRC inspectors will be covered under NRC's Fitness-for-Duty program, which includes chemical testing.

END