

Nuclear Safeguards



What Canadian Researchers and Research Institutions Need to Know

Canada has been a party to the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT) since 1972. Under the NPT, Canada has accepted International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards on all nuclear material. In addition, Canada is obligated to report to the IAEA on nuclear fuel cycle-related research and development activities and on certain nuclear-related manufacturing. These obligations are set out in the safeguards agreements between Canada and the IAEA. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has the mandate to implement these agreements.

What are safeguards?

Safeguards are measures that provide confidence that nuclear material remains in peaceful use. In practice, safeguards measures include obligations to report nuclear material and activities. Under the safeguards agreements, the IAEA has the right to undertake verification activities to confirm declarations made by states.

What does this mean for your organization?

To ensure compliance with Canada's safeguards obligations, the CNSC requires that research institutions in Canada performing nuclear fuel cycle-related research and development and related activities make appropriate declarations. The safeguards agreements define nuclear fuel cycle-related research and development activities as those that are specifically related to any process or system development aspect of any of the following: conversion of nuclear material, enrichment of nuclear material, nuclear fuel fabrication, nuclear reactors, critical facilities, reprocessing of nuclear fuel, and processing of intermediate- or high-level waste containing plutonium, high enriched uranium or uranium-233.

The possession of nuclear materials (uranium, thorium, plutonium), excluding ores, must also be declared and reported to the CNSC's International Safeguards Division (ISD).

How do you make a required declaration?

If your research institution holds nuclear material or performs activities that should be declared, but have not yet been declared, please contact the ISD at the CNSC. We can assist you in making any required declarations or respond to other questions or concerns. Send your email to cnsc.safeguards-garanties.ccsn@canada.ca.

Quick facts

- Nuclear fuel cycle-related research and development activities performed at research institutions in Canada must be reported to the CNSC
- The CNSC prepares reports for the IAEA every March on activities performed in the previous calendar year
- Research institutions have a March 1 deadline to declare activities performed in the previous calendar year
- Email the CNSC at: cnsc.safeguards-garanties.ccsn@canada.ca
- Mailing address:
International Safeguards Division
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street
P.O. Box 1046, Station B
Ottawa, ON
K1P 5S9

