

# EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF RADIATION PROTECTION IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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The legislative basis for the educational obligation and the system of education in the radiation protection in the Slovak republic is represented by the Act No. 355/2007 Coll. Protection, Support and Development of Public Health and on Amendments and Supplements of Certain Acts, which defines the professional competence as a condition necessary for performance of activities leading to irradiation, activities important in terms of radiation protection and release of radioactive substances from under administrative control. A professionally competent person is required, except of completed university education of second degree, to pass the professional preparation and tests, while the extent of required knowledge and content and method of the test is in detail described in the Resolution of the Ministry of Health No. 520/2007 Coll.

The original legislation, cancelled after EU approximation, has defined also length of the professional preparation and its periodicity. Currently valid system does not define the professional preparation length, however the used practice ranges from 8 hours up to 24 hours, depending of character of activities for which is the professionally competent person responsible for. The professional preparation of the expert representative and workers that directly control performance of activities leading to irradiation must be repeated at least once in five years. The Public Health Authority issues authorization for provision of professional preparation on the basis of application according to § 45 section 4, letter g), while the applicant must submit, synopsis description of educational process, list of lecturers, their professional competence and practice in radiation protection.

Operator of the controlled or monitored zone is also obliged, according to § 27 of the Government Resolution No. 345/2006 Coll., to perform at least once a year a training of employees, trainees and students, in order to acquaint with rules and procedures in radiation protection, with precautions in terms of radiation protection during works with specific sources of ionizing radiation in the workplace during normal operation or during occurrence of emergency radiation situation. These trainings are specific and an employee that works in various working premises must complete such trainings for each working premise according to internal rules of an individual operator.

Except of the professionally competent persons, which can be either expert representatives or an expert directly controlling performed activities leading to irradiation, the legislation in § 52 of the Government Resolution No. 345/2006 Coll. defines also the competent expert in radiation protection that during verification of professional competence must prove knowledge listed in the Annex No. 11 of the Government Resolution No. 345/2006 Coll.. According to our knowledge there is not such expert in the Slovak republic now.

The education system is not unified till today, despite the efforts for harmonization of the European legislation. Preparation and testing of professionally competent persons are different and there is not even the system and rules for recognition of certificates issued in different countries. Harmonization of educational rules in the radiation protection would positively influence the European nuclear market that starts to feel more and more shortage of qualified workforce.



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