

E&T in the New BBS Directive (2013/59/EURATOM) and the Portuguese Legal Framework

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The new BSS contains definitions for the roles of the RPE and the RPO together with the functions of these professionals.

The RPE and RPO collectively form an important component of the radiation protection arrangements at an undertaking, providing expert specialist advice and ensuring the maintenance of good radiation protection practices in the workplace.

An important issue relates to harmonisation of the legal requirements in order to facilitate movement of these professionals between EU member states.

The BSS requires that member States bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the new Directive by 6 February 2018. Portugal needs to effectively pay attention to this date.

Availability of an increasing number of equipment (both in health and industry)

Awareness of professionals and professional associations of the importance of RP, reflected in an increasing request of E&T

New higher education courses (at graduation and master levels) and I&D research programmes providing better knowledge in radiation physics, health technologies and RP

RPE and RPO qualifications and duties are already contemplated in the Portuguese law, the RPE being a professional adviser of the employer, and the RPO a hands-on professional

Syllabus of E&T programmes are published

A competent authority has been designated

Lack of a national strategy addressing RP

A very complex legal framework to which undertakings pay little attention

A weak regulatory structure, with very limited resources (human, technical and financial)

A relaxed, often irresponsible approach to the adoption or promotion of preventive measures

Very exigent requirements to access E&T at both RPE and RPO level, also applicable to recognition schemes, posing clear harmonisation problems

Training schemes that include an on-the-job component for the RPE (to be carried out in a specified field) although the qualification is valid for all fields. No on-the-job E&T component for the RPO, all this posing obvious suitability problems

Full implementation of the new EU Directive to strengthen the Portuguese legal framework in what concerns RP

Increasing synergies and cooperation with international organizations and specialists (IAEA, ICRP, EC).

Participation in international discussion fora providing updated information on RP topics.

Use the EU programmes as opportunities to increase knowledge through active E&T programmes and I&D projects (FP7, FP8)

Increasing involvement of professionals and professional societies acting in areas where RP is relevant

Promotion of outreach activities bringing information and awareness to the public

Penalties resulting from non compliance to a timely transposition of the BSS.

Loss of the possibility to design and put in place a sustainable strategy for the implementation of optimized, cost effective, RP measures, resulting from any pressure of international institutions (EU and non-EU) urging the conclusion of the process and or immediate action

Pressure of the media and/or the society

Display of weaknesses of the country both at national and international levels, compromising the development of organizations committed with strengthening the RP environment

A very unfavorable economic and financial context

Eventual injuries and loss of lives of both patients and professionals

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