

## **Use of the International Nuclear Events Scale (INES) for transport incidents**

Any operation involving radioactive materials attracts considerable public and media interest. Transport is no exception even though transport incidents are rare, particularly so with nuclear fuel cycle transports. Nevertheless, it is important that national competent authorities are well informed on transport incidents and the risks involved and likewise, the public and the media need to know the safety implications of such events.

The International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) was set up by the IAEA and OECD/NEA in 1990 as a simple means of promptly communicating the safety significance of incidents at nuclear power stations to government departments, the media and the public. The 1992 Edition of the INES Manual extended the use of the scale to nuclear fuel cycle plants and the 2001 Edition included advice on its use for rating incidents occurring in transport operations.

The application of the INES Scale to transport operations is now being developed in some countries and experience in its use is being built up. Ever since the start of the nuclear power industry no transport incidents involving nuclear fuel cycle materials have had significant radiological consequences for the public or the environment. The use of an INES Scale will allow the public to better understand the significance of any such incidents.