

MDEP VICWG Programme Plan 2012 - 2013

Related to: Vendor Inspection Cooperation Working Group Activities

VICWG Programme Plan for 2012 and 2013

Multi-National Design Evaluation Programme (MDEP)
Vendor Inspection Cooperation Working Group (VICWG)

1) MDEP VICWG long-term goals

- To maximise the use of the results obtained from other regulator's efforts in inspecting vendors;
- To harmonise the Quality Assurance/Management (QA/QM) Requirements and Standards;
- To harmonise the vendor inspection practices among MDEP regulators;
- To perform multinational inspections of vendors according to the common QA/QM requirements.

Actions to reach long-term goals

- To identify and document a set of common QA requirements (write essential elements for QA/QM among MDEP countries);
- To agree on an acceptable method to assess the implementation of the common QA/QM requirements;
- To develop an MDEP QA/QM inspection procedure (documentation, training, etc.);
- To enhance the understanding of each regulator's inspection procedures and practices;
- To develop a process to adapt the scope of an inspection according to the need of other regulators.

2) Intermediate objectives (2012/2013)

- To organise and conduct witnessed and joint inspections;
- To identify the important elements of conducting multinational inspections;
- To identify common QA/QM requirements that could be used to support multinational inspections;
- To maintain and improve the process for sharing inspection results;
- To work with standard developing organizations (SDOs) of applicable standards to explore harmonization of QA/QM.

3) 2012/2013 MDEP VICWG Work Plan

- To organise and conduct witnessed and joint inspections:
 - To compile list of inspections for 2012 and 2013 from the MDEP VICWG regulators for opportunities to participate and witness;
 - To target at least 2 joint inspections to be conducted each year (consideration to include more than 2 regulators where feasible);
 - To discuss lessons learned from the conduct of joint and witnessed inspections.
- To identify the important elements of conducting multinational inspections:

- To discuss and document benefits and challenges of conducting multinational inspections and provide feedback to the steering technical committee (STC).
- To identify common QA/QM requirements that could be used to support multinational inspections:
 - To enhance the QA/QM requirements comparison table;
 - To continue refining the core requirements from 10 CFR Appendix B, GS-R-3, and ISO 9001 (and referring to NQA-1, GS-G-3.1, and GS-G-3.5).
- To maintain and improve the process for sharing inspection results:
 - To update the procedure for sharing inspection results, based on lessons learned from conducting witnessed and joint inspections;
 - To improve the library to make inspection results data base more user-friendly.
- To work with SDOs of applicable standards to explore harmonization of QA/QM:
 - To invite relevant SDOs to VICWG meetings for their input;
 - To encourage harmonisation of QA/QM-related standards.

NOTE: GS-R-3 will be revised and the VICWG may be involved in coordinating comments from MDEP VICWG members.

Outputs of the VICWG

- Inspection protocol document, as updated;
- Discussion paper identifying the important elements of conducting multinational inspections;
- QA/QM Criteria Comparison Report;
- QA/QM Core Requirements document;
- Procedure to share inspection results, as updated;
- Inspection results database (MDEP Library);
- Inspection Planning and Tracking Table for 2012 and 2013;
- Revised survey of regulators inspection practices and document of practices for vendor inspections;
- Coordinating possible comments on GS-R-3 revision.

Key Stakeholders with whom the VICWG members will interact

- Reactor design and nuclear power plant component and equipment vendors;
- Licensees;
- License applicants;
- Plant operators;
- SDOs of QA/QM standards;
- Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA);
- Other MDEP working groups.