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MDEP VICWG Programme Plan 2019 - 2020

Related to: Vendor Inspection Cooperation Working Group (VICWG) Activities

VICWG Programme Plan for 2019 to 2020

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

1) MDEP VICWG long-term goals

- To leverage national regulatory resources by conducting joint and witnessed inspections and sharing vendor inspection information and experience to support enabling regulators to make timely licensing decisions +
- To perform multinational inspections of vendors according to the lead regulator's regulatory framework and an inspection scope established by the multinational inspection team, informed by the MDEP common QA/QM requirements;
- To harmonise the vendor inspection practices among MDEP regulators for inspections aligned to the MDEP Common Position (CP) on Vendor Inspection Protocol;
- To facilitate the adoption of good vendor oversight practices by national regulators;
- To focus regulatory and vendor attention on areas of emerging risks;
- To focus licensees and vendors oversight on effective supply chain performance;
- To focus licensees and vendor attention on positive nuclear safety culture expected within the supply chain;
- To support MDEP design specific working groups;
- To maximise the use of the results obtained from other regulator's efforts in inspecting vendors;
- To continue to learn from the similarities and differences between MDEP national regulators' Quality Assurance/Management (QA/QM) Requirements in order to utilize the information to improve regulators own requirements;
- To continue to engage with CNRA to consider how to maximise the use of the information gathered through VICWG activities.

<u>Actions to reach long-term goals</u>

- To identify and document a set of common QA requirements (write essential elements for QA/QM among MDEP countries) – completed, update if necessary;
- To develop a Common Position on Preparation and Performance of Vendor Inspections – completed, update if necessary;
- Conduct survey of inspector training - completed
- To agree on a method for implementing inspection of the common QA/QM requirements; -completed, update if necessary
- Share inspection insights to enhance the understanding of each regulator's inspection procedures and practices, including areas of emerging risks;
- Develop a Common Position on Counterfeit Fraudulent and Suspect Items (CFSI) Procedures and Policies – completed, update if necessary;
- Coordinate with CNRA, communicate identified emerging risks.

- Develop trend analysis system of inspection findings for improving inspection performance and effectiveness.

2) Intermediate objectives (2019/2020)

- Exchange experience on vendor inspection process and review lessons learnt and outcomes of regulator-specific vendor inspections
- Work to understand the differences in regulatory approaches in each country to support potential use of other regulators vendor inspection evaluations, where appropriate
- Organise and conduct witnessed, joint, and multinational inspections
- Identify trends and vulnerabilities in the international supply chain encountered in vendor inspections
- Work with standard development organizations (SDOs) of applicable standards to explore harmonisation of QA/QM requirements

3) MDEP VICWG Work Plan 2019 - 2020

- Share lessons learnt and outcomes of regulator-specific vendor inspections
- Organise and conduct witnessed or joint inspections:
  - Compile list of inspections for 2019 and 2020 from the MDEP VICWG regulators for opportunities to participate and witness;
  - Target at least 2 witnessed or joint inspections to be conducted each year (consideration to include 1 or more regulators where feasible);
  - Discuss lessons learnt from the conduct of joint and witnessed inspections.
- Opportunities for multinational vendor inspection to be completed:
  - Target opportunities at each VICWG for forward multinational vendor inspections. The frequency of the inspection to be determined by the activities of the identified vendors;
  - It is anticipated that at least one multinational vendor inspection would be completed every two years.
  - Consider any public communication needs associated with the outcome of MDEP multinational vendor inspections and, if necessary, prepare joint/coordinated press releases and statements for the MDEP PG to issue.
- Maintain and improve the process for sharing of information on inspection:
  - Review the process for sharing inspection results for the purpose of updating it, based on lessons learnt from conducting witnessed, joint, and multinational vendor inspections;
  - Make provision in VICWG meetings to share developments in regulator vendor inspection practice, legislation, regulatory framework and related lessons learnt.
  - Share previous information on vendors to support regulators in their preparedness to witness and participate in joint inspections;
  - Maintain the MDEP library to make inspection results available.

- Provide recommendations, when appropriate, to CNRA and MDEP regarding areas of emerging risks, vendors oversight supply chain performance issues, and nuclear safety culture concerns within the supply chain

4) Outputs of the VICWG for 2019 - 2020

- Publish the Proceedings from the joint workshop with CNRA on Supply Chain Management
- Consider the themes from the workshop for potential future activities
- Complete Survey on Safety Culture in the Supply Chain
- MDEP Common Position on Safety Culture in the Supply Chain
- Implement pilot on categorising vendor inspection findings
- Prepare for transition to CNRA to inform PG decision and prepare transition action plan
- Contribute to the development of a technical report on Digital Instrumentation and Control (DI&C) inspections
- Information on outcomes from inspection results (MDEP Library)
- Inspection Planning and Tracking Table for 2019 and 2020
- Contribute to the MDEP 2019 Annual Report
- Contribute to the programme for the 5th MDEP conference in 2020

5) Meetings

- Meetings will be held in Paris or in a member country, especially where there is active design review and/or construction activity. The goal is to hold two meetings per year.
- In order to stay abreast of current developments and opportunities for cooperation on vendor inspection issues, participate in or receive information on the outcome of inspections, members will develop a country update and submit vendor inspection plans information to the NEA prior to all VICWG meetings.
- The country regulatory update presentation should: provide an overview of new build status and the country vendor inspection program, identify any emerging issues, include a summary of key vendor inspection findings, related regulatory issues, and vendor inspection plans highlighting cooperation opportunities
- Discuss opportunities for witness, joint, and multinational inspections to be completed
- Discuss common positions currently in development and any requirements to update existing common positions or technical reports
- Discuss any direction or advice received from the STC
- Document the outcome of each VICWG meeting and report to the STC.

6) Key Stakeholders with whom the VICWG members will interact

- Reactor design and nuclear power plant component and equipment vendors;
- Utilities/Licensees/Operators/Applicants;
- Other MDEP regulators, as needed (care shall be taken NOT to share proprietary or sensitive info inappropriately)
- Non-MDEP regulators, as appropriate
- Standard Development Organizations (SDOs) and other groups, as appropriate, to further MDEP goals
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), World Nuclear Association (WNA) Supply Chain Taskforce, CORDEL, and other international organizations when appropriate;
- CNRA Working Group on Regulation of New Reactor (WGRNR), Working Group on Safety Culture (WGSC), Working Group on Inspection Practice (WGIP) and Working Group on Digital Instrumentation and Controls (WGDIC) and other NEA and MDEP working groups.