



FACT SHEET

National Radioactive and Nuclear Materials Smuggling Response Plan

Continued reports of nuclear and other radioactive materials out of regulatory control highlight the threat that smugglers could provide terrorists or other malicious actors the materials for a nuclear or radiological weapon. To counter this threat, the international community encourages partners to adopt a National Radioactive and Nuclear (R/N) Materials Smuggling Response Plan to define roles and responsibilities, lines of authority, and requirements for coordination in response to R/N materials smuggling incidents. Such a Plan ensures safe and effective cooperation, facilitates technical collaboration, strengthens criminal investigations, and enables prosecutions. It is flexible and scalable, activating appropriate resources for responding at the lowest practical level while providing a mechanism for requesting and delivering assistance.

A National R/N Materials Smuggling Response Plan: *A national strategy for coordinating the combined efforts of competent authorities and support organizations to assess, control, analyze, investigate, and prosecute R/N materials smuggling incidents.*

Purpose

- **Define the roles and responsibilities** of competent authorities and support organizations
- **Establish clear lines of authority**, including transfer of authority, notification, and communication requirements, among responders
- **Identify the legal basis** on which responders perform their duties
- **Integrate existing plans and procedures** to ensure they are compatible and complementary

Context

A National R/N Materials Smuggling Response Plan incorporates local, regional, national, and international capabilities and procedures for emergency response, counterterrorism, law enforcement investigations, nuclear forensics, and criminal prosecution, among others. Depending on a State's preference, a National R/N Materials Smuggling Response Plan may supplement existing national plans, or may be separate and specifically tailored for responding to R/N materials smuggling incidents. If a State has a national Counter Nuclear Smuggling Team or Task Force responsible for investigating nuclear smuggling networks and locating smuggled R/N materials, such a team should be included in the Plan. A National R/N Materials Smuggling Response Plan is one part of a State's nuclear security regime and is closely linked with systems and measures for the prevention and detection of R/N materials smuggling incidents.

Response Activities

A National R/N Materials Smuggling Response Plan outlines the coordination of key activities that comprise an effective response to R/N materials smuggling incidents. These key response activities include:

- **Assess:** Validate the information; evaluate the threat; and notify competent authorities
- **Control:** Deploy appropriate personnel and equipment to locate, identify, and seize the material; secure and control the crime scene; detain suspects
- **Analyze:** Determine the type of material; collect, preserve, store, and transport the material and other evidence; perform traditional and nuclear forensic evidence analysis
- **Investigate:** Conduct an investigation to support a prosecution or further lead development
- **Prosecute:** Prosecute alleged offenders; utilize nuclear forensics evidence, expert witness testimony, and other technical data

Developing a National R/N Materials Smuggling Response Plan

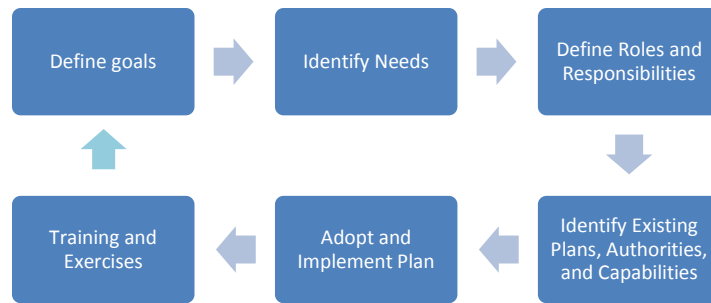


Figure: Process of developing a National R/N Materials Smuggling Response Plan

Developing a National R/N Materials Smuggling Response Plan requires support and coordination of leaders from all relevant bodies who must work together to form a consensus on the Plan's goals, needs, and structure, and then advocate its adoption. Throughout the process, all competent authorities and support organizations should review and revise standard operating procedures as needed. All plans and procedures should be routinely exercised and reassessed, and all personnel should receive adequate training to maintain and sustain capabilities nationwide.