

Implementation of IAEA safeguards during the COVID- 19 pandemic

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Agenda



- COVID-19 pandemic challenges to IAEA Safeguards
- In-field verification activities
- Headquarters verification activities
- Role of States

States' responses to COVID-19

with significant impact on safeguards implementation



Flight
restrictions



Immigration
measures



In-country
restrictions



Access
restrictions to
IAEA offices
and labs



Access
restrictions to
State facilities /
sites



**Health and
safety**
requirements

IAEA Safeguards immediate actions



Safeguards

To ensure business continuity

Prioritized activities for four weeks from first lockdown and reassessed regularly thereafter

Ensured staff had access to information/equipment and were equipped with the necessary IT capabilities for secure remote working for an extended time

Established centralized capability within Office of Deputy Director General for Safeguards to monitor daily in-field activities

Systematic COVID-19 testing by VIC Medical Services, for inspectors and technicians prior to and upon return from travel

In-field verification activities

IAEA Safeguards Business Continuity Measures



Benefited from regional offices, ensuring staff availability in the field



Greater reliance on compensatory measures



Drove long distances overland and crossed various national borders

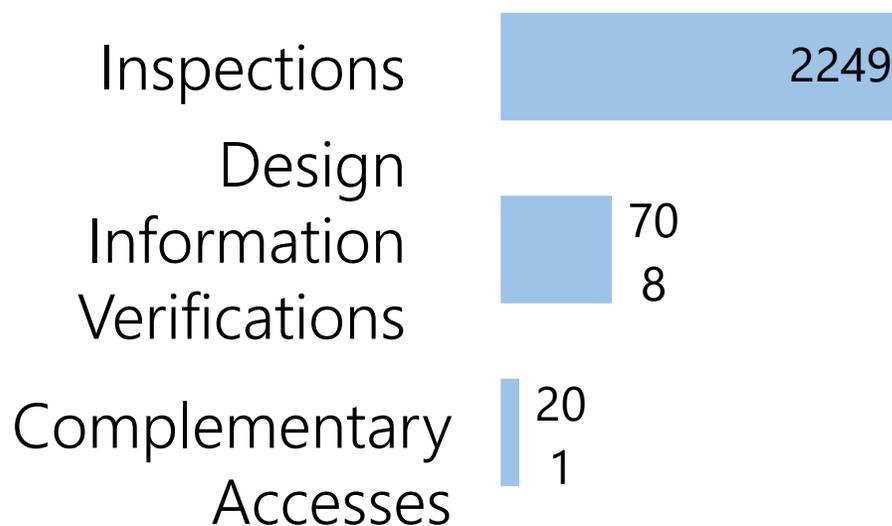


Chartered private flights to transport over 220 staff to and from 12 States

In-field verification activities

IAEA Safeguards Business Continuity Measures

We conducted **most of the time-critical activities** and achieved a comparable level of safeguards effectiveness to pre-pandemic



Facilities with Remote Data Transmission in 31 states
> 1600 data streams from safeguards equipment in facilities

Limited:

- Short notice inspections
- Inspections with no advance notice

HQ verification activities

IAEA Safeguards Business Continuity Measures

We continued **work in Headquarters and regional offices**, with minimal disruption. For example:

- **Collecting, processing and analysing safeguards information continued**
- **Releasing statements on the activities and results of its in-field verification activities**
- **Maintaining the IAEA's safeguards laboratories safe and operational**

Other HQ activities

IAEA Safeguards Business Continuity Measures

- Recruitment of staff continued



- Introductory Course for Agency Safeguards (ICAS) adapted



- Safeguards training for States and traineeships redeveloped



Role of States

On IAEA Safeguards Business Continuity

✓ **States' assistance**

ensuring IAEA's access to nuclear facilities, movement across borders and transfers through airports

✓ **States' restrictions**

e.g. suspending inspectors access to facilities, required additional in-field verification effort / activities

✓ **States' compliance**

with reports and declarations required under relevant safeguards agreements

Role of States

On IAEA Safeguards Business Continuity

Between July 2020 and 30 June 2021, IAEA inspectors on mission spent a total of nearly 2500 days in quarantine outside IAEA Headquarters

=

7 inspectors spending an entire year in quarantine

Conclusion

- Despite the difficult situation, the IAEA did not interrupt its verification activities
- The IAEA continues to rely on the essential cooperation of States to implement safeguards effectively and efficiently
- The IAEA was able to draw soundly-based safeguards conclusions for all States for 2020



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