

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

Programme Plan 2021-2022

RELATED TO: VENDOR INSPECTION COOPERATION WORKING GROUP (VICWG) ACTIVITIES

VICWG Programme Plan for 2021 to 2022

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;
- Enhance engagement with the Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities (CNRA) working groups (WGOE, WGIP, WGDIC, WGSC, WGRNR) and the Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) Working Group on Human and Organisational Factors (WGHOE) to consider how to best cooperate on supply chain regulatory issues.

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common QA requirements (write essential elements for QA/QM among MDEP countries) – completed, however this document is outdated and there are no current plans to update it. It will be archived and made non-public on the MDEP Website;
- 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 Mitigating the Risks of Counterfeit Fraudulent and Suspect Items (CFSI)– completed, update if necessary;
- Develop a Technical Report (TR) on Inspection of Safety Culture in the Nuclear Supply Chain in coordination with WGSC and WGHOE, as appropriate;

- Coordinate with CNRA and CSNI on areas of common interest and communicate identified emerging risks;
- Develop trend analysis system of inspection findings for improving inspection performance and effectiveness – completed, presented during every meeting as part of the regulatory updates from members.

2) Intermediate objectives (2021-2022)

- 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) and WNA on applicable standards to explore harmonisation of QA/QM requirements;
- Consider the outcomes of Supply Chain Management Workshop and develop prioritized action plan for review by STC and potentially CNRA – Completed;
 - Continue effective vendor inspection cooperation (Existing scope);
 - Continue to focus on the risks of CFSI (Existing scope);
 - Continue to focus on the establishment of a strong [nuclear safety culture in the supply chain](#) (Existing scope- STC approved Task Proposal in January 2021);
 - Oversight of effective management of supply chain interfaces (New activity – Task Proposal under development);
 - [Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement](#) (Existing scope, STC approved Task Proposal in January 2021);
 - Regulatory guidance on inspection of advanced manufacturing techniques (New activity – Task Proposal under development);
 - Enhanced supply chain mapping to target risks (New activity – Task Proposal under development);
 - [Commercial Grade Dedication / Equipment Qualification](#) (CGD/EQ) (New activity – Task Proposal approved by STC in January 2021).
- Engage with CNRA (WGOE, WGIP, WGDIC, WGSC, WGCS, WGRNR) and CSNI (WGHOE) to consider how to best cooperate on supply chain regulatory issues.

3) MDEP VICWG Work Plan 2021 - 2022

- Share lessons learnt and outcomes of regulator-specific vendor inspections;
- Organise and conduct witnessed or joint inspections:
 - Compile list of inspections for 2021 and 2022 from the MDEP VICWG regulators for opportunities to participate and witness;
 - Continue to target approximately 5 witnessed or joint inspections to be conducted each year;
 - 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 regulators vendor inspection practices, 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;
 - Timely disseminate vendor and supply chain emerging issues and related impacts to the VICWG;
 - Maintain the MDEP library to make inspection results available.
- Provide recommendations, when appropriate, to CNRA/CSNI 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 2021-2022

- Publish the Proceedings from the joint workshop with CNRA on Supply Chain Management (Completed)
- Complete Survey on Safety Culture in the Supply Chain (Completed)
- MDEP TR on Safety Culture in the Nuclear Supply Chain (Completed)
- Proposal for categorising vendor inspection findings (Completed)
- Contribute to the development of a technical report on Digital Instrumentation and Control (DI&C) inspections (comments provided to Chair of WGDI&C)
- Information on outcomes from inspection results (MDEP Library)
- Inspection Planning and Tracking Table for 2021 and 2022
- Contribute to the MDEP Annual Report
- Contribute to the programme for the 5th MDEP conference in 2022
- Stakeholder engagement plan (2021)
- Update MDEP Inspection Protocol (Completed)
- Lessons learnt TR on ENSA MVI (Completed)
- Update Common Position on Mitigating the Risks of Counterfeit Fraudulent and Suspect Items (CFSI) [2021]
- CNRA WGIP/CSNI WGHOFF/VICWG Joint Workshop on the impacts of Covid-19 on vendor inspections (Completed February 2021)
- Prepare draft mandate for new supply chain related activities under the CNRA [2022]

5) Meetings

- Meetings will be held in Paris or in a member country, especially where there is operation, refurbishment, manufacturing, or construction activities affecting the supply chain. 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, and include a summary of key vendor inspection findings, related regulatory issues, and vendor inspection plans highlighting cooperation opportunities.
- Include summary of interactions or engagement with CNRA and CSNI working groups, as appropriate.
- 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.
- Consider effective methods of stakeholder engagement (outreach, workshop, invitations to present during meetings, site visits).

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, EPRI, INPO, WANO, WENRA, EU/ENSREG 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), Working Group on Codes and Standards (WGCS), Working Group on Operating Experience (WGOE) and Working Group on Digital Instrumentation and Controls (WGDIC) and other NEA and MDEP working groups;
- CSNI Working Group on Human and Organisational Factors (WGHOE).