

CHAPTER 5 ANNEX B

MOD FUNCTIONAL POLICY BOARDS

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THE NUCLEAR SAFETY BOARD

INTRODUCTION

1 In his Safety Policy Statement the Secretary of State for Defence (SofS) has directed the formation of a Defence Environment and Safety Board (DESB) to "provide policy direction on, set objectives for, report on, monitor and review all matters relating to safety and the environment in the MoD". The DESB is the principal committee with oversight of the means by which SofS is assured that his safety policy is being adhered to by the Department.

2 The Policy Statement also envisages the need for boards below the DESB charged with essentially the same task in discrete functional areas. The Defence Nuclear Safety Board (DNSB) is one of these. Its scope includes nuclear and radiological safety for all aspects of the nuclear weapons and nuclear propulsion programmes; radiological safety in other areas of defence business is considered as part of normal health and safety at work.

3 The *assurance* or regulation of nuclear safety requires three main activities: determining safety management systems; setting standards (both technical and management) and gaining assurance that those standards are being met. Those who *ensure* nuclear safety (the duty holders) need to be confident that the safety management system and standards are reasonable. Therefore, whilst the lead at the DNSB would be taken by the secretariat, the regulators and central policy division, the duty holders are also members.

PRIMARY PURPOSE

4 To assist the Chairman of the Defence Nuclear Safety Board in providing policy direction on, set objectives for, report on, monitor and review all matters relating to nuclear and radiological (See Note) safety, including nuclear accident response, of the nuclear weapons and nuclear propulsion programmes of the Ministry of Defence.

SECONDARY PURPOSES

5 To:

5.1 Promote and maintain a culture within MOD in which nuclear safety is of high priority, and in which all recognise the importance of their individual contributions and act accordingly.

5.2 Monitor and review the top-level nuclear Safety Management Systems (SMS) of the Department.

5.3 Ensure that all organisational and administrative changes are carried through with timely attention to their consequences for nuclear safety.

- 5.4 Direct or propose changes to the nuclear SMS to the DESB and higher (depending on the significance of the change).
- 5.5 Maintain an overview of Departmental relationships with national nuclear/radiological regulatory bodies (HSE/NII & EA/SEPA), other government departments (e.g. DTI, DETR, NRPB) and EU institutions.
- 5.6 Monitor and review, from a Departmental perspective, Annex B of the MoD/HSE agreement and provide representation at High Level Liaison meetings.
- 5.7 Provide the top-level forum for consultation on the technical and managerial standards to be applied.
- 5.8 Receive Annual Reports from the Duty Holders and Regulators (which will also be noted elsewhere).
- 5.9 Provide an Annual Summary Report to the DESB.
- 5.10 Receive an Annual Report from the Head of Profession for MOD's defence nuclear staff on the SQEP status of MOD's nuclear community.
- 5.11 Monitor the resources (both financial and of suitably qualified and experienced personnel) available to the Regulators.
- 5.12 Provide a clearly identifiable, high-level single point of contact with the HSE/NII on policy and regulation matters.

MEMBERSHIP

Chair:	R Adm Nigel Guild – personal appointment by 2 nd PUS
Members:	Regulators: Chairman, Naval Nuclear Regulatory Panel The Nuclear Weapon Regulator
	Policy Division: CESO(MoD)
	Duty Holders: FLEET - COS(Spt) or representative DLO - DCE/WSA or representative DPA - XD3 or representative, In attendance: DNS, D Nuc Pol, NP TL, NW TL, CSSE, 2SL, Naval Bases or representatives as required in support of duty holders. Representatives from DOSB when ordnance-related nuclear safety issues are discussed Representatives from DSHEFB when radiological safety-related nuclear safety issues are discussed
Observer	HSE, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, Sec DNSC
Secretariat:	D SEF Pol – AD/NAR

MEETINGS

- 6 The DNSB will meet routinely at 6 monthly intervals or as required by the chairman.

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7 In discharging its responsibilities, the DNSB will recognise the distinct remit of the extra-Departmental Defence Nuclear Safety Committee (DNSC) and ensure that appropriate briefing is given to and soundings taken from the DNSC on key aspects of business.

8 The DNSB itself will not be involved in nuclear safety casework, except in so far as cases may influence the SMS or standards. The Navy Board (comprising senior duty holders) may consider nuclear safety casework and will receive direct regulatory advice through Chairman, DNSB and/or 2nd PUS.

9 The DNSB is not a mechanism for resolving disputes between the duty holders and regulators. The competing priorities for firstly, delivering military capability and secondly, doing so safely will remain with the duty holders at all times.

NOTE

Radiological policy and standards, in so far as they differ from the Law, are set by the DSHEF Board. The nuclear regulators will gain assurance about compliance in the propulsion and weapons programmes and will make such assurance visible to the SHEF Board.