

## ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL



## INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT



*Protecting the public and environment from the  
dangers resulting from ionizing radiation*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Section 8 (1) (d) of the Atomic Energy Act, Cap. 154 (AEA) empowers Council to conduct inspections to assess radiation safety and security conditions and compliance with the Act and the regulations and other requirements specified in an authorisation.

## 2.0 RADIATION SOURCES IN UGANDA

| Practice             | No. of active Facilities | No. of Radiation generators | No. of Radioactive sources |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Medical              | 605                      | 1026                        | 5                          |
| Industrial           | 60                       | 134                         | 200                        |
| Security             | 47                       | 107                         | 0                          |
| Analytical           | 3                        | 14                          | 4                          |
| Education & Research | 4                        | 0                           | 64                         |
| Storage              | 1                        | 0                           | 28                         |
| Total                | 720                      | 1281                        | 301                        |

## 3.0 TYPES OF INSPECTIONS

The types of inspections include the following;

- Pre-Authorization Inspections: Conducted before radiation activities begin.
- Routine Inspections: Conducted regularly based on the level of risk.
- Reactive Inspections: Conducted following incidents, complaints, or specific concerns.
- Final Inspections: Conducted when a radiation practice ceases operation, or when a facility has been decommissioned.

## 4.0 REASONS FOR CARRYING OUT INSPECTIONS

These inspections are conducted to ensure that facilities using ionizing radiation operate safely and comply with safety requirements. During the inspections, the focus is on onsite measures for protection of the public, workers, the patients in case of medical practices and the environment. Some of the respective focus areas are;

### a) The Public

- Proper shielding of radiation rooms
- Restricted access to radiation areas
- Radiation warning signs and notices
- Secure storage of radiation sources

### b) Workers

- Availability of protective equipment
- Safe work procedures
- Radiation monitoring arrangements
- Training and competence

### c) Patients (Medical Facilities)

- Safe operation of equipment
- Patient identification procedures
- Qualified personnel
- Appropriate radiation protection measures

### d) The Environment

- Radiation surveys
- Safe management of radioactive waste

## 5.0 THE INSPECTION PROCESS

**a) Preparation:** AEC reviews facility records including but not limited to the authorization, previous inspection findings and AEC correspondences among others.

### b) Entrance Meeting

Inspectors explain the inspection objectives and scope to the legal person(s) or the facility representatives.

### c) Inspection Activities

Inspectors:

- i) Review facility records/ documentation
- ii) Observe operations
- iii) Conduct radiation survey measurements
- iv) Perform quality control tests on the equipment
- v) Assess safety and security arrangements

**d) Exit Meeting:** Preliminary findings and observations are discussed with the management in the presence of the Radiation Safety Officer.

**e) Follow-Up:** AEC verifies that corrective actions have been implemented.

### After the Inspection

AEC may:

- Issue an inspection report
- Recommend corrective actions
- Conduct follow-up inspections
- Take enforcement action when necessary

The figure 1 below shows the annual inspections conducted from 2010 – 2025.

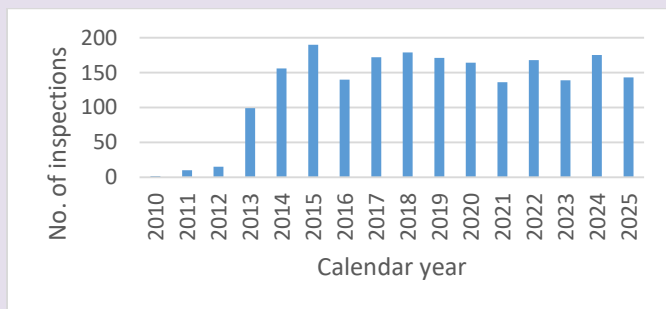


Figure 1: Inspections conducted from 2010 – 2025

### 6.0 ENFORCEMENT

Section 8(1)(e) of the AEA mandates AEC to take such action as is necessary to enforce the requirements of the Act and of any regulations or authorizations. Enforcement is applied when facilities fail to comply with a goal of promoting compliance and protect people and the environment. The following are the possible enforcement actions that can be taken

- a) Verbal warnings
- b) Written warnings
- c) Suspension or revocation of authorization
- d) Closure of facilities
- e) Seizure of radiation sources

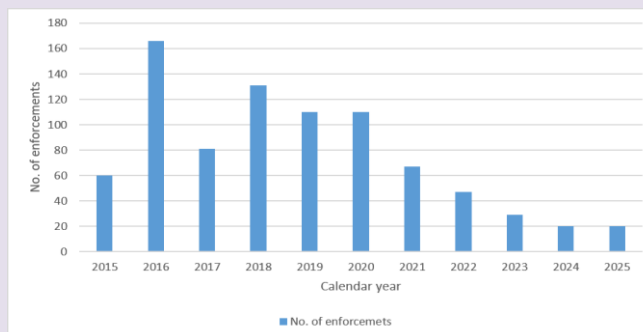


Figure 2: Enforcements conducted from 2015 – 2025.

The figure 2 above shows a decline in the enforcement thus an improvement in compliance towards the radiation safety requirements.

### 7.0 MAJOR REASONS FOR ENFORCEMENT

The following are some of the reasons that may warrant an enforcement;

- a) Willfully operating a faulty equipment
- b) Operating without a valid authorization
- c) Inadequate shielding of the radiation premises.
- d) Lack of trained personnel to operate the equipment.
- e) Failure to implement corrective actions from inspections.

### 8.0 RADIATION SAFETY TIPS FOR THE PUBLIC

- a) Seek for services from only authorized facilities.
- b) Follow all warning signs and instructions.
- c) Do not enter restricted areas without authorization.
- d) Report suspicious or abandoned objects bearing a radiation warning symbol.
- e) Follow instructions provided by facility staff during emergencies.
- f) Immediately notify the Police and AEC if you encounter a lost, abandoned, or suspicious radioactive source.

AEC remains committed to ensuring that all practices and activities in Uganda involving ionizing radiation are conducted safely, securely, and in accordance with Act and any regulations.

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