Principles of Radiological Protection

## **Radiological Protection System**

Collection and evaluation of scientific knowledge

Establishment of radiation safety standards

Nuclear power and radiation safety administration

Research on radiation effects
Research on radiation safety

Reports by
committees in
respective countries
(National Academy of
Sciences (NAS), etc.))

Reports by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) International organizations

World Health Organization (WHO)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Organization for Economic Cooperation
and Development / Nuclear Energy
Agency (OECD/NEA)

International
Atomic Energy
Agency (IAEA)
International Basic
Safety Standards
(BSS)

Recommendations and reports by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) Radiological protection framework of respective countries (Laws and regulations, guidelines, etc.) Principles of Radiological Protection

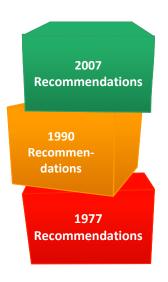
# **International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP)**

### International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP)

The Commission aims to make recommendations concerning basic frameworks for radiological protection and protection standards. The Commission consists of the Main Commission and five standing Committees (radiation effects, doses from radiation exposures, protection in medicine, application of the Commission's recommendations, and protection of the environment).

(Reference) Dose limits excerpted from ICRP Recommendations

	1977 Recommendations	1990 Recommendations	2007 Recommendations
Dose limits (occupational exposure)	50 mSv/year	100 mSv/5 years and 50 mSv/year	100 mSv/5 years and 50 mSv/year
Dose limits (public exposure)	5 mSv/year	1 mSv/year	1 mSv/year



mSv: millisieverts

## Aims of the Recommendations

Aims of the Recommendations (2007 Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP))

- 1) To protect human health
- Manage and control radiation exposure, thereby preventing deterministic effects and reducing risks of stochastic effects as low as reasonably achievable
- 2) To protect the environment
- Prevent or reduce the occurrence of harmful radiation effects

## **Exposure Situations and Protection Measures**

### People's exposure to radiation

## Planned exposure situations

Situations where protection measures can be planned in advance and the level and range of exposure can be reasonably forecast

#### **Dose limits**

(Public exposure) 1 mSv/year (Occupational exposure) 100 mSv/5 years and 50mSv/year

#### **Measures**

Manage disposal of radioactive waste and long-lived radioactive waste

## Existing exposure situations

Situations where exposure has already occurred as of the time when a decision on control is made

#### Reference level

A lower dose range within 1 to 20 mSv/year, with a long-term goal of 1 mSv/year

#### **Measures**

Ensure voluntary efforts for radiological protection and cultivate a culture for radiological protection

## **Emergency exposure** situations

Contingency situations where urgent and long-term protection measures may be required

#### Reference level

Within 20 to 100 mSv/year

#### Measures

Evacuate, shelter indoors, analyze and ascertain radiological situations, prepare monitoring, conduct health examinations, manage foods, etc.

Source: ICRP Publication 103, "The 2007 Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection" (ICRP, 2007)

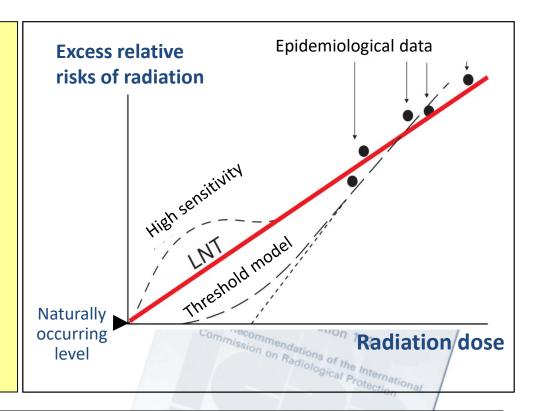
## **Biological Aspect**

## Health effects of radiation have deterministic effects and stochastic effects.

- Absorbed doses up to approx. 100 mGy are not judged to cause any clinically significant dysfunction in any tissues.
- In the range below approx. 100 mSv, the occurrence of stochastic effects is assumed to increase in proportion to increases in equivalent doses in organs and tissues.
   (Adoption of the linear non-threshold (LNT) model)
- The dose and dose-rate effectiveness factor for solid cancer is 2.
- Assuming a linear reaction at low doses, the fatality risks due to cancer and hereditary effects increase by approx. 5% per sievert.

## Disputes over the LNT Model

- Affirmative positions:
   National Academy of Sciences (2006)
   There is no specific safety dose for radiation exposure.
- Critical positions:
   Académie de Médecine; Académie de Science (2005)
   Exposure to radiation below a certain dose does not actually cause cancer, leukemia, etc. and therefore, the LNT model represents overestimation not suited to the reality.



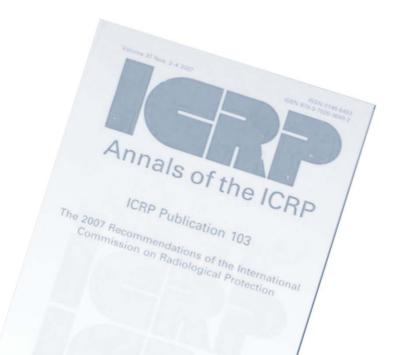
⇒ The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) adopts the linear non-threshold (LNT) model as a simple and reasonable assumption for the purpose of radiological protection.

# Three Fundamental Principles of Radiological Protection

ICRP's three fundamental principles of radiological protection

Justification

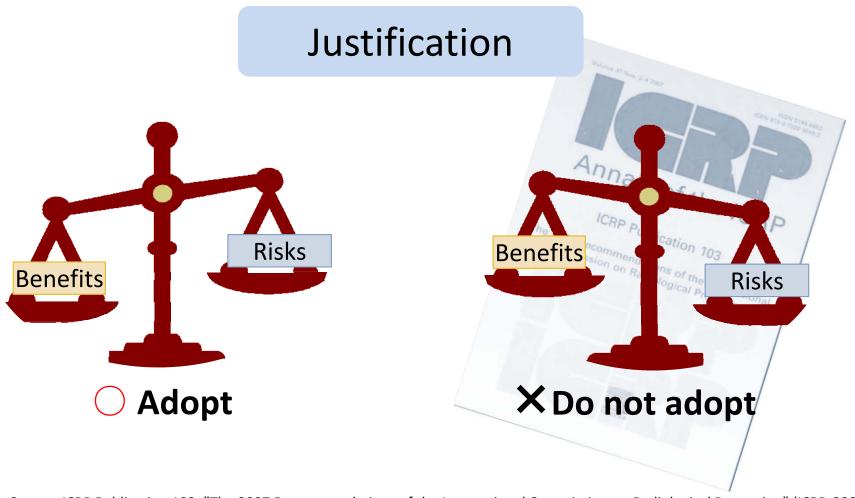
Optimization



Application of dose limits

## **Justification of Radiological Protection**

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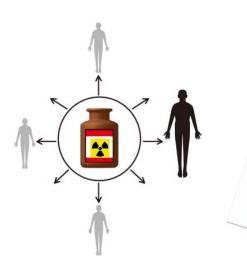


Source: ICRP Publication 103, "The 2007 Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection" (ICRP, 2007)

## **Optimization of Radiological Protection**

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In consideration of economic and social factors, strive to reduce individuals' exposure doses and the number of exposed people as low as reasonably achievable (the ALARA principle).

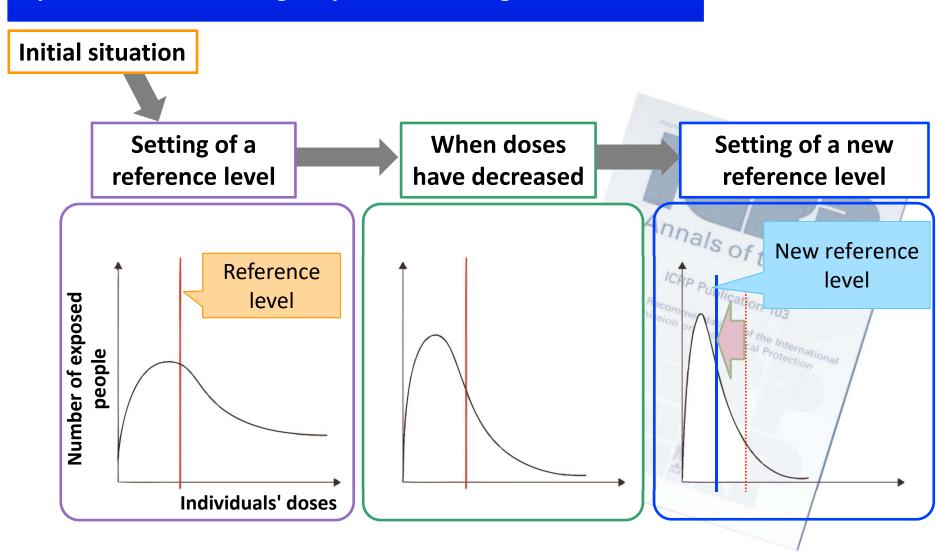


- Dose constraints
- Reference levels

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# Reduction of Exposure Doses Using Reference Levels

Optimization of radiological protection using reference levels



Source: ICRP Publication 103, "The 2007 Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection" (ICRP, 2007)

## **Application of Dose Limits**

### Dose limits are applied under planned exposure situations.

- Occupational exposure (effective dose)
   50 mSv per year and 100 mSv per five years
- Public exposure (effective dose)1 mSv per year

1 mSv per year

(Exception) Dose limits are not applied to medical exposure.

- Justification on a case-by-case basis
- Optimization of radiological protection is important.