

Frequently asked questions

The first four FAQs can be found on the CNSC's website. We have added them here for easy access.

Q1: Are shipments of radioactive materials regulated?

A: Yes. The CNSC regulates the transport of nuclear substances through a series of safety-centred regulatory requirements covering the entire journey of a shipment, from the time it is initially packaged to arrival at its destination.

Regulatory control of packaging and transport of nuclear substances is generally exerted through:

- certifying of packages used for transporting nuclear substances
- registering users of the certified packaging
- licensing the transport of nuclear substances
- issuing licences for the import and export of nuclear substances

Requirements for licensing vary depending on the type of nuclear substance being transported, and the origin and destination of the shipment.

<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/nuclear-substances/packaging-and-transport-of-nuclear-substances/faqs/index.cfm>

Q2: How many shipments of nuclear substances are there in Canada each year?

A: There are thousands of packages containing different nuclear substances shipped to, from and within Canada every year. The majority of these are routine shipments of nuclear substances used for medical, industrial and commercial applications.

<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/nuclear-substances/packaging-and-transport-of-nuclear-substances/faqs/index.cfm>

Q3: How does regulation of packaging make transport of nuclear substances safer?

A: Nuclear substances must be transported in very specific packaging, of which there are different types. To be certified by CNSC, packages must meet stringent performance criteria for shielding, containment, ability to withstand impacts, ability to withstand heat, and more.

The types of packaging are:

- Type A
- Type B (requires certification)
- Type C
- Industrial packages
- Excepted packages

The type of package required depends on the nuclear substance being transported and its quantity, and the mode of transportation being used.

<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/nuclear-substances/packaging-and-transport-of-nuclear-substances/faqs/index.cfm>

Q4: How are packages certified?

A: CNSC technical specialists examine and scrutinize the safety analyses of the package designs provided by the package designer to determine whether it meets the necessary performance specifications. Only if a package meets all specifications is it certified and allowed to be used for transporting nuclear substances.

<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/nuclear-substances/packaging-and-transport-of-nuclear-substances/faqs/index.cfm>

Q5: What is an Emergency Response Assistance Plan (ERAP)?

A:

- An ERAP is intended to assist local emergency responders by providing them with access to technical experts and specially trained/equipped emergency response personnel at the scene of an incident.
- Describes the specialized response capabilities, equipment and procedures that will be used to support a response to incidents involving high-risk dangerous goods.

Q6: Is CNL prepared to respond to an accident involving transport of nuclear substances?

A: First responders to an accident scene are trained to provide initial management of the scene. CNL has emergency response teams on-call 24/7 365 days a year to respond to accidents involving shipments of nuclear substances. These response teams are comprised with staff who have a wide variety of subject matter expertise and specialized equipment to ensure the safety of the public and the environment is maintained at all times.