



Safety Analysis **Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) for Reactor Facilities**

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Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) for Reactor Facilities

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Preface

This regulatory document is part of the CNSC's safety analysis series of regulatory documents, which also covers deterministic safety analysis and nuclear criticality safety. The full list of regulatory document series is included at the end of this document and can also be found on the [CNSC's website](#).

Regulatory document REGDOC-2.4.2, *Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) for Reactor Facilities, Version 2*, sets out requirements and guidance for probabilistic safety assessments for reactor facilities.

This document is the third version and supersedes S-294, *Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) for Nuclear Power Plants*, published in April 2005 and REGDOC-2.4.2, *Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) for Nuclear Power Plants*, published in May 2014.

A document that shows the changes made to REGDOC-2.4.2, *Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) for Nuclear Power Plants*, is available from the CNSC upon request.

For information on the implementation of regulatory documents and on the graded approach, see REGDOC-3.5.3, *Regulatory Fundamentals*.

The words "shall" and "must" are used to express requirements to be satisfied by the licensee or license applicant. "Should" is used to express guidance or that which is advised. "May" is used to express an option or that which is advised or permissible within the limits of this regulatory document. "Can" is used to express possibility or capability.

Nothing contained in this document is to be construed as relieving any licensee from any other pertinent requirements. It is the licensee's responsibility to identify and comply with all applicable regulations and license conditions.

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Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) for Reactor Facilities

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this regulatory document, when incorporated into a licence to construct or operate a reactor facility or other legally enforceable instrument, is to ensure that the licensee conducts a probabilistic safety assessment (PSA) in accordance with defined requirements.

1.2 Scope

This document sets out the requirements and guidance for the PSA for a licence to construct or operate a reactor facility.

The requirements and guidance contained in this regulatory document are applicable to reactor facilities, including nuclear power plants, small reactor facilities, or non-power reactors¹ (research and test reactors), using a graded approach. For more information on the graded approach, refer to REGDOC-3.5.3, *Regulatory Fundamentals*.

1.3 Relevant legislation

The following provisions of the [Nuclear Safety and Control Act](#) (NSCA) and the regulations made under it are relevant to this document:

- NSCA, section 3 and subsections 24(4) and (5)

1.4 National and international standards

Key principles and elements used in developing this document are consistent with national and international standards.

The following standards are relevant to this regulatory document:

- IAEA Safety Standard SSG-3, *Development and Application of Level 1 Probabilistic Safety Assessment for Nuclear Power Plants* [1]
- IAEA Safety Standard SSG-4, *Development and Application of Level 2 Probabilistic Safety Assessment for Nuclear Power Plants* [2]
- CSA N290.17-17, *Probabilistic Safety Assessment for Nuclear Power Plants* [3]

¹ This document does not apply to non-power reactors already licensed with an approved safety case based on accepted safety analysis reports.

For new non-power reactors, this document will be applied using a graded approach, consistent with the risk impact, based on reactor power level and radioactive inventory.

2. Objectives of the Probabilistic Safety Assessment

The objectives of the PSA are:

- a. to provide a systematic analysis in order to give confidence that the reactor facility's design will align with the fundamental safety objectives as established in IAEA No.SF-1, *Fundamental Safety Principles* [4], including to protect people and the environment from radiation
- b. to demonstrate that a balanced design has been achieved; this can be demonstrated as achieved if no particular feature or postulated initiating event makes a disproportionately large or significantly uncertain contribution to the overall risk
- c. to provide confidence that small changes of conditions that may lead to a catastrophic increase in the severity of consequences (cliff-edge effects) will be prevented
- d. to provide assessments of the quantitative safety goals (the probabilities of occurrence for severe core damage states, and the assessments of the risks of radioactive releases to the environment) as defined in REGDOC-2.5.2, *Design of Reactor Facilities* [5], or as established in licensing basis for the facility
- e. to provide site-specific assessments of the probabilities of occurrence and the consequences of external hazards
- f. to identify facility vulnerabilities and systems for which design improvements or modifications to operational procedures could reduce the probabilities of severe accidents, or mitigate their consequences
- g. to assess the adequacy of emergency operating procedures
- h. to provide insights into the severe accident management program

3. Requirements for a Probabilistic Safety Assessment

3.1 Probabilistic safety assessment program

Requirements

The licensee shall establish a program for the development and use of PSA as a means to manage radiological risks and to contribute to safe design and operation of reactor facilities.

Guidance

The PSA program may include the following elements:

- preparation, maintenance and application of the PSA
- safety goals and numerical criteria (both the year average and instantaneous risk) against which the PSA results are compared, as well as the actions to be taken when these numerical criteria are exceeded.
- management of incremental risk from abnormal facility configurations, and risk input to decision making

3.2 Probabilistic safety assessment levels

Requirements

The licensee shall perform a Level 1 and Level 2 PSA for each reactor facility.

Considerations shall include the reactor core and other radioactive sources such as the spent fuel pool (also called irradiated fuel bay). Multi-unit impacts, if applicable, shall be included.

Guidance

For radioactive sources outside the reactor core, the licensee may, subject to section 3.9, choose an alternate analysis method to conduct the assessment.

3.3 Management systems or quality assurance

Requirements

The licensee shall conduct the PSA under the management system or quality assurance program established in the licensing basis.

Guidance

Licensees should refer to the following for guidance:

- REGDOC-2.1.1, *Management System* [6]
- CSA N286-12, *Management System Requirements for Nuclear Facilities* [7]
- CSA N286.7, *Quality Assurance of Analytical, Scientific and Design Computer Programs for Nuclear Power Plants* [8]

The PSA should be developed in a manner that is consistent with the management system.

3.4 Probabilistic safety assessment models that reflect the facility

The PSA models shall reflect the plant as built and operated (including multi-unit impacts), as closely as reasonably achievable within the limitations of PSA technology, and consistent with the risk impact.

3.5 Update of probabilistic safety assessment models

The licensee shall update the PSA models every 5 years. The models shall be updated sooner if the facility undergoes major changes.

The licensee shall update the PSA models so that they adequately represent the as-operated plant conditions.

The licensee shall inform the CNSC of the impacts of the updated models on the Level 1 and Level 2 PSA.

3.6 Site-specific initiating events and potential hazards

Requirements

The licensee shall include all potential site-specific initiating events and potential hazards, namely:

- internal initiating events and internal hazards

- external hazards, both natural and human-induced, but non-malevolent

The licensee shall include potential combinations of hazards.

The screening criteria of hazards shall be acceptable to the CNSC.

Guidance

The licensee may, subject to section 3.9, choose an alternate analysis method to conduct the assessment of internal and external hazards.

Examples of external hazards are seismic hazards, external fires (e.g., fires affecting the site and originating from nearby forest fires), external floods, high winds, offsite transportation accidents, releases of toxic substances from offsite storage facilities, and severe weather conditions.

Examples of internal hazards are internal fires, internal floods, turbine missiles, onsite transportation accidents, and releases of toxic substances from onsite storage facilities.

3.7 Realistic assumptions and data

The licensee shall ensure the PSA models are developed using assumptions and data that are realistic and practical and, where required, supported by deterministic safety analysis or engineering assessments.

3.8 Consistent level of detail

The level of detail of the PSA shall be consistent with the facility testing, maintenance and configuration management programs, and should be consistent with the intended uses of the PSA.

3.9 Methodology and computer codes

Requirements

The licensee shall seek CNSC staff acceptance of the methodology and computer codes to be used for the PSA.

Guidance

The methodology should be suitable to support the objectives of the PSA (set forth in section 2 of this document) and to support the intended PSA applications. The computer codes that support the analytical methods should be adequate for the purpose and scope of the analysis.

The following domestic and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safety Standards documents or updated versions provide general guidance for conducting high-quality PSAs:

- IAEA Safety Standard SSG-3, *Development and Application of Level 1 Probabilistic Safety Assessment for Nuclear Power Plants* [1]
- IAEA Safety Standard SSG-4, *Development and Application of Level 2 Probabilistic Safety Assessment for Nuclear Power Plants* [2]
- CSA N290.17-17, *Probabilistic Safety Assessment for Nuclear Power Plants* [3]

Information and guidance on how to apply the above standards using a graded approach is included in those standards.

3.10 Operational states

The licensee shall include at-power and shutdown states.

The licensee shall perform a PSA for other states where the reactor is expected to operate for extended periods of time and that are not covered by the at-power and shutdown PSAs. Definitions of operating states are found in REGDOC-3.6, *Glossary of CNSC Terminology* [9].

3.11 Sensitivity and uncertainty analyses

The licensee shall include sensitivity analysis, uncertainty analysis and importance measures in the PSA.

4. Guidance on Public Disclosure

In accordance with licensees' public information programs established under REGDOC 3.2.1, *Public Information and Disclosure* [10], a summary of the results and assumptions of a PSA should be made available to interested stakeholders. It should be noted that any information pertaining to the specific fault sequences and vulnerabilities of a facility includes security-sensitive information and is subject to applicable information security provisions.

The public information should include high-level summaries of the PSA, including those for methodologies and screening criteria (subject to necessary security considerations).

Glossary

For definitions of terms used in this document, see [REGDOC-3.6, *Glossary of CNSC Terminology*](#), which includes terms and definitions used in the [Nuclear Safety and Control Act](#) and the regulations made under it, and in CNSC regulatory documents and other publications. REGDOC-3.6 is provided for reference and information.

References

The CNSC may include references to information on best practices and standards such as those published by CSA Group. With permission of the publisher, CSA Group, all nuclear-related CSA standards may be viewed at no cost through the CNSC web page “[How to gain free access to all nuclear-related CSA standards](#)”.

1. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Safety Standard SSG-3, *Development and Application of Level 1 Probabilistic Safety Assessment for Nuclear Power Plants*, 2010.
2. IAEA. Safety Standard SSG-4, *Development and Application of Level 2 Probabilistic Safety Assessment for Nuclear Power Plants*, 2010.
3. CSA Group. N290.17-17, *Probabilistic Safety Assessment for Nuclear Power Plants*, Toronto, 2019.
4. IAEA, Safety Fundamentals No. SF-1, *Fundamental Safety Principles*, Vienna, 2006.
5. CNSC, REGDOC-2.5.2, *Design of Reactor Facilities*, Ottawa, 2020.
6. CNSC, REGDOC-2.1.1, *Management System*, Ottawa, 2019.
7. CSA Group, N286-12, *Management System Requirements for Nuclear Facilities*, Toronto, 2012.
8. CSA Group, N286.7-16, *Quality Assurance of Analytical, Scientific and Design Computer Programs*, Toronto, 2016.
9. CNSC, REGDOC-3.6, *Glossary of CNSC Terminology*, Ottawa, 2019.
10. CNSC, REGDOC-3.2.1, *Public Information and Disclosure*, Ottawa, 2018.

Additional Information

The following documents provide additional information that may be relevant and useful for understanding the requirements and guidance provided in this regulatory document:

- IAEA, INSAG-10, *Defence in Depth in Nuclear Safety, A Report by the International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group*, Vienna, 1996.

CNSC Regulatory Document Series

Facilities and activities within the nuclear sector in Canada are regulated by the CNSC. In addition to the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* and associated regulations, these facilities and activities may also be required to comply with other regulatory instruments such as regulatory documents or standards.

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	1.5	Certification of prescribed equipment
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	2.4	Safety analysis
	2.5	Physical design
	2.6	Fitness for service
	2.7	Radiation protection
	2.8	Conventional health and safety
	2.9	Environmental protection
	2.10	Emergency management and fire protection
	2.11	Waste management
	2.12	Security
	2.13	Safeguards and non-proliferation
	2.14	Packaging and transport

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	3.2	Public and Indigenous engagement
	3.3	Financial guarantees
	3.4	Commission proceedings
	3.5	CNSC processes and practices
	3.6	Glossary of CNSC terminology

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