



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

# Putting Nuclear Safety First



[www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca)

Canada 

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The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), established in May 2000, replaced the Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB), which served Canada for more than half a century.

Like its predecessor, the CNSC is an independent agency that functions in an open fashion.

## **We work to protect you**

The CNSC is Canada's nuclear regulator. It does not operate reactors or engage in any form of commercial or developmental nuclear-related activity. Our business is regulation, designed to protect nuclear industry workers, all Canadians and the environment, as well as to respect Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

## **Strong law — Strict enforcement**

The Commission makes regulations that every user of nuclear energy and materials in Canada must follow. And it enforces those regulations.

As federal regulator, the CNSC licenses over 4,000 operations in Canada. Canada's regulations govern all industries that use nuclear energy and materials — from nuclear power plants and research reactors to equipment used to locate leaks in pipelines. The CNSC licenses hospitals and clinics that use radioisotopes to treat cancers and diagnose diseases; it regulates and inspects uranium mines, refineries, mills and processing facilities, and packaging for the transport of nuclear materials.



## Using nuclear energy and materials safely

People around the world are continually exposed to low-level radioactivity from sunlight and other natural sources, but man-made sources of radiation, such as those used in cancer diagnosis and treatment, have increased our exposure. The CNSC sets strict limits on the amounts of radioactivity that can be released from licensed facilities to the environment, based on safety standards set through sound science.

Canada's regulations govern everything from worker safety to the safe management of waste from uranium mining and other nuclear activities. The CNSC has clear and explicit powers to regulate all aspects of the industry, and it operates on the principle that no technology — however sophisticated — is fail-safe. Nuclear materials must be explicitly controlled.

Licences are granted only to operations which incorporate multiple layers of protection wherever radioactive materials are used. Each and every industry must demonstrate, in detail, that it can operate — and close down — safely.

A considerable amount of effort is spent by the CNSC on regulating the environmental performance of nuclear facilities to verify that the licensed activities do not pose undue risk to the environment. This involves the review of predicted environmental effects, the proposal of environmental protection measures, and the collection of environmental monitoring data at nuclear facilities.

The CNSC works with countries around the globe to set and maintain international safety standards, and it shares Canada's excellent research and safety practices world-wide.



## **A commitment to world peace**

Canada does not and will not have nuclear weapons, and it strongly supports international treaties on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Security is essential. The CNSC has strong security requirements at reactor sites, and it obliges industries to keep careful track of all nuclear materials. Tough regulations, which stress security and vigilance, help keep premises safe from intruders, and demonstrate Canada's commitment to world peace.

The CNSC also helps Canada to meet its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by reporting on Canada's nuclear material inventories and ensuring that Canada complies with the requirements of International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. In addition, the CNSC licences Canadian nuclear imports and exports in accordance with Canada's nuclear non-proliferation policy which incorporates Canada's international obligations.



## **Involving Canadians — Answering to Canadians**

The regulation of nuclear activities in Canada is everybody's business. The CNSC provides clear, balanced scientific information about nuclear issues of concern to Canadians, and when a licence is under consideration, the Commission invites interested Canadians to share their views. It also encourages public input into regulations and regulatory documents. Commission hearings are open to the public. The CNSC appreciates your comments.

### **For more information, contact us:**

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[www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca)



## **OUR MISSION**

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission regulates the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect health, safety, security and the environment and to respect Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

## **OUR MANDATE**

Under legislation enacted by Parliament, and policies, directives and international commitments of the federal government, we:

- regulate the development, production and use of nuclear energy in Canada;
- regulate the production, possession, use and transport of nuclear substances, and the production, possession and use of prescribed equipment and prescribed information;
- implement measures respecting international control of the development, production, transport and use of nuclear energy and nuclear substances, including measures respecting the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices;
- disseminate scientific, technical and regulatory information concerning the activities of the CNSC and the effects, on the environment and on the health and safety of persons, of the development, production, possession, transport and use referred to above; and
- undertake special projects.

## **OUR VISION**

Regulatory excellence based on knowledge, objectivity and consideration of all viewpoints.

## **OUR VALUES**

In carrying out its mandate, the CNSC values quality, integrity, competence, dedication and respect for others. We live these values.