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## International physical protection standards: support for development and implementation

Mark S. Soo Hoo

*International Atomic Energy Agency*  
P.O. Box 100, Vienna, Austria A-1400  
Telephone: +43-1-2600-21938, Fax: +43-1-2600-29299  
Email: [m.soofoo@iaea.org](mailto:m.soofoo@iaea.org)

### ABSTRACT

Since 1972, the IAEA has been a recognized organization in promoting the development of international standards on the physical protection of nuclear materials. This responsibility has continued through the present in the 1999 publication of the fourth revision of INFCIRC/225, The Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and in being the repository for the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material which was originally published in 1980 as INFCIRC/274. The IAEA has also published other reference documents in support these two standards.

With changing world events and greater concern for the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities, IAEA Member States have increased IAEA physical protection responsibilities. Currently, the IAEA is serving as the secretariat for drafting revisions to the physical protection convention. The proposed revisions will strengthen international physical protection standards through the incorporation of physical protection fundamentals that should apply to all nuclear materials in international or domestic use, storage and transport. Furthermore, the physical protection fundamentals would also extend to include nuclear facilities. Presently, the physical protection convention applies only to nuclear materials that are in international transport.

To complement efforts to develop and promote international physical protection standards, the IAEA is actively involved in assisting Member States with the implementation of the standards. This is accomplished through the delivery of training courses, workshops and hosting other international forums for the exchange of information. Through review services such as the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS), the IAEA provides advice to Member States on the application of international standards at national and facility-specific levels. These services can be followed up with technical support to implement the recommendations developed during the IPPAS review.