

TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION FOR RADON PROFESSIONALS IN SWEDEN

L. Mjönes, A-L Söderman

Swedish Radiation Protection Authority, Department of Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Assessment, Stockholm, Sweden

Radon training courses and seminars on radon have been arranged in Sweden since the early 1980s. A commercial educational company initiated the first regular training courses in 1987. Up to 1990 about 400 persons had attended courses in radon measurement and radon mitigation methods. In 1991 the training programme was taken over by the Swedish Radiation Protection Authority, SSI.

Today SSI's Radon Training Programme comprises three different two-day courses, a *Basic Radon Course* and two continuation courses: *Radon measurements* and *Radon in water*. Until 2003 SSI also arranged courses about *Radon remedial measures* and *Radon investigation and risk map production*. The courses are arranged twice a year, in spring and autumn. Altogether, between 1991 and 2003, about 750 municipal environmental health officers and technicians from private companies have been educated in the SSI training programme.

The continuation courses end with an examination. The examination consists of a theoretical test. The names of the persons who pass are being published in a list that is found on the SSI website. As there is no certification system for radon professionals in Sweden today, this list helps people who need to get in contact with radon consults to find one in their area and is used by authorities as well as private homeowners.

From 1991 it has been possible to obtain accreditation for measurements of indoor radon in Sweden and from 1997 also for measurements of radon in water. Even if accreditation is voluntary in Sweden, accredited laboratories perform most measurements, both for indoor air and water. A condition for accreditation is to pass the examination in the training courses at SSI. The Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment, SWEDAC is in charge of the accreditation. So far, three major companies have obtained accreditation for measurement of indoor radon and four have been accredited for measurements of radon in water.