



COMMUNICATION FROM THE NMEu EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT) TO THE EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY FOR THE SUPPLY OF RADIOISOTOPES FOR MEDICAL USE

Subject:
COMMUNICATION REGARDING GLOBAL SUPPLY OF MO-99 and I-131 THROUGH MID-OCTOBER 2019

Brussels, 22 July 2019

The Security of Supply Working Group held a meeting in Paris on 10 July 2019 at which it was informed of developments affecting the Mo-99 supply chain which will impact Mo-99 supply to generator manufacturers through at least mid-October 2019. A teleconference of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) was subsequently held on 19 July 2019.

ANSTO has resumed operations at the new Australian Nuclear Medicine (ANM) Mo-99 manufacturing facility, but is restricted by the Australian nuclear regulator ARPANSA to two production runs per week, sufficient to provide Mo-99 to produce generators for the domestic Australian market. Increasing the number of runs is dependent on securing regulatory approval and ANSTO does not anticipate being able to increase beyond the current two runs a week at least until after the one-month scheduled maintenance of the OPAL reactor (7 September – 6 October 2019). During the OPAL outage, ANSTO will need to procure Mo-99 from external sources for the manufacture of generators.

NTP is currently producing Mo-99 at about 40% of its normal capacity. NTP is seeking authorization from the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) of South Africa to return to normal production capacity in August 2019.

The LVR-15 reactor (Czech Republic) will also undergo planned maintenance from early September until the second week of December 2019, and the MARIA research reactor (Poland) has planned maintenance from mid-September until mid-October 2019, thus reducing Mo-99 (and I-131) irradiation capacity in Europe. However, both European Mo-99 producers Curium and IRE expect to be able to produce Mo-99 at close to normal capacity through mid-October.

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Nuclear Medicine Europe consequently advises stakeholders that there is a likelihood of occasional Mo-99 supply shortages during this upcoming three-month period. Nuclear Medicine Europe is currently working to estimate and quantify the scope of such shortages and will provide further communications in this regard. Medical institutions should contact their generator suppliers or radiopharmacies regularly to be informed of the expected supply situation.

Nuclear Medicine Europe also has reviewed the prospective supply situation for I-131 in the coming three-month period. NTP currently anticipates to receive approval from NNR to resume I-131 production in July. If NTP is subsequently authorized to restart its second Mo-99 production line, it is expected that NTP and IRE, as well as other producers, will be being able to supply market requirements including during the period in September/October when POLATOM is not able to produce I-131 due to the scheduled MARIA outage. Nuclear Medicine Europe will continue to monitor the situation and will provide further communications as necessary.

Bernard Ponsard,
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The NMEu Emergency response team:

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