

ASN

competence Independence rigor transparency

ASN was created by the 13th June 2006 Nuclear Security and Transparency Act. It is an independent administrative authority responsible for regulating civil nuclear activities in France.

ASN is tasked, on behalf of the State, with regulating nuclear safety and radiation protection in order to protect workers, patients, the public and the environment from the hazards involved in nuclear activities. It also contributes to informing the public.

ASN aims to provide efficient, impartial, legitimate and credible nuclear regulation, recognised by the citizens and regarded internationally as a benchmark for good practice.



Its disciplines

Regulation

ASN contributes to drafting regulations, by giving the Government its opinion on draft decrees and ministerial orders, or by taking regulatory decisions of a technical nature. ASN also takes the individual resolutions required by the Public Health Code.

Monitoring

ASN is responsible for ensuring compliance with the rules and requirements applicable to the facilities or activities within its field of competence. Inspection is one of ASN's main means of monitoring, although it also has appropriate powers of enforcement and sanction.

Information

Primarily through its website www.asn.fr and its *Contrôle* magazine, ASN informs the public and the stakeholders (local information committees, environmental protection associations, etc.) of its activity and the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France.

**In the event of an emergency,
ASN assists the Government.**

**It in particular sends the competent
Authorities its recommendations
concerning the civil security measures
to be taken.**

Regulation of diverse activities and installations

Nuclear power plants, radioactive waste management, nuclear fuel shipments, radioactive material packages, medical facilities, research laboratories, industrial activities, and so on. ASN regulates a wide variety of activities and installations. This regulation covers:

- 58 nuclear reactors producing nearly 80% of the electricity consumed in France, along with the EPR reactor currently under construction;
- all French fuel cycle facilities, from fuel enrichment to reprocessing;
- several thousand facilities or activities which use sources of ionising radiation for medical, industrial or research purposes;
- several hundred thousand shipments of radioactive materials made annually nationwide.

A few key figures

- More than 450 staff, of whom nearly half are in the 11 regional divisions.
- 248 inspectors spread around the regional divisions and the departments.
- As at 01.01.2011: a total budget of about €146 million, of which €78 million are devoted to assessments.
- More than 820 inspections per year in the nuclear facilities and the transport of radioactive materials.
- More than 1,130 inspections per year in the medical, industrial and research sectors.
- More than 7,000 inspection follow-up letters published on the www.asn.fr website.

The help of experts

When taking certain resolutions, ASN calls on the expertise of technical support bodies.

This is primarily the case with the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN).

ASN also requests opinions and recommendations from scientific and technical Advisory Committees.

Regional organisation

ASN comprises head office departments and eleven regional divisions with competence for one or more administrative regions. This organisation enables ASN to carry out its regulation and monitoring duties over the entire country and in the overseas territories of France.

