



Radioactive Source Term for Normal Operation of Light Water Reactors

An American National Standard

ANSI/ANS-18.1-2020

Published by the
American Nuclear Society
555 N. Kensington Ave
La Grange Park, IL 60526

ANSI/ANS-18.1-2020

**American National Standard
Radioactive Source Term for
Normal Operation of Light
Water Reactors**

Secretariat
American Nuclear Society

Prepared by the
**American Nuclear Society
Standards Committee Working
Group ANS-18.1**

Published by the
**American Nuclear Society
555 North Kensington Avenue
La Grange Park, Illinois 60526 USA**

Approved July 24, 2020
by the
American National Standards Institute, Inc.

American National Standard

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Published by

American Nuclear Society
555 North Kensington Avenue
La Grange Park, Illinois 60526 USA



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American National Standard ANSI/ANS-18.1-2020

Foreword

(This foreword does not contain any requirements of American National Standard, "Radioactive Source Term for Normal Operation of Light Water Reactors," ANSI/ANS-18.1-2020, but is included for informational purposes.)

The purpose of this standard is to provide a set of typical radionuclide concentrations for estimating the radioactivity in the principal fluid streams of a light water reactor. Some systems will have different concentrations than those indicated in this standard. The values in this standard were those judged to be representative concentrations in a light water reactor over its lifetime based upon the data currently available. It is not intended that these data be used as the sole basis for design but be used in environmental reports and elsewhere where expected operating conditions over the life of the plant would be appropriate. The data and methodology provided by previous versions of this standard have been incorporated in the GALE computer codes (see Bibliography) used for the calculation of gaseous and liquid effluents from light water reactors. The changes included in this standard should be considered in future updates of these codes.

This standard is Revision 4 of American National Standard N237-1976 (ANS-18.1-1976), "Source Term Specification." This revision was issued solely to correct errors identified in ANS-18.1-2016 (Revision 3) deemed substantive. Revision 3 updated the default activity concentrations and adjustment factors associated with Revision 2 (ANS-18.1-1999) based on the latest review of data from operating domestic nuclear power plants as documented in EPRI Technical Document 3002009584, "Technical Bases for Update of the ANSI/ANS-18.1-1999 Standard to Incorporate Contemporary Best-estimate Radiological Source Terms in Principal Fluid Streams of Light Water Reactors" (October 2015). The data in EPRI Technical Document 3002009584 were collected from 1999 to 2015 and include contribution from normal operating events such as fuel leakers, implementation of different chemistry and mitigation strategies, and mid-cycle outages. The values given in this standard will be revised periodically as additional plant operating data become available

This standard might reference documents and other standards that have been superseded or withdrawn at the time this standard is applied. A statement has been included in the references section that provides guidance on the use of references.

This standard does not incorporate the concepts of generating risk-informed insights, performance-based requirements, or a graded approach to quality assurance. The user is advised that one or more of these techniques could enhance the application of this standard.

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Radioactive Source Term for Normal Operation of Light Water Reactors

1 Scope, application, and purpose

1.1 Scope

This standard¹⁾ provides a set of typical radionuclide concentrations for estimating the radioactivity in the principal fluid systems of light water reactors and for projecting the expected releases of radioactivity from nuclear plants. It is not intended that the values be used as the sole basis for design but be used in environmental reports and elsewhere where expected operating conditions over the life of the plant would be appropriate.

1.2 Application

The fluid streams addressed are the coolant of a boiling water reactor (BWR), the coolant of a pressurized water reactor (PWR), and PWR steam generator fluids. The concentrations in fluid streams of BWRs and PWRs are treated in a similar manner but have different numerical values because of the differences in design.

The numerical values given in this standard are based on available data from current operating plants that use zirconium-clad uranium dioxide fuel. Current plants operate with fuel up to a rod-average burnup of 62 GWd/MTU with minimal fuel failures. Operation to higher burnup or with a large number of failed fuel rods could result in different radionuclide concentrations. The values are given for a set of reference conditions, and criteria are provided for adjusting to other conditions.

The radionuclides presented may not be a comprehensive list necessary for certain regulatory applications. Examples of regulatory applications that could consider radionuclides not listed in this standard may well include the assessment of the dose impact to a member of the public resulting from routine releases in radiological effluents from long-lived, hard-to-detect radionuclides (e.g., C-14, Tc-99, and I-129) that are highly mobile in the environment; the inclusion of radionuclides that could include a significant contribution from external exposure; or the evaluation of the safety of a nuclear facility requiring the analyses of the facilities' detection of a response to postulated equipment failures or malfunctions.

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to provide a uniform approach, applicable to light water-cooled nuclear power plants, for the determination of expected concentrations in fluid streams. Through application of this standard, a common basis for the determination of radioactive source terms for normal operating conditions is established, with the goal of providing a consistent approach for those involved in the design of these facilities. Utilization of this standard is expected to aid the licensing process and the public's understanding of the impact of nuclear power relative to radionuclide concentrations and possible releases to the environment.

2 Definitions

2.1 Shall, should, and may

The word "shall" is used to denote a requirement; the word "should" is used to denote a recommendation; and the word "may" is used to denote permission, neither a requirement nor a recommendation.

¹⁾ The current standard, ANSI/ANS-18.1-2020, is hereinafter referred to as "this standard."