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Description of International Agreements

Agreements for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

The U.S. Government currently has in place Agreements for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation with twenty other countries, the European Atomic Energy Community (which is composed of twenty-five countries) and Taiwan. These Agreements provide the foundation to allow the United States to export source material (natural uranium, depleted uranium, thorium) and special nuclear material (plutonium, enriched uranium, ²³³U) to other countries. The Agreements require both the United States and the other country to track nuclear materials exported or produced pursuant to the Agreement.

The U.S. Government has also entered into Agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and thirteen other countries. These Agreements usually cover the export of a nuclear reactor and fuel to a Country with which the U.S. does not have an Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation. These Agreements are usually referred to as Project Agreements.

These Agreements do not specify the weight units to be used to track nuclear materials. However, they do routinely note that all of the parties have Safeguards Agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and that the Agreements support the fulfillment of Safeguards Agreements with the IAEA.

IAEA Safeguards Agreements

The United States and the Governments of 185 other countries have signed the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (hereafter referred to as the Non-proliferation Treaty). As signatories of this Treaty, the countries are required to establish and maintain a system of accounting for and control of all nuclear materials subject to the Treaty. In addition to the Treaty, the IAEA and each country enters into force Subsidiary Arrangements to the Treaty that further define the responsibilities of the countries and the IAEA. The Subsidiary Arrangements specify that the country shall report nuclear material to the IAEA in grams for plutonium, isotopes of uranium and uranium for enriched uranium and kilograms for natural uranium, depleted uranium and thorium.

Attachment