



Denial of Shipments of Radioactive Material

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of denials of shipments of radioactive material by airlines, airports, pilots and states. In many cases, the reasons include the fear of negative publicity in case of an incident or accident, additional burdens by state regulations, and additional training costs. The denials also may result from the discovery of regulatory violations. Denials, and the resulting delay in transport, are capable of posing problems for hospitals, patients and suppliers of radiopharmaceuticals. These radiopharmaceuticals are often used for diagnosis and treatment, including the treatment of cancer. In many cases, these substances can only be transported by air because of their short half-lives. Any delay may render them useless.

IFALPA Dangerous Goods Committee Position

The IFALPA Dangerous Goods Committee supports the transport of all classes of dangerous goods, including radioactive material, as long as this transport is strictly conducted according to the ICAO Annex 18 and the associated Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air.

In consideration of whether a denial is appropriate or not, it must be made clear that safety is always the overriding factor and that other issues never have priority.