

# **Press release on incident involving radiography source**

On May 23, 2021, at 7 pm, upon the completion of the radiography test of a welding joint performed by Volvid Zrt. at an industrial area of Kazincbarcika, the radioactive source could not be retracted into the defectoscope used in the test. Despite the efforts according to the emergency protocol prescribed in the relevant Hungarian standard, the radioactive source could not be returned to the position of the shielded device, due to an unforeseen break in the link-type source holder. The radiographers took increased radiation protection measures in accordance with the protocol of Radiation Safety Programme and notified the National Service for Radiation Health Preparedness and the maintenance service company of the radiography device, who immediately disembarked to the site.

The radiation source was placed into a transport container providing adequate radiation protection within a few hours after the occurrence of the incident, under the supervision of the National Radiation Emergency Response Service.

Based on the analyses of the event, the radiation source has not been damaged, it was handled and transported safely, no environmental pollution has occurred, no radioactive material has been released into the environment. During the incident, the radiation source did not pose a threat to the public and the environment, the location of the incident was secured and monitored properly.

Although the incident did not pose any health and environmental risks, the HAEA classified the event as an incident. The incident was of minor significance, so there was no need to initiate a formal procedure of the HAEA.

According to the assessment, due to the failure of the systems responsible for the safe management of radioactive sources and the lack of an effective technical procedure for the management of the exposed radioactive source, the classification of the event according

to the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) is INES 1.