

Press release on incident took place on the site of Institute of Isotopes Ltd.

On 10th of January 2022, six pieces of Co-60 sealed radioactive sources, with 74 TBq activity each, were moved from a UKITB-250-6 type transport container at a working place of the Institute of Isotopes Ltd, Budapest, Hungary. During the procedure one sealed source was misplaced within the container into a less shielded position. The event occurred inside a building within the controlled area and the source did not damaged. The event triggered an alarm at both installed and personal radiation detection equipment. The workers left the operating area immediately and notified the radiation protection officer and the radiation protection service. The area was secured until the recovery process finished in which 14 workers were involved. During the recovery process the container was placed in a shielded position.

The event did not pose any health and environmental risks, no radioactive material has been released into the environment and no occupational exposure higher than the authorized dose limits had happened.

Since a Category 1 sealed source was involved in the event the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA) performed the preliminary rating of the event based on the available information and rated the event at Level 2 on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES). HAEA will finalize the rating and give further information for the public as soon as the event investigation will be conducted.