Over the course of the past five months, the ANVS has received three notifications of scrap freights containing radioactive materials. The levels of radioactivity were above established Dutch legal standards and the cargo had the same country of shipping. In order to protect the people and the environment, the radioactive materials have been secured and transported to the Central Organisation for Radioactive Waste (Centrale Organisatie Voor Radioactief Afval, or COVRA) under supervision of the ANVS. The safety of the people and the environment has not been compromised.

The ANVS aims to prevent further transits through or into the Netherlands of scrap loads containing radioactive materials of the same origin. To determine the exact origin of these three scrap loads containing radioactive material, an investigation has been started by ANVS. It is common practice that in these kind of cases, the Dutch Public Prosecution Service is consulted if there are reasons to justify a criminal investigation. In addition, the ANVS has reported this event at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Since several shipments of scrap containing radioactive material with a high radiation dose have been uncovered over a short period, the ANVS has decided to rate this event at INES-2: an incident that could have had an impact on people and the environment. In this specific case, however, the safety of the people and the environment has not been compromised.

During the same period, the German authorities have also detected one scrap freight containing radioactive material, in transit from the same country of origin. Likewise, this has been reported at an international level (rated at INES-1, since it concerned just one shipment of scrap containing radioactive material).