



## *Packaging Management Council (PMC)*

***Our mission is to provide a forum for the identification, analysis, and resolution of packaging issues that support programmatic needs of the Department of Energy (DOE) sites and laboratories including those managed by the Office of Environmental Management (EM). The EM's goal is to minimize risk involved in transportation of radioactive material and waste shipments and to assure the safety of workers and the public.***

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### **Overview**

Selection, procurement, design, fabrication, loading and the movement of packages containing hazardous material including radioactive material both offsite and onsite at DOE sites can be a very complicated process. The packages must be compliant with applicable international, federal and state regulations, DOE Orders, and other standards. Because of the diversification in technical and regulatory knowledge required to fully understand the packaging requirements for these materials, the DOE Office of Environmental Management in the mid-1990's sponsored the creation of the Contractor's PMC as a forum for the identification, analysis, and resolution of packaging issues to support the programmatic needs of the department. The PMC promotes cooperation and communication, effective resource utilization, consistent application of Quality Assurance (QA) and regulatory requirements, and the standardization of packaging designs and operational activities.

The PMC consists of federal and DOE contractor packaging professionals from DOE program offices sites to provide consistent, effective, and efficient resolutions to the department's problems and to identify potential problems that may impede the success of DOE missions. The PMC meets annually to discuss common issues; however, frequent communication occurs between the PMC Members and individual sites to identify and resolve problems.

### **Interface with Other Organizations**

Additionally, the PMC integrates their packaging activities with other organizations throughout the DOE complex to ensure the PMC efforts are fully coordinated with other programs and maintain

compliance with procurement, quality assurance, and regulatory requirements. Communication is maintained with the Secure Transportation and Packaging Steering Committee (STPSC) managed by the National Nuclear Security Administration to ensure activities do not overlap. The STPSC is a forum for resolving issues and concerns related to Type B packaging and secure transport resources. The PMC also works very closely with the Transportation Management Council (TMC). The TMC provides uniform and standardized transportation logistics support to DOE program offices and sites. To leverage procurement of common containers (Type A and IP) for the DOE sites, the Office of Transportation and the PMC works with the Integrated Contractor Purchase Team (ICPT) to develop the appropriate contract mechanism. And supplier evaluations and quality assurance are coordinated with the Energy Facility Contractors Group's (EFCOG) QA Supply Chain Working Group.

### **PMC Working Groups**

Working groups are formed to address central issues affecting multiple sites across the complex, as determined collectively by the council members and DOE representatives. This approach facilitates a consistent approach to problem resolution and the collaboration of multiple contractors for the overall improvement of DOE packaging operations. Several working groups that have made significant differences in the way DOE and DOE contractors approach new and common issues are the On-site Working Group and the Supplier Evaluation Working Group. The On-site Working Group has played a key role in understanding what is expected to comply with the on-site requirements of 10 CFR 830, the Price



**EM Environmental Management**

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure

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Anderson Amendment Act, and DOE Order 460.1B. Though different DOE Operations use different methods, the Working Group approached the requirements to provide a forum for discussion and share different methods so that sites could select the method that best meets their respective needs.

### **Container Standardization and Quality Assurance**

The PMC Container Standardization Working Group has developed standardized specifications for carbon steel drums and waste boxes to package and transport radioactive low-level waste from DOE/EM sites to disposal sites. The standardization program provides an opportunity for waste packaging coordination and standardization of procurement elements including the evaluation of container suppliers' QA programs. The standardization program provides a framework for the coordination of the complex-wide procurement to achieve economy of scale.

The Supplier Evaluation Working Group plays an important role in qualifying commonly used packaging suppliers. One of the goals of this working group is to conduct multi-discipline supplier evaluations that ensure container suppliers meet or exceed requirements set-forth by contracts and/or regulations. By performing these multi-discipline evaluations, it is the intent of the PMC and EFCOG Supply Chain Quality Group to make available to all DOE sites top-quality supplier evaluation reports and minimize the duplicate evaluation of container suppliers by DOE contractors. PMC performed container supplier evaluation reports are documented and made available through the Integrated Supplier Information System (ISIS).

### **PMC Freight Container Initiative**

In 2007, a standardization effort to address the procurement, use and modification of freight (cargo)

containers. More and more freight containers are becoming the "container of choice" for burial purposes; however, many sites do not fully understand how new and used freight containers are authorized for use. The PMC has established a Freight Container Standardization Working Group to identify the various requirements (regulations, standards, etc.) that are used to qualify the use of freight containers and acceptable practices for maintaining them. Ultimately, this effort will develop common specifications and identify dependable suppliers that can provide quality freight containers to meet the needs of the department.

The PMC intent of these efforts is to achieve economies of scale and reduce redundant efforts by DOE sites' contractors.

### **Packaging Database and Software**

**RAMPAC:** This database is a source for information on radioactive material packaging, regulations, training and other related topics. To learn more about RAMPAC, please visit the web site:  
<http://www.rampac.com/>

**RADCALC:** The RADCALC software assists DOE/EM sites' packaging and transportation personnel in packaging and transportation determinations (e.g., regulatory classification, decay heat, radioactivity, and hydrogen gas) for shipment of radioactive materials and waste. To learn more about RADCALC please visit the web site:  
<http://www.radcalc.energy.gov/pages/index.asp>

**Integrated Supplier Information System:** This database contains information about suppliers providing products and services to DOE sites and laboratories. To learn more, please visit the web site:  
[http://www.ornl.gov/adm/oqpi/EFCOG/ISIS\\_Administrator.pdf](http://www.ornl.gov/adm/oqpi/EFCOG/ISIS_Administrator.pdf)

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**Additional information on the PMC may be obtained from:**

**Office of Transportation  
Office of Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20585  
202-586-8548**

**Or by visiting the web site at:**

<http://www.energy.gov/em/services/waste-management/packaging-and-transportation>

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