

APPENDIX A

DOD GENERAL NUCLEAR WEAPON SYSTEM SAFETY RULES

A. INTRODUCTION

Safety rules are categorized as “general” and “specific,” as follows:

1. **General Safety Rules.** General safety rules apply to all nuclear weapons and nuclear weapon systems. General safety rules primarily apply safety policy and shall be included as part of the Military Department’s safety rules package.

2. **Specific Safety Rules.** Specific safety rules are procedural and administrative safeguards unique to each individual nuclear weapon system (and logistics carriers as required) that are identified during safety studies and OSRs.

B. DoD GENERAL NUCLEAR WEAPON SYSTEM SAFETY RULES

1. Nuclear weapons shall not be intentionally exposed to abnormal environments except in an emergency.

2. Nuclear weapons shall not be used for training or for troubleshooting (i.e., to confirm the existence of a fault, aid in fault isolation, or verify that a fault has been corrected except as explicitly allowed by a specific safety rule).

3. Nuclear weapons may be used for exercises except when explicitly prohibited by specific safety rules.

4. Only certified procedures, personnel, equipment, facilities, and organizations, authorized by the appropriate level of authority, shall be employed to conduct nuclear weapon system operations.

5. The total number of personnel performing nuclear weapon system operations shall be held to the minimum consistent with the operations performed.

6. At least two authorized persons must be present during any operation with a nuclear weapon, except when authorized by a specific safety rule; i.e., alert fly. They must be able to detect incorrect or unauthorized procedures in the task being performed. They must also have knowledge of and understand applicable safety and security requirements.

7. Personnel that have physical access to nuclear weapons must be qualified under the PRP, in accordance with DoD Directive 5210.42 (reference (d)).

8. Physical security will be maintained, in accordance with DoD Directive 5210.41 (reference (b)).

9. Nuclear weapons will be transported as determined by the Combatant Commander or the Military Department, in accordance with DoD Directive 4540.5 (reference (a)). Additionally, the following safety guidance applies:

a. Movement(s) will be kept to a minimum consistent with operational requirements.

b. Custody and accountability transfers during logistic movements shall be by courier receipt system to ensure positive control.

10. PAL operations shall be, in accordance with plans and procedures prescribed by the applicable Combatant Command and TPs.

11. Verification that a nuclear warhead is not present in a test assembly must be made utilizing nonnuclear assurance procedures at the last practical opportunity agreed on by the Department of Defense and/or DoE before the conduct of an operational test.

12. Deviations from safety rules are permitted in an emergency, except as follows:

a. U.S. custody must be maintained until receipt of a valid nuclear control order that permits transferring U.S. nuclear weapons to non-U.S. delivery forces.

b. Nuclear weapons shall not be expended unless a valid, properly authenticated nuclear control order conveying release or expenditure authority is received.

c. Jettisoning of nuclear weapons is permitted in the event of an emergency, and is to be accomplished according to plans and procedures prescribed for the area of operations.