

Information Circular

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General Distribution

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Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 31 October 2024, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
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in Vienna

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The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to communicate the following.

The Russian Federation has escalated its hostile actions to a new level by adopting a pattern of regular daily UAV flights over the protective zones of Ukraine's nuclear power plants. This alarming behaviour directly violates IAEA nuclear safety standards and poses serious risks to the operational stability and safety of these facilities. These flights, involving Russian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) of the "Shahed" type, have recently been observed not only in close proximity to the nuclear power plants, but even directly over critical infrastructure facilities, including reactor units and distribution units, thereby introducing significant risk to nuclear safety.

Over the last two weeks, the following incidents have been recorded:

South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant:

- 16 October 2024: multiple "Shahed-131/136" UAVs detected near the plant;
- 14 October 2024: several "Shahed-131/136" UAVs recorded flying nearby;
- 10 October 2024: three "Shahed-136" UAVs observed in the vicinity;
- 06 October 2024: two "Shahed-136" UAVs flew close to the facility;
- 17 October 2024: eight UAVs detected at close range;
- 18 October 2024: UAV flights recorded;
- 19 October 2024: two rockets and seven UAVs observed;
- 21 October 2024: four UAVs detected;
- 25 October 2024: two UAVs spotted in proximity;

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- 27 October 2024: six UAVs detected, one at close range later that day;
- 28 October 2024: three UAVs observed nearby;
Khmelnytskyi Nuclear Power Plant:
- 18 October 2024: two "Shahed-136" UAVs recorded at different times;
- 21 October 2024: two UAV flights detected at varying altitudes;
- 28 October 2024: 12 UAVs recorded, with one flying directly over the reactor block and distribution unit.

These repeated incursions by Russian UAVs into the sanitary protective and observation zones of Ukrainian nuclear installations have created a continuous high-risk environment that jeopardizes nuclear safety and threatens the operational stability of these facilities. Even minor disruptions could trigger a reactor blackout scenario, activating emergency diesel generators, the last line of defence for nuclear safety.

This pattern of hostile activity constitutes a clear violation of international nuclear safety standards and jeopardizes the lives of millions both within Ukraine and in neighboring countries. The Russian Federation's deliberate use of UAVs over critical infrastructure ignores IAEA regulations and undermines the integrity of the international nuclear safety framework.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine kindly requests the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency to promptly circulate this Note Verbale as an Information Circular to all IAEA Member States.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 31 October 2024