

COMMUNICATION FROM THE NMEu EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT)

Subject: COVID-19 AND THE GLOBAL SUPPLY OF Mo-99 AND OTHER ISOTOPES

Brussels, 20 April 2020

The Security of Supply Working Group (SoS WG) Emergency Response Team (ERT) held a teleconference on 20 April 2020 to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Mo-99 and other radioisotope production.

All organizations (research reactors, Mo-99 producers, Tc-99m generator manufacturers, ground transportation) continue to report regular operations. Air transportation is the most significant bottleneck in regard to shipping orders to customers, though producers have modified their processing schedules to better align with available flights. There was a positive development at the end of last week, as it was announced that KLM has agreed to resume transportation of radioactive materials at least for certain flights. KLM aims to initiate such transport upon approval by their regulators beginning April 27 for an initial five week period, after which it will review the situation and determine if an extension is necessary.

While upcoming Mo-99 supply appears to be improving as a result of these various developments, work continues on other activities to increase air transportation options.

NMEu continues to advise that logistics difficulties create short-term risk to security of supply of both bulk Mo-99 and Tc-99m generators, though no specific shortages are presently foreseen. Medical institutions should contact their Tc-99m generator suppliers or radiopharmacies to be informed of the expected supply situation.

The ERT will continue to carefully monitor the situation, consult as needed, and Nuclear Medicine Europe will provide regular communication updates.

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