

COMMUNICATION FROM THE NMEu EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT)

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

Brussels, 15 April 2020

The Security of Supply Working Group (SoS WG) Emergency Response Team (ERT) held a teleconference on 15 April 2020 to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Mo-99 and other radioisotope production.

All organizations again reported that production operations continue normally within adjustments that have been taken against COVID-19, although production is being oriented to international flight availability. Radioisotope shipments from Europe have been more stable in recent weeks and continue via the reduced number of ongoing passenger flights.

The ERT was updated about a variety of efforts that are being pursued to increase transportation options including: possibility of a major European airline to resume transport of radioactive material; charter flights between U.S.-Europe-South Africa; contacts with various airlines to encourage restart of passenger flights from additional European airports, increased route frequencies; and finally, potential use of U.S. Government military transport. Decisions and outcomes to such discussions could come as early as the end of this week.

NMEu continues to advise that logistics difficulties create 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.

Bernard Ponsard,
Chairman ERT

Ira Goldman,
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For the Processors:	Frank DeLange, Curium
	Erich Kollegger and David Achiolas, IRE
For the Generators:	Nassar Hussein, GE Healthcare
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