

# Radon in workplaces: geological controls of radon in groundwater supply facilities



**FANUC**

FEDERAL AGENCY FOR  
NUCLEAR CONTROL

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Surveillance of the Territory & Natural Radiation*

# Legal requirements after implementation of 2013/59/Euratom in the Royal Decree on 29/08/2020

- For workplaces
  - obligation to measure in certain workplaces in certain zones (municipalities) => [www.radonatwork.be](http://www.radonatwork.be)
  - Notification (Declaration) if [Rn] > Reference Level (300 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>)
  - Remediation, dose assessment, optimisation
  - Control measures and inspections

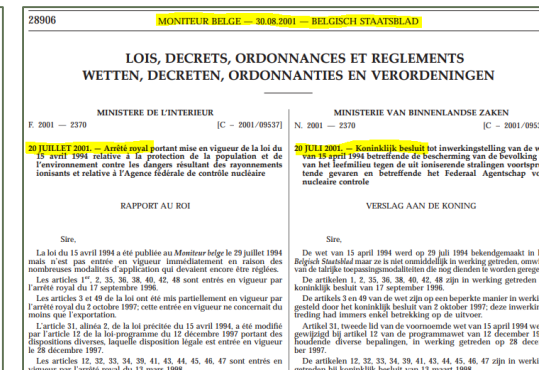


Order detectors  
Guidelines and procedures  
Legislation  
Background information

## Corrective Measures :

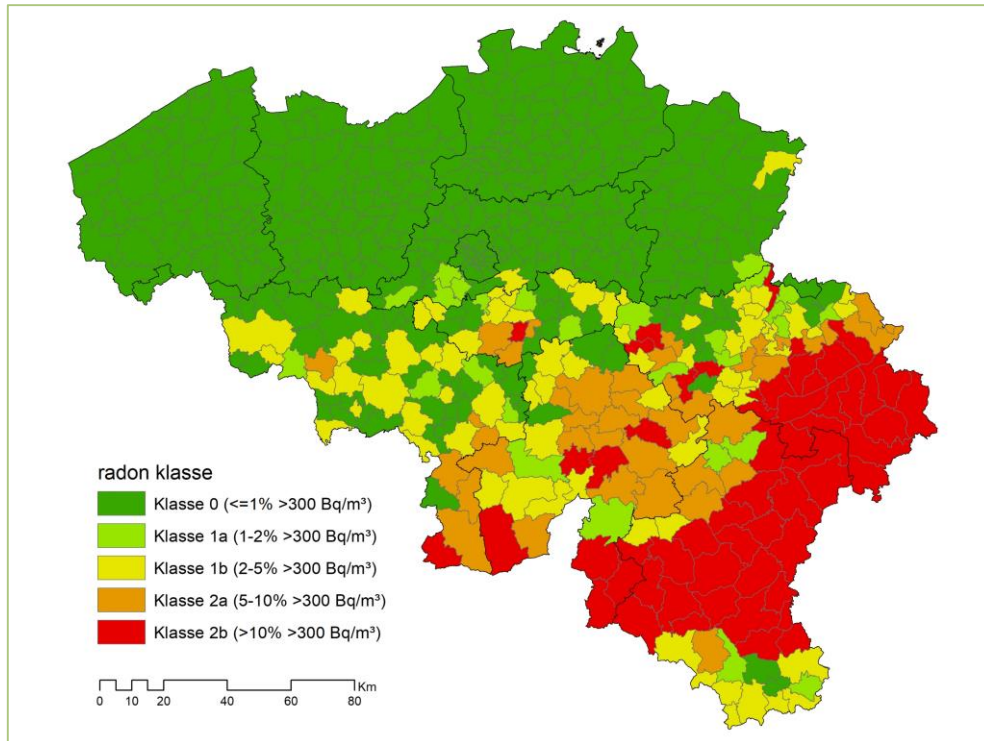
- Reduce [Rn] below RL
- Limit exposure to 600 kBqh/m<sup>3</sup>

If not possible: planned exposure (follow up and compliance relative to 6 mSv/y)



# Mapping radon

FANC Decree classification of the territory in radon classes:



- Based on ~40000 indoor ground floor measurements of single-family houses (excluding flats) = conservative statistics
- Legislative purposes:
  - radon region 2 (>5% dwellings > AL (300 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>) radon measurements in workplaces mandatory
  - Graded approach of radon prevention

14070

BELGISCH STAATSBLAD — 18.02.2022 — MONITEUR BELGE

FEDERAAL AGENTSCHAP VOOR NUCLEAIRE CONTROLE  
[C - 2022/40059]

18 JANUARI 2022. — Technisch reglement van het Federaal Agentschap voor nucleaire controle houdende vaststelling van de radonrisicozones en radonrisicogebieden in het kader van het nationaal radonactieplan

Het Federaal Agentschap voor Nucleaire Controle,  
Gelet op de wet van 15 april 1994 betreffende de bescherming van de

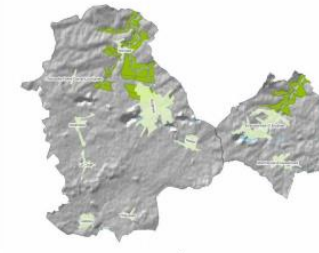
AGENCE FEDERALE DE CONTROLE NUCLEAIRE  
[C - 2022/40059]

18 JANVIER 2022. — Règlement technique de l'Agence fédérale de Contrôle nucléaire fixant les zones à risque radon dans le cadre du plan national d'action radon

L'Agence fédérale de Contrôle nucléaire,  
Vu la loi du 15 avril 1994 relative à la protection de la population et

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## Geogenic radon risk



- a) Brabant wallon, partie sud
- b) Brabant wallon, partie nord-ouest
- c) Hainaut, partie nord-est
- a) Waels Brabant, zuidelijk deel
- b) Waels Brabant, noordwestelijk deel
- c) Henegouwen, noordoostelijk deel

Les zones à risque sont indiquées en vert.

De risicozones zijn in het groen aangegeven.

Vu pour être annexé au règlement technique de l'Agence fédérale de Contrôle nucléaire du 18 janvier 2022 fixant les zones à risque radon dans le cadre du plan national d'action radon.

Gezien om goedgekeurd te worden bij het technisch reglement van 18 januari 2022 van het Federaal Agentschap voor Nucleaire Controle houdende vaststelling van de radonrisicozones en radonrisicogebieden in het kader van het nationaal radonactieplan.

Bruxelles, le 18 janvier 2022

Brussel, 18 januari 2022

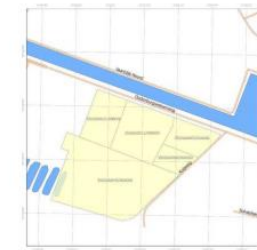
Le Directeur général,

De Directeur-generaal,

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## Antropogenic radon risk

Annexe 3 - Classification schématique des zones à risque radon anthropogène  
Bijlage 3 - Schematische weergave van de indeling in de antropogene radonrisicozones

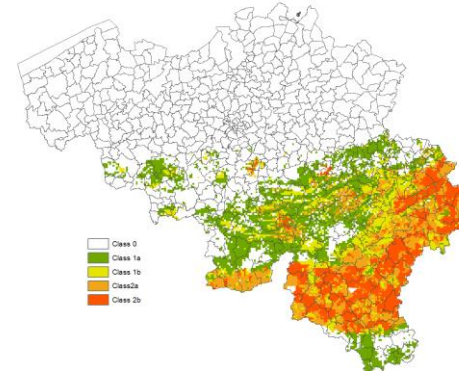


Ostende-Ostende



rayonnements nucléaires, artifice et général de l'environnement des 70 et 72/1 ; le du 30 novembre respectivement aux tant règlement vaillieurs et de nisants ; aire a mené une abitations dans lon n'avait été

# Measuring in workplaces?

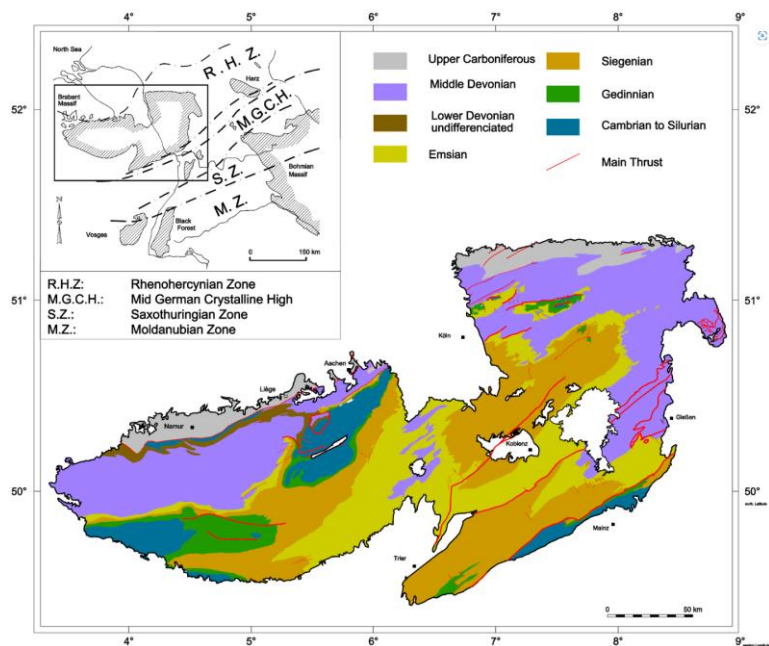
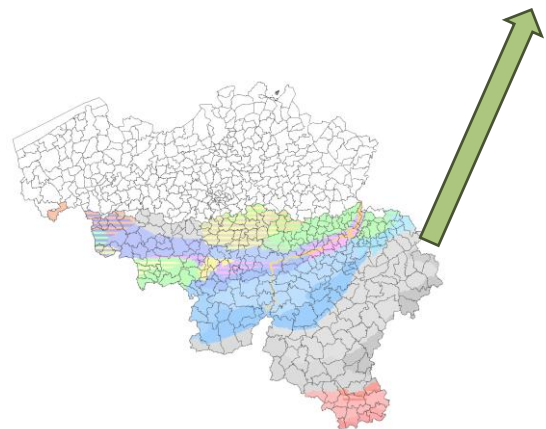


- Located in the zones of class 2 (>5% exceed RL)
- Prioritized workplaces:
  - Educational institutes, day-care centres, medical centres
  - Public buildings (post, provinces, municipalities, police, libraries,...)
  - Underground workplaces (galleries and caves open to the public)
  - Water treatment facilities (NORM, EDWD, Radon)

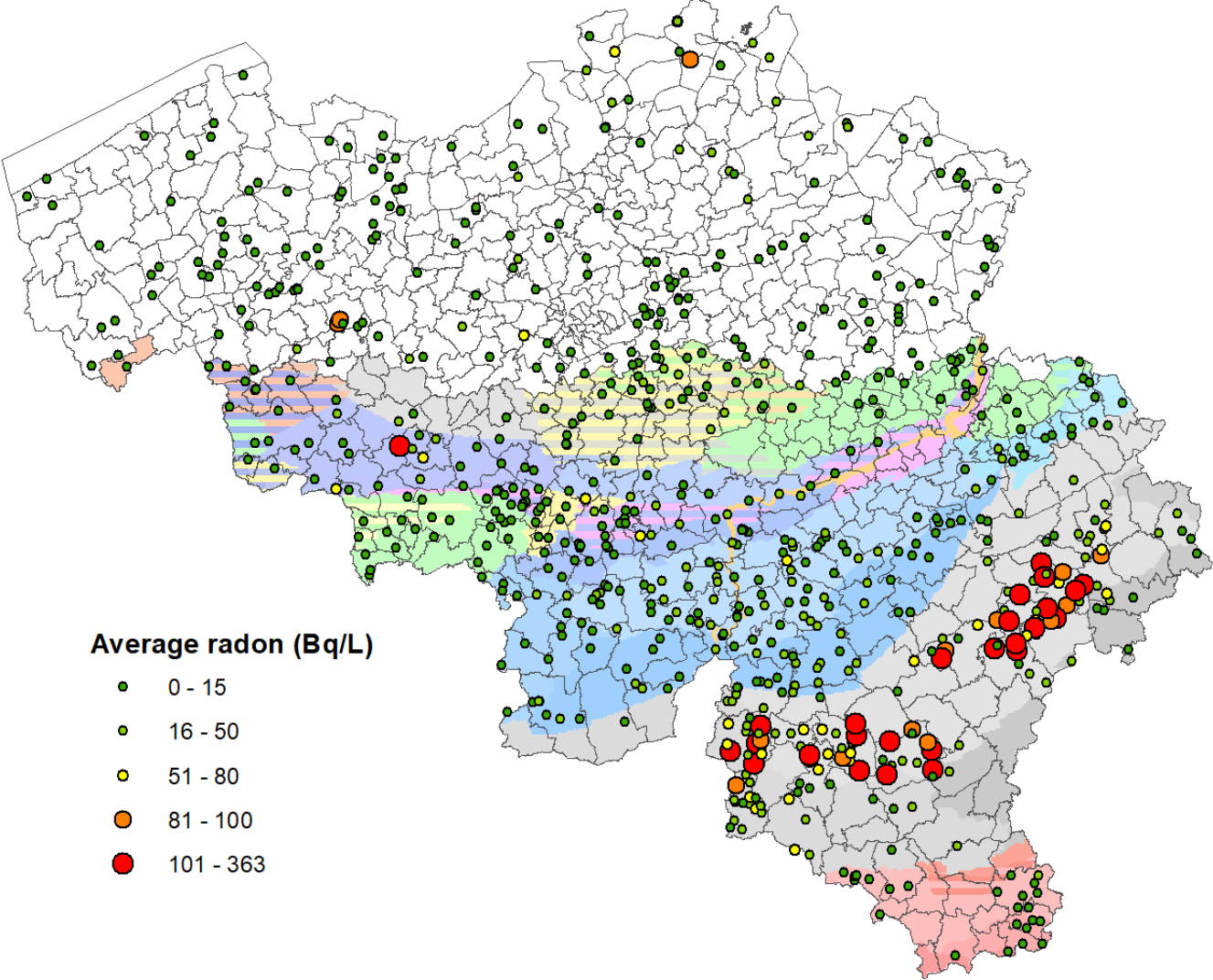




# Shale and sandstone from the Ardenne (Rhenish) slate belt



# Radon in underground water





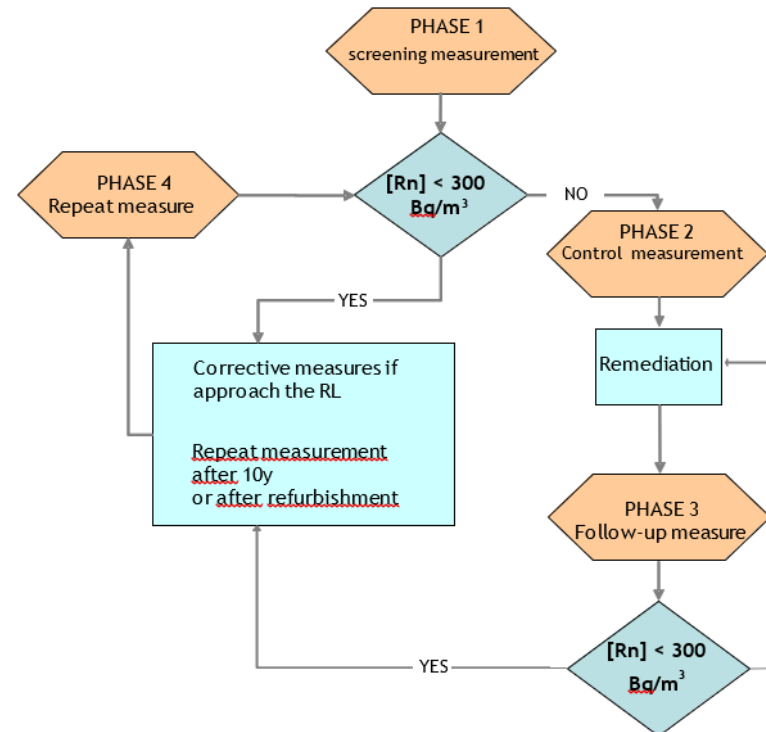
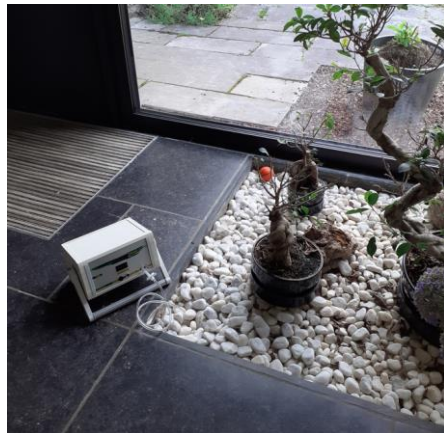
# Measuring What?

Radon measurements in workplaces have to follow a national protocol based on

- Period (heating season between October and April)
- Time (3 months)
- Method (passive SSNTD for initial measurement)
- Location (specific rooms and zones based on the geometry and size of the building)

Type of measurements:

- Screening phase 1
- Control phase 2
- Follow-up phase 3
- Repeat phase 4

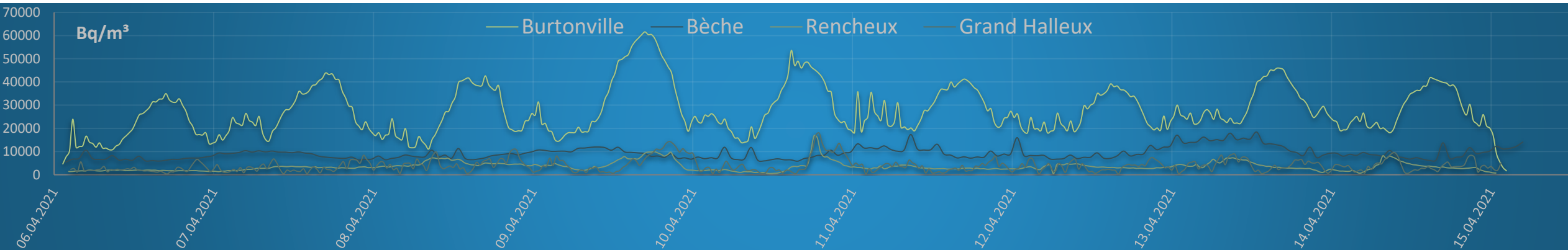


# Notification and corrective actions

At least one screening measurement > RL:

- Notification (with guidance on the FANC website)
- Corrective actions (idem)
- Control measurements
- Inspection by FANC
  - Annual inspection programme
  - Planned/reactive inspection procedures

→ example for a waterwork facility

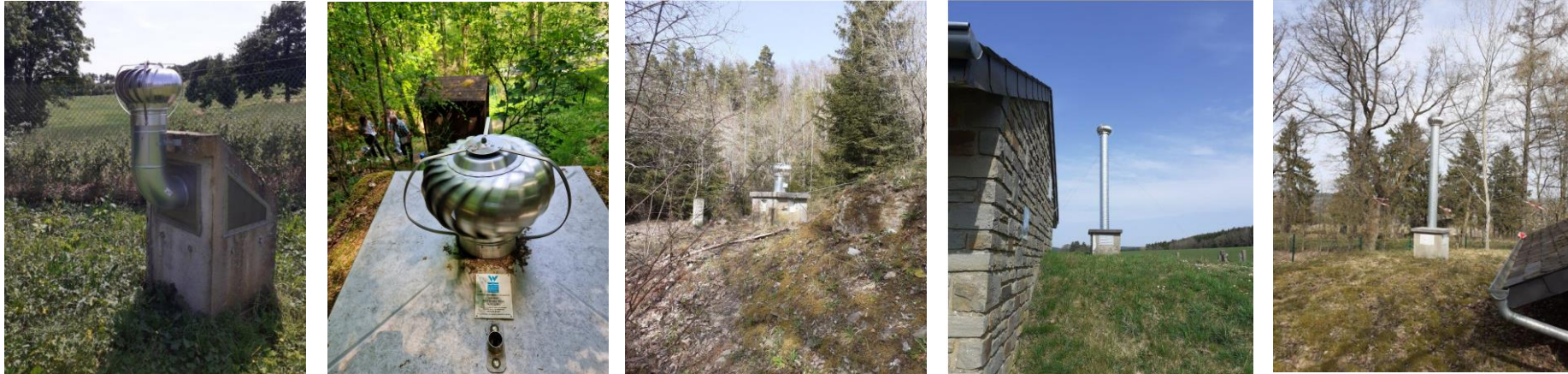






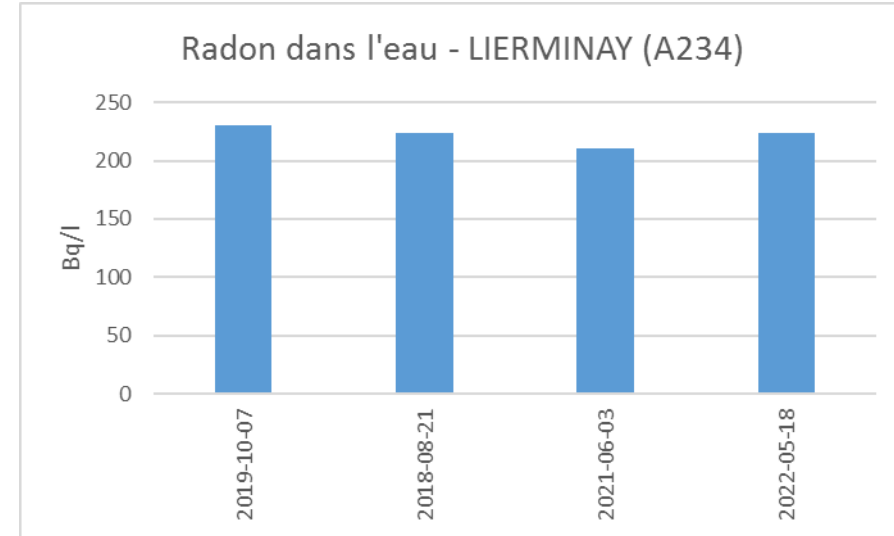
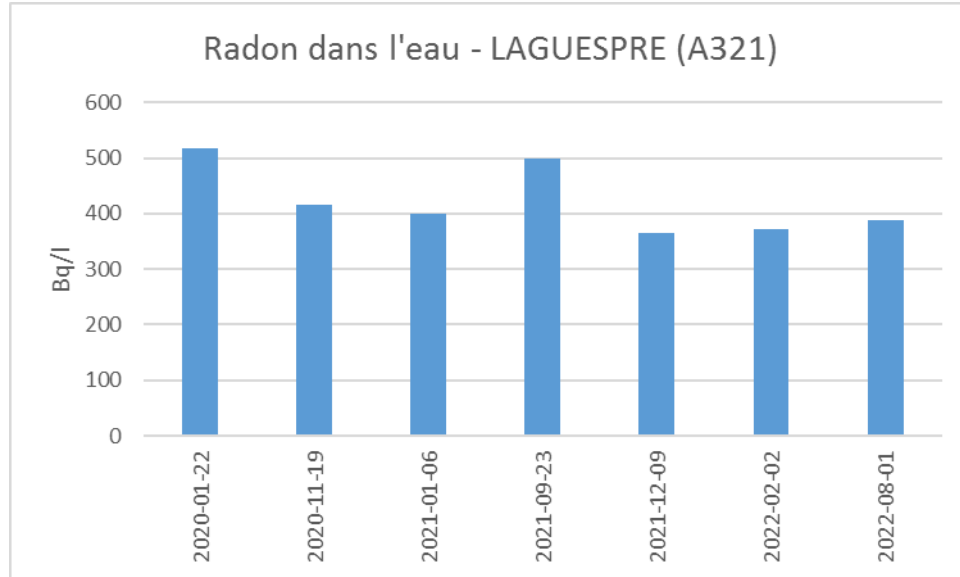


# Radon in the indoor air



<b>Bq/m<sup>3</sup></b>	Lierneux	Lierminay	Salmchâteau	Grand Halleux	Rencheux
before	3300	~5000	~9000	~10000	2300
after	388	<120	~500	~510	150

# Radon in the water



Isotopes	(Bq/l)
Rn-222	81,714
Po-210	0,005
Ra-226	0,013
Ra-228	0,018
U-234	< 0,001
U-238	< 0,001
Pb-210	0,050

Total indicative dose TID < 0,1 mSv/y

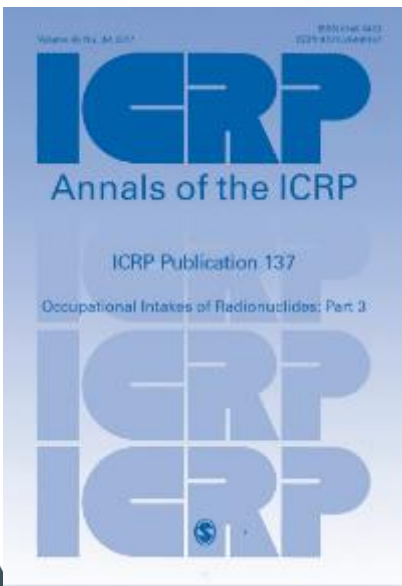


## Dose or exposure?

- General Reference level of 300 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>
- If exceeded:
  - Notification
  - Corrective measures (e.g. air renewal, ventilation, depressurisation, monitoring, calculating exposure)

Dose/exposure levels: Article 20 of the radiation protection Decree: maximal exposure of 600 kBq/m<sup>3</sup> per year, OR 6 mSv/y. For individual RP dose calculations, ICRP 137 have to be used.

- (667) In most circumstances, the Commission recommends a dose coefficient of 3 mSv per mJh/m<sup>3</sup> (approximately 10 mSv/WLM).  
 (668) In case of substantial physical activities, and for workers in tourist caves, 6 mSv per mJh/m<sup>2</sup> (approximately 20 mSv/WLM).  
 (669) Specific aerosol characteristics: re available, calculate site-specific dose coefficients



Reservoir name	Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	[Rn] in water (Bq/l)	Before remediation			After remediation		
			[Rn] average in air (Bq/m <sup>3</sup> )	hours for 600 kBq/m <sup>3</sup>	hours for 6 mSv/h	[Rn] average in air (Bq/m <sup>3</sup> )	hours for 600 kBq/m <sup>3</sup>	hours for 6 mSv/h
Burtonville Laguespré	200	400	27536	22	34	10650	56	90
Bèche Salmchâteau	30	102	9260	67	105	4231	142	225
Rencheux	100	95	1802	333	530	1003	598	950
Grand-Halleux	100	101	2633	228	360	1230	488	1950

## Conclusions

- Geological conditions of the aquifer determine to a great extent the probability to have radon issues in ground waterworks used to produce drinking water
- Highly permeable (fractured) Palaeozoic shale (slate) is the host formation of several important aquifers used for drinking water production in Belgium
- Radon in waterworks in these areas can pose serious challenges in both the control and management of the radon in the air of the facilities, as well as in removing the radon from the water prior to distribution as drinking water
- A follow-up of the workers in these waterworks is needed
- Technical (physico-chemical) limitations limit the possibilities of removing radon from the water
- From a perspective of the drinking water directive (ingestion), health risk (and dose) from radon-rich water however is (until now) never exceeding the indicative dose of 0,1 mSv/y



Thank you!