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***Nuclear Supply Chain Compliance and Importance to Social Licence***

Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Act (ANNPSA) became law on 24 October 2024. ANNPSA goes into effect on 01 November 2024. It is a comprehensive law that covers a cradle to grave approach for building, operating, maintaining, decommission, and disposal of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines. The law also details the definitions of an AUKUS submarine as a conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine as an Australian, US, or UK submarine that is constructed or operates within the Australian Territory.

The law mandates compliance with international agreements that Australia is a signatory on. Australia is a signatory on the International Atomic Energy Agency's various agreements, of note Australia has explicitly signed onto General Safety Requirement Two (GSR 2). GSR 2 covers leadership and most importantly nuclear supply chain requirements. It is the basis for ISO-19443. To comply with Australian law, companies and entities working in nuclear must be able to demonstrate to the regulator that they are in compliance with ISO-19443.

While compliance can come in many forms it is important to understand what ISO 19443 is and how it helps Australia and the AUKUS program. ISO 19443 establishes a nuclear safety culture that begins at the top of the company and works down to every worker including support and maintenance staff. This top to bottom and bottom to top is key in the development of social licence for Australia as every work force member understands their role in keeping Australians safe while operating nuclear-powered submarines.