

---

**Request for advice of 04.08.2014 on the return of vitrified waste from reprocessing in other European countries – storage of the vitrified waste in on-site storage facilities on the basis of the amendment of the Atomic Energy Act on 01.01.2014 (§ 9a, para. 2a AtG)**

In the course of the negotiations and agreement on the Site Selection Act of 23.07.2013, the political consensus has been reached not to store the vitrified waste to be returned in the Gorleben central storage facility but to deliver it to several on-site storage facilities. So far, two *Länder* have, in principle, declared their readiness to accommodate the vitrified waste in the casks of the CASTOR<sup>®</sup>HAW28M type in on-site storage facilities of their *Land*.

The special conditions of the approval of the CASTOR<sup>®</sup>HAW28M under traffic law play a central role in the licensing procedure to be expected for the storage of vitrified waste. According to the current approval under traffic law, the CASTOR<sup>®</sup>HAW28M can only be transported with the primary lid as a "containment system". In case of repair, restoration of the double lid system with a welded lid is possible for storage operation, but prior to the transport to a disposal facility, the cask must be brought into a condition that meets the requirements for approval.

With request for advice of 04.08.2014, the BMUB requested the ESK to address the issue. The central question is: "How can transportability be ensured after expiry of the storage licence in case of failure of a primary lid seal?"

This could be possible, for example, by changing the existing approval of the CASTOR<sup>®</sup>HAW28M cask type under traffic law, e.g. by a design modification in the transport configuration. Alternatively, it is conceivable that the applicant presents a concept regarding the feasibility of a primary lid changing station at the specific storage site within the licensing procedure for the storage of the vitrified waste.

With request for advice of 08.04.2014, the ESK was asked to prepare a statement on the two options above, also with regard to the question whether the concept presented complies with the guidelines for dry cask storage of spent fuel and heat-generating waste of the ESK and thus the necessary precautions have been taken to prevent damage from the storage of nuclear fuel according to the state of the art in science and technology.

The related consultations took place within the ESK and the ESK Committee on WASTE CONDITIONING, TRANSPORT AND INTERIM STORAGE (AZ). The outcome of these consultations is [ESK statement](#) (in German) of 30.10.2014.