

MONITORING OF THE USE OF RADIATION

This audit evaluated effectiveness and proper execution and administrative procedures in monitoring of the use of radiation by the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority of Finland.

Monitoring of the use of radiation has been arranged properly in most respects. Instructions and documentation concerning the execution process have been handled especially well. Evaluating the overall effectiveness of monitoring is difficult because of the nature of activities.

The Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority has not been very successful in net budgeting, however. It expected inspection and registration fees related to the use of radiation to be lower in 2000 than in previous years. Instead fees rose and in 2001 and 2002 they exceeded the estimated amount by about one-fourth. This is due partly to the fact that monitoring tasks have increased unexpectedly with regard to screening mammography. The cautious estimation of income has also been a factor, however.

In the opinion of the State Audit Office, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority should make sure that all expenses and income are presented in the budget as correctly as possible. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health should also form an idea of the necessary level of monitoring of the use of radiation and set a realistic objective for the level of monitoring.

The audit was conducted using a structured audit model developed by the State Audit Office.