

DISTRIBUTION OF IODINE TABLETS IN SWITZERLAND

Effectively protected in an emergency



Between mid-October and mid-November, iodine tablets (potassium iodide 65 SERB tablets) will be distributed to people living within 50 km of a Swiss nuclear power plant. All residents in the distribution area will receive a pack of iodine tablets by post – as a precautionary measure and free of charge.

Why are iodine tablets being distributed?

If a serious incident occurs at a nuclear power plant, one of the substances which may be released into the environment is radioactive iodine. This enters the human body via inhaled air and accumulates in the thyroid gland. Iodine tablets prevent radioactive iodine from being absorbed by the thyroid gland.

Please note that the distribution of iodine tablets is a precautionary measure. They are intended for use in an emergency and must only be taken on the instruction of the authorities. If an incident occurs, the population will be alerted and informed accordingly.

Who will receive iodine tablets?

Iodine tablets are distributed directly every 10 years to people living within 50 km of a Swiss nuclear power plant. The number of tablets distributed is intended to be more than are needed for one person so that, in an emergency, there will also be enough for relatives or visitors who have not received iodine tablets or do not have any with them. In regions outside of the 50 km radius, the cantons store sufficient iodine tablets to be able to supply the population promptly should the need arise.

■ Distribution area

● Nuclear power plants in operation

⊗ Mühleberg nuclear power plant (currently being decommissioned)



What should be done with old iodine tablets?

Iodine tablets have been distributed in a purple pack for about 10 years; they were previously distributed in a red pack. These old iodine tablets can simply be returned to a pharmacy or drugstore.

What should be done if someone has not received any iodine tablets?

Individuals who have not received any iodine tablets by the end of November 2023 can collect a voucher from the communal authorities. With this voucher, iodine tablets can be obtained free of charge from a pharmacy or drugstore in the distribution area.

Further information is available online at:



www.iodinetablets.ch