

# Content

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# The working group

- Most nuclear safety authorities carry out inspections at vendor facilities (at their main offices or at manufacturing shops)
- So far these inspections have not been coordinated and have a different scope
  - Vendors are subject to multiple inspections and audits
  - Regulators are not using the results of inspections performed by others

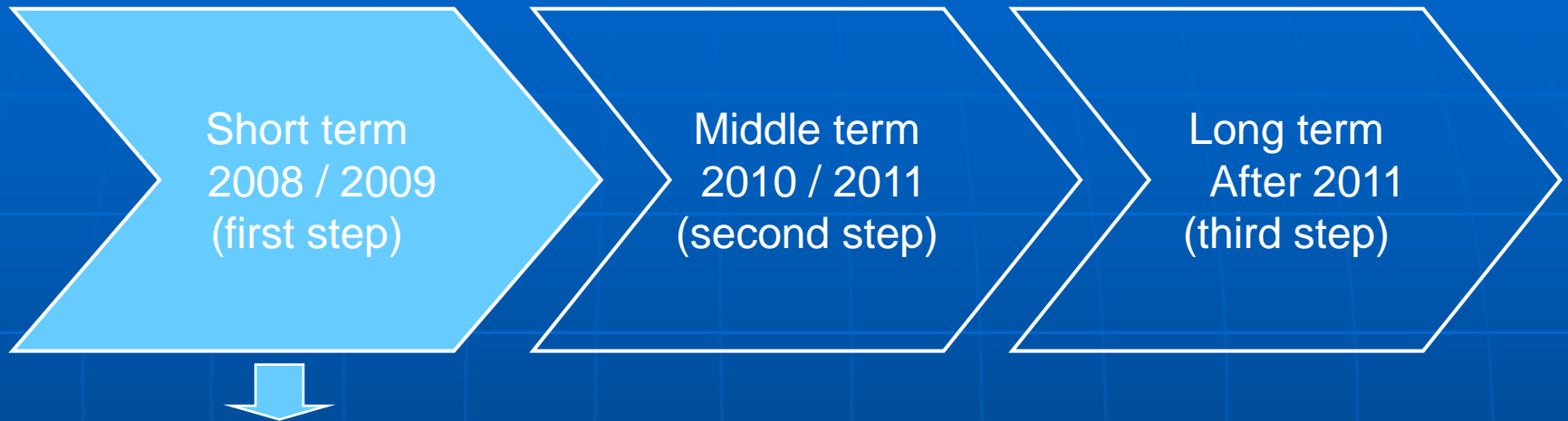
# The working group

- To address this issue, a working group was created in 2008.
- Long term objective: to establish a common framework and to organize multinational inspections
- 10 countries are participating
- Scope: so far limited to pressure boundary components but will be expanded

# Objective

- To reach the long term objective, a three step program plan has been established

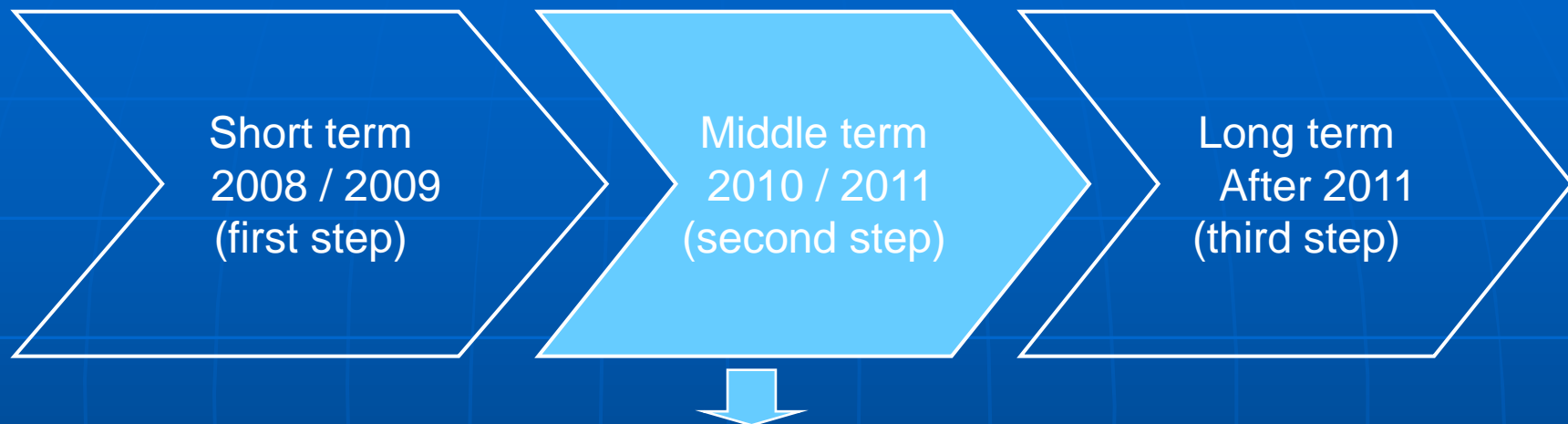
# Three step program



**First step : identifying commonality and differences in the regulatory practices**

- Witnessed inspections
- Surveys among MDEP regulators

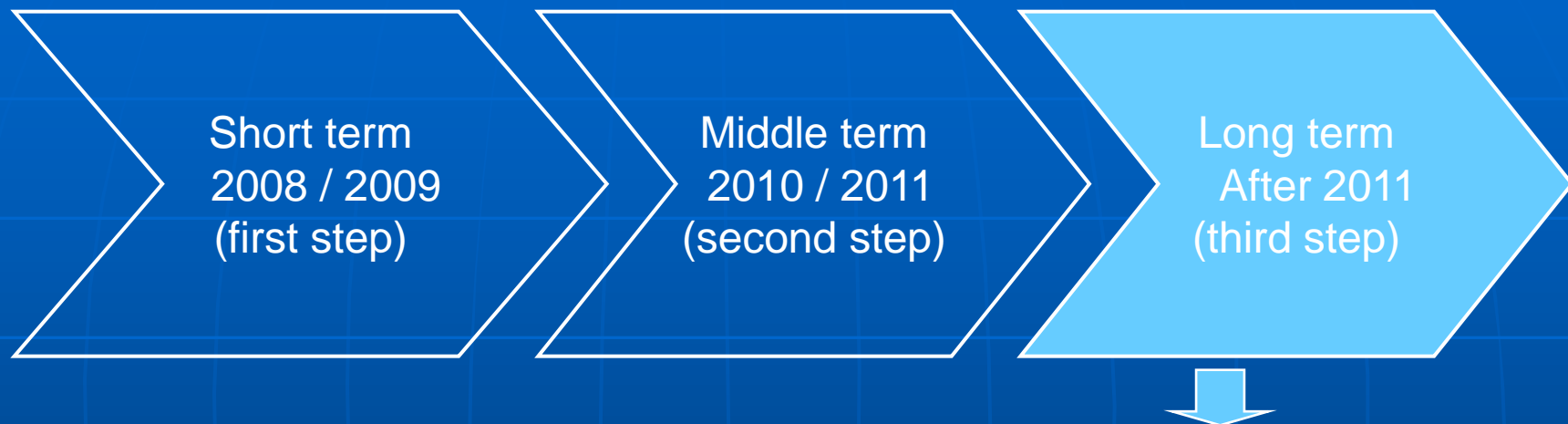
# Three step program



Second step : using the results of inspections performed by others

- joint inspections
- bilateral agreements

# Three step program



Third step : establishing a common framework

- international inspections

# First step Achievement: witnessed inspections

- Witnessed inspection: an inspection conducted by a regulator and observed by one or several other regulators
- 4 witnessed inspections organized in 2008 and 6 in 2009
- The inspections were organized in 5 countries and involved 7 regulatory bodies



# First step Achievement: survey results

Regulators carry out different types of inspections:

- Inspections aimed at checking that the licensees are performing appropriate surveillance of vendors
- QA audits
- Sample technical inspections performed on individual components with hold points and notification points

# First step Achievement: survey results

- A survey on QA requirements was conducted (comparison with 10 CFR 50 Appendix B)
- This survey showed that QA requirements are very similar in MDEP countries

# First step Achievement: conclusion

- MDEP regulatory bodies have deepened their knowledge of other countries' practices
- QA inspections and audits are a good area of cooperation
- Bilateral agreements could be established for technical inspections
- Long lead items will be a key issue

# Second step (2010 / 2011)

- Objective: use the results of inspections performed by other regulators
- Program plan:
  - QA inspections and audits
  - Bilateral agreements (could be addressed outside MDEP)
  - Long lead items

# Second step (2010 / 2011)

## QA audits

- Improve the knowledge of QA requirement of participating countries
- Organize *joint inspections* (inspections or audits conducted by a regulator with the participation of other regulators on the inspection team)
- 2 or 3 joint inspections (QA inspections or audits) to be organized
- May require international training of inspectors

# Second step (2010 / 2011)

- Long lead items have to be manufactured well in advance
- The final project or the country of destination may not be known
- A key issue: the surveillance performed by the licensee
- The Working Group is meeting the industry on October to address these issues

# Conclusion

- Benefits for safety:
  - Use of other regulators' best practices
  - Shared inspection results
  - Improved efficiency and effectiveness of vendor inspection programs by building on other regulators' work
- Benefits for the industry:
  - Convergence of regulatory requirements
  - Less frequent but more comprehensive inspections