

September 5, 2000

Mr. Jose A. Ruiz
Alonso and Carus Iron Works
P. O. Box 566
Catano, PR 00963

SUBJECT: INDUSTRIAL RADIOGRAPHY SAFETY CERTIFICATION

Dear Mr. Ruiz:

I am responding to your facsimile dated August 1, 2000, to Hector Bermudez, a Senior Health Physicist for the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Atlanta office. Your facsimile expressed a concern regarding the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) radiography certification process. We also discussed your concerns in a telephone conference on August 28, with you and Mr. Jay Henson and Mr. Hector Bermudez of our Atlanta office.

As discussed in our telephone conversation, you were recently informed by the ASNT that it was offering its certification exam in Spanish to radiographers in Puerto Rico, with the provision that the certification would be limited to radiography operations in Puerto Rico only. You explained that your company also performs radiography in the Dominican Republic and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and that you wanted to continue to operate in those locations.

With respect to work in the U.S. Virgin Islands, we have concluded that there is reasonable assurance that radiographers who have passed the ASNT Spanish exam can conduct radiography safely in the Virgin Islands in accordance with 10 CFR 34.43.

With respect to the Dominican Republic, we explained that NRC does not have regulatory jurisdiction in the Dominican Republic, so local laws would apply there.

We trust that this reply responds to your concern.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John W. N. Hickey, Chief
Materials Safety and Inspection Branch
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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