

May 30,2002

The American Board of Nuclear Medicine
ATTN: Dr. Ronald L.Van Heertum, Chairman
900 Veteran Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1786

Dear Dr. Van Heertum:

This is a follow-up to our letter to you, dated June 29, 2001, which concluded that the ABNM certification process meets the requirements for recognition under the new 10 CFR Part 35, Medical Use of Byproduct Material.

Following inquiries from other parties regarding the requirements for preceptor statements, we have determined that we need additional information regarding the ABNM certification process.

The new Part 35 requires, as a condition for NRC recognition, that the board certification process must include a requirement that the candidate obtain a written preceptor statement. Both the preceptor and the applicant must meet certain qualifications (see for example, §35.190(c)(2) and §35.290(c)(2)). We request that ABNM respond to the following questions:

1. Does the ABNM require as part of its certification process that a candidate must obtain a written certification from a qualified preceptor authorized user?
2. If a preceptor statement is required, does ABNM specify that the statement must certify that the candidate has completed the applicable requirements and it qualified to function independently for the medical use authorization(s) requested?

Please note that the revised Part 35 was issued on April 24, 2002, and the full text of the rulemaking (in PDF format) may be viewed on our web site at http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/downloader/final_lib/280-0156.pdf, or just the rule itself may be viewed at http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/downloader/final_lib/280-0161.pdf. The effective date of the new rule is October 24, 2002, but there is a 2-year transition period for the new training and experience requirements, so the previous recognition of the ABNM in 10 CFR 35.900, 35.910, 35.920, 35.930, and 35.950 will remain in effect for 2 years from the effective date of the new rule. During this transition period, the NRC staff will continue working with the medical community to resolve any concerns with implementing the training and experience requirements.

In addition, the NRC Advisory Committee on Medical Use of Isotopes has established a subcommittee to develop recommendations on training and experience issues. We would welcome any comments from your Board on concerns related to implementing the training and experience requirements in the new Part 35. We would appreciate receiving any such comments by June 24, 2002.

Please respond to our questions regarding the ABNM certification process within 30 days. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Robert Ayres at 301-415-5746 or e-mail at rx1@nrc.gov.

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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Please respond to our questions regarding the ABNM certification process within 30 days. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Robert Ayres at 301-415-5746 or e-mail at rx1@nrc.gov.

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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