



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

November 7, 2002

TO: REGION II LICENSEES AUTHORIZED FOR
THE USE OF STRONTIUM-90 EYE APPLICATORS

SUBJECT: ACCREDITED CALIBRATION LABORATORIES AND SIGNIFICANT CHANGES
IN 10 CFR PART 35

During the one-day 10 CFR Part 35 Stakeholder Workshop held on Saturday, September 28, 2002, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Carolina, Puerto Rico, several users of Strontium-90 Eye Applicators asked for information about (1) Accredited Calibration Laboratories (ACL) pursuant to compliance with 10 CFR 35.432(b), and (2) a possible alternative to the requirement in 10 CFR 35.433(a) that states that only an authorized medical physicist shall calculate the activity of each strontium-90 source that is used to determine the treatment times for ophthalmic treatments. The alternative discussed was using decay corrected activity tables provided by the source manufacturer or an ACL at the time of calibration to determine the treatment times.

In regard to the first inquiry, we have determined that currently only two laboratories are accredited by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine to perform such calibrations for Strontium-90 Eye Applicators. The information needed to contact these laboratories is enclosed (Enclosure 1).

In regard to the second inquiry, a licensee would need to request and receive a specific exemption from the requirement in 10 CFR 35.433(a) that authorizes an alternative method of calculating the activity of the strontium-90 source. As stated in 10 CFR 35.19, the Commission may grant exemptions from the regulations in Part 35 that it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and are otherwise in the public interest. Licensees who want to pursue such an exemption must submit a license amendment request which describes the alternative method they want to use, such as using decay corrected activity tables (based on the initial activity as determined under 10 CFR 35.432) provided by the source manufacturer or by an ACL at the time of calibration or by an approved physicist with an activity correction at intervals consistent with one percent of physical decay, and provision to have an approved physicist perform a periodic verification that the corrected activity is being applied correctly.

Since the revised Part 35 (Enclosure 2) incorporated significant changes applicable to your operations, we have enclosed (Enclosure 3) a copy of NRC Information Notice 02-17, *"Medical Use of Strontium-90 Eye Applicators: New Requirements for Calibration and Decay Correction,"* issued May 30, 2002, which discusses the new requirements. In particular, we want to stress that Sr-90 eye applicators calibrated by the manufacturer using a calibration protocol established prior to August 1990 are no longer in compliance with 10 CFR 35.432, therefore, such devices must be calibrated by an ACL. If the manufacturer's calibration certificate for your eye applicator is dated prior to or on August 1990, your eye applicator needs to be calibrated by

any of the ACL listed in Enclosure 1. Also note that source output corrections due to decay must be performed by an Authorized Medical Physicist as required by 10 CFR 35.433. Please review this Information Notice carefully and take all the necessary steps to assure that you are in compliance with these new requirements.

In addition, if you have a specific question in regard to the new requirements in the revised Part 35, feel free to contact us. Please direct any questions you may have to José M. Díaz Vélez of my staff. Mr. Díaz can be contacted at (404) 562-4736.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Douglas M. Collins, Director
 Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

- Enclosures: 1. Sr-90 ACL list
 2. 10 CFR Part 35
 3. IN 02-017

OFFICE	RII:DNMS	RII:DNMS					
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/					
NAME	J.Daiz	J.Henson					
DATE	11/07/02	11/7/02	11/ /2002	11/ /2002	11/ /2002	11/ /2002	11/ /2002
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO
PUBLIC DOCUMENT	YES NO						

**Accredited Calibration Laboratories
Providing Strontium-90 Eye Applicator Calibrations**

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Radiation Interactions and Dosimetry Group
Attn: Christopher G. Soares, Ph.D.
Bldg. 245, Rm. C229
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8460
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8460
Tel. 301-975-5575
e-mail: christopher.soares@nist.gov

University of Wisconsin
Accredited Dosimetry Calibration Laboratory
Attn: Paul D. Clevon
1300 University Avenue, Room 1530
Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1532
Tel. 608-265-9748
e-mail: pdclevon@facstaff.wisc.edu

NOTE: Please be advised that both centers may require you to contact them and coordinate the shipment of sources prior to any shipping. Additional information about Accredited Dosimetry Calibration Laboratories can be found at <http://www.aapm.org/org/adcl.html>.