

**Summary of a Public Meeting on the
Development of Proposed Rule to Amend
Training and Experience Criteria in 10 CFR Part 35 for
Recognition of Specialty Board Certifications
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, MD
May 20, 2003**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) convened a public meeting on May 20, 2003 to solicit input from representatives of professional specialty boards, and other interested stakeholders, on the NRC's training and experience requirements as they relate to NRC recognition of specialty board certifications. Early input was sought on a proposed rule to amend NRC regulations in 10 CFR Part 35, "Medical Use of Byproduct Material," that relate to recognition of certifications by professional specialty boards as being sufficient to satisfy requirements for approval of radiation safety officers (RSOs), authorized medical physicists (AMPs), authorized nuclear pharmacists (ANPs) and authorized users (AUs) on NRC and Agreement State licenses. The meeting was conducted as a facilitated roundtable discussion with 8 participants representing specialty boards. A list of roundtable participants and their affiliations is provided in Appendix A. A list of other attendees is provided in Appendix B.

The primary subject of discussion at the meeting was development of the proposed rule based on recommendations of the NRC's Advisory Committee on the Medical Use of Isotopes (ACMUI), contained in a Commission paper entitled "OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING PART 35 TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH RECOGNITION OF SPECIALTY BOARDS BY NRC" (SECY-02-0194, October 30, 2002) as well as direction to NRC staff from the Commission contained in a Staff Requirements Memo (SRM) dated February 12, 2003

(SRM SECY-02-0194). The topics of discussion appear in the agenda for the meeting (see Appendix C).

After a brief presentation by NRC staff on the approach to drafting a proposed rule, the meeting was opened to discussion by roundtable participants, during which the following points were made:

- There was general agreement with the NRC's decision to list recognized boards on the NRC's web site rather than in the rule.
- Participants indicated a need to ensure that there is a clarity about the meaning of the word "competency" in the preceptor statements for Authorized Users, in the context of an individual has satisfactorily completing training and experience requirements and ". . . has achieved a level of competency sufficient to function independently as an authorized user . . ." Board representatives indicated that certification processes do not measure competency; rather, they measure mastery of a body of knowledge and it's application. A board representative indicated that the tests administered by boards for certifications relating to AU status, along with the board's procedures, help ensure that safety training is adequate.
- It was suggested that a change to Form NRC 313A is needed to clarify the meaning of the word competent.
- A board representative indicated that certification procedures are reviewed periodically by the American Council for Graduate Medical Education (the ACGME) and that this review should be adequate to determine if a board's procedures are sufficiently focused on evaluation of radiation safety training. Therefore, a review of medical events by the NRC, as recommended by the Commission in SRM-02-019, to identify the need for changes to board certification procedures, would be unneeded.

- Some board representatives indicated that the person most responsible for an Authorized User's training is the training program director and that person should be the one required to sign a preceptor statement, not an AU. Others extended this argument to the requirements for RSOs, AMPs and ANPs.
- The ACMUI's recommendations for proposed rule text included the addition of the "Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) in listings of residency-approving entities now listed in 35.490(c)(2), 690(b)(2) — the alternate pathway to approval as an AU. The ACMUI also included the RCPSC in listings of entities that approve residency training to satisfy requirements for the board certification pathway for uses under §§ 35.390, 35.490, and 35.690. Staff discussed the need for a basis for reference to the "Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)." Attendees did not offer comments on this matter.
- The ABR indicated that it disagreed with including a specification for number of hours in training as a criterion for recognition of board certifications — a recommendation of the ACMUI (in the criteria for ANPs and as well as for AUs for uses of byproduct material under §§ 35.100, 35.200, 35.300 (in §§ 35.390, 35.392, and 35.394), and 35.500). Some board representatives expressed the view that the training and experience required by boards, combined with requirements to pass an examination, were sufficient to assess the measure mastery of the body of knowledge to become an RSO, ANP, AMP, or AU. After the meeting, American Board of Nuclear Cardiology communicated to staff via email that it supports the a specification for a number of hours of training and experience as a criterion for determining the adequacy of training and experience.
- NRC staff should provide feedback to boards during the application process for recognition so that boards could determine the status of their applications and resolve questions about adequacy of certification procedures.

After the roundtable discussion, the meeting was opened to take public comments and the following points were made:

- The procedures for review and recognition should include measures to keep a board from shopping for recognition in another Agreement State should it be denied recognition by one.
- The NRC should to guard against ‘preceptors je jour,’ i.e., the possibility that an individual might make false statements and to provide for a complaint or hearing process.

The meeting concluded with participants thanking the NRC staff for the opportunity to engage in open discussion and to provide input early in the rulemaking process. NRC staff noted that there would be further opportunity for input when the proposed rule is published for a seventy-five day comment period. A transcript of the meeting is available on the NRC’s web site at <<<http://www.nrc.gov>>> in the “Public Reading Room.”

Appendix A - Roundtable Participant List

Name	Affiliation
Roger W. Broseus	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Howard Dickson	American Board of Health Physics (ABHP)
Richard Fejka	Special Board on Nuclear Pharmacy, Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS)
William Hendee	American Board of Radiology (ABR)
Patricia Holahan	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Alan Mauer	American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABMN)
Armando Ramirez	American Osteopathic Board of Nuclear Medicine
Gary Sayed	American Board of Science in Nuclear Medicine (ABSNM)
William Van Decker	Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology (CBNC)
Kenneth Vanek	American Board of Medical Physics (ABMP)
Sandra Wastler	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Appendix B - Other Attendees	
Name	Affiliation
Boxall, Jim	ASNC
Hamm, Ronald	PA/BRP
Forrest, Robert	Univ. of PA
Fairobent, Lynne	ARC
Lee, Angela	AAPM
Swenson, Kristin	U.S. Air Force
Mather, Kali	U.S. Air Force
Nelligan, William D.	Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology
Yurko, Paul	Nat'l Health Phy Dept./Veterans Aff.
Hevezi, James	ASTRO
Daley, Nancy K.	ASTRO
Hussey, David H.	ABR/ASTRO
NRC Staff	
Chidakel, Susan	OGC
Merchant, Sally	OE
Tse, Anthony	NMSS
Zelac, Ronald	NMSS
Stambaugh, Margaret	NMSS
McCausland, Jayne	NMSS

Appendix C - Agenda

**United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Public Meeting / Roundtable Discussion**

**Development of Proposed Rule to Amend
Training and Experience Criteria in 10 CFR Part 35 for
Recognition of Specialty Board Certifications**

**NRC Headquarters
Rockville, MD
May 20, 2003**

AGENDA

- 8:30 a.m. Welcome — Patricia K. Holahan, Deputy Director, Division of Industrial & Medical Nuclear Safety (IMNS), Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), NRC
- 8:40 a.m. Opening of Meeting — Roger W. Broseus, Rulemaking and Guidance Branch, IMNS, NMSS
- Introduction of Board Representatives
- 9:00 a.m. Briefing on Proposed Rule: Staff Approach — Roger W. Broseus, NRC
- 9:45 a.m. Participant Discussion
Direction in SRM-02-0194 —
Option 3 / List Recognized Boards on Web Site
Preceptor Statement
Clear Regulatory Determination - Require All Boards to Meet Criteria
Criteria for Recognition of Certifications by Specialty Boards —
Current Vs. amended Requirements
Board View of ACMUI's Recommendations -
Didactic Training
Experience
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:50 A.m. Participant Discussion, Implementation —
Process for Recognition of Boards
Process De-listing of Boards
Agreement State Recognition / De-listing of Boards
- 11:30 a.m. Comments from Members of Public Attending Meeting
- 11:45 a.m. Conclusion
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn