

To: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Mr. Thomas Essig, Chief
Materials Safety and Inspection Branch (MS T8F3)
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

From: Philip O. Alderson, M.D.
President-Elect
American Board of Radiology

Date: October 14, 2005

Re: Request for Recognized Status for the American Board of Radiology
(ABR) in Diagnostic Radiology

Dear Mr. Essig:

I am writing in response to the email from Cynthia Flannery, CHP dated September 9, 2005 where further input was needed from the ABR in connection with the letter to you dated August 10, 2005 and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's recognition of ABR certification processes. The issues that required attention are listed and explained below.

1. ABR needs to confirm that candidates seeking certification for diagnostic radiology must meet the specific training and experience requirements listed in 10 CFR 35.290(a)(1) and 35.392(c)(1) and (c)(2).

DR Response

ABR candidates will have training and experience in basic radionuclide handling techniques and radiation safety applicable to the medical use of unsealed byproduct material including the topics listed in paragraphs 35.290(a)(1) and 35.392(c)(1) and (c)(2). This will include (A) instruction in radiation physics and instrumentation; (B) radiation protection; (C) relevant mathematic; (D) chemistry of byproduct material; and (E) radiation biology. Candidates also will acquire appropriate work experience. See response #2 below.

2. ABR needs to confirm that candidates seeking certification for diagnostic radiology must obtain their work experience under the supervision of an authorized user who meets the requirements in 10 CFR 35.290(c)(1)(ii) and 35.392(c)(2).

DR Response

Candidates seeking certification in diagnostic radiology will obtain relevant work experience under an authorized user (AU) who meets the requirements in 10 CFR 35.290 (c)(1)(ii) and 35.290(c)(2). This work experience will include the items listed in (A) through (E) of 35.290(c)(1)(ii) and 35.392(c)(2), such as ordering receiving and unpacking materials, performing quality control procedures on

dosimeters and survey meters, measurement and safe preparation of patient doses, use of administrative controls to prevent medical events, procedures to properly contain and decontaminate a spill and safe effective administration of doses to patients. Experience with dose administration will include at least three cases involving oral administration of less than or equal to 33 mCi of sodium iodide I-131.

3. In accordance with 10 CFR 35.290(a)(2), ABR needs to confirm that the certification examination in diagnostic radiology also assesses knowledge and competence in "radionuclide handling and quality control."

DR Response

The ABR confirms that it's candidates in diagnostic radiology will be required to pass a three part examination (described in the original letter) that includes assessment of knowledge and competence in radiation safety radionuclide handling and quality control in accordance with 10 CFR 35.290(a)(2).