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ADVANCED
CARDIOVASCULAR
SPECIALISTS

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

RE: Reply to a Notice of Violation - Advanced Cardiovascular Specialists, LLC.
Docket No. 030-37838
License No. 24-32712-01

Dear NRC:

This is a written response to the May 4, 2009, Notice of Violation that was issued as the result of an NRC inspection conducted by Mr. Robert Gattone, NRC Region III, on March 16 and 17, 2009, at our facility.

The violation that the licensee's method of analyzing the removable radioactive surface contamination levels, on received White I labeled packages containing liquid material, did not allow detection of 22 disintegrations per minute per square centimeter is correct.

At this initial inspection of a new licensee, Robert Gattone observed the Nuclear Medicine Technologist perform a package receipt procedure. During the analysis phase of the wipe test for removable contamination from the exterior surface of a labeled radioactive White I package, the technologist was observed holding the wipe smear at a distance of approximately three inches from the end of a scintillation probe connected to a count rate meter. This procedure was questioned by Mr. Gattone in regards to how the efficiency of this instrument was determined and if the efficiency was determined at contact with the exterior covering of the scintillation probe, was the procedure observed (counting at three inches from the end of the probe) capable of detecting 22 dpm/cm².

During the inspection Mr. Gattone and the Licensee contacted the consulting physicist to answer questions on the technique used to determine the efficiency (cpm/dpm) for this instrument. An NIST rod source, placed in contact with the scintillation probe, was used to determine the efficiency. In this geometry (wipe in contact with the end of the scintillation probe) the instrument does allow detection of 22 dpm/cm². Mr. Gattone asked the consulting physicist if an efficiency evaluation at a distance of three inches from the probe could be done to see if at that distance the instrument was capable of detecting 22 dpm/cm². This evaluation was done on April 16, 2009, and the results were emailed to Mr. Gattone. The instrument was not capable of detecting 22 dpm/cm² when the sample was positioned at a distance of three inches from the end of the scintillation probe.

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Corrective action was taken on March 17, 2009, during the original telephone conversation with the consulting physicist. The Nuclear Medicine Technologist was counseled on the correct procedure for analyzing wipe tests for removable contamination using this instrumentation.

In evaluating the root cause of the violation, the technologist had used a well counter to analyze wipe tests, but never a scintillation probe. As additional corrective action the licensee's management/RSO has ensured that the Nuclear Medicine Technologist is familiar with the operation of all instrumentation used for compliance with NRC regulations. For continued compliance and to avoid further violations, the licensee's Management/RSO will ensure that any new technologists will be instructed and then observed in the proper use of any instrument used for compliance with NRC regulations.

If you have any additional questions concerning this Reply to a Notice of Violation, please contact me at (816) 415-1900.

Sincerely,



James McGraw, M.D.
Radiation Safety Officer
3/11/09
Date

cc: Kenneth J. Lambert, Acting Chief, Region III, Materials Inspection Branch