

May 27, 2011

ALL AGREEMENT STATES, MICHIGAN

**OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE COMMENT ON INSPECTION MANUAL CHAPTER 1248  
“QUALIFICATION PROGRAMS FOR OFFICE OF FEDERAL AND STATE MATERIALS AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS” AND QUALIFICATION JOURNALS FOR  
MATERIALS LICENSE REVIEWERS AND MATERIALS HEALTH PHYSICS INSPECTORS  
(FSME-11-046)**

**Purpose:** To provide the Agreement States with the opportunity to comment\* on the Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Program’s (FSME) Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 1248 and qualification journals for Materials License Reviewers (license reviewers) and Materials Health Physics Inspectors (inspectors).

**Background:** The current qualification journals were published in January 2001 and are under IMC 1246. There have been many changes in the materials program since 2001, including the creation of FSME. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) established a working group in accordance with Management Directive 5.3, “Agreement State Participation in Working Groups,” to assess and revise the qualification requirements in IMC 1246 for license reviewers and inspectors within FSME’s program. The IMC 1246 Working Group has drafted a new IMC and qualification journals for license reviewers and inspectors to reflect changes since the last publication of the IMC and qualification journals. The working group has developed Individual Study Activities (ISAs) and On-the-Job Training (OJT) qualification cards to provide more focused training. The working group has also incorporated recommendations made by the Independent External Review Panel (IERP) and the Materials Program Working Group (MPWG) on incorporating security into licensing and inspection training.

**Discussion:** In October 2006, FSME was created in a reorganization of the NRC. As a result of that reorganization the qualification journals related to the materials program currently found under IMC 1246, will be separated from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards qualification journals, and consolidated under a new inspection manual chapter. Once completed the qualification journals will fall under IMC 1248, this number assigned to FSME for its formal qualification program.

The draft IMC 1248 and qualification journals have been submitted to the Standing Committee for Compatibility. The committee will determine the compatibility between the NRC and the Agreement States as a written procedure under the Technical Staffing and Training program element. Technical Staffing and Training is a Compatibility Category C. If the committee determines that the revised qualification journals continue to be a matter of compatibility

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\* This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0029 expiration 11/30/2013. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 8 hours. Send comments regarding the burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet e-mail to [infocollects@nrc.gov](mailto:infocollects@nrc.gov), and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0029), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

then the Agreement States should implement the revised journals within six (6) months of NRC's implementation in accordance with Management Directive 5.9 "Adequacy and Compatibility of Agreement State Programs." Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) teams will incorporate review of the manual chapter and qualification journals after the six month implementation period. The changes to the manual chapter and qualification journals are not meant to supersede the "NRC/OAS Training Working Group Recommendations for Agreement State Training Programs" report dated October 1997 but to update the qualification journals and to provide security concepts to license reviewers and inspectors.

This letter encloses drafts of IMC 1248 and the qualification journals for materials license reviewers and health physics inspectors. If you wish to make detailed written comments, please send them to the points of contact listed below. The working group asks that comments be limited to the framework and concept of the training instead of requests for the NRC to reinstitute the 5-Week Health Physics course. The IMC 1246 Working Group is still developing its recommendation on the 5-Week Health Physics course. **We request a written response within 45-days from the date of this of this letter.** We look forward to receiving your input.

**NRC Point of Contact:** If you have any questions on this correspondence, please contact me at 301-415-3340 or the individuals named below.

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Enclosures:

1. IMC 1248, "Qualification Programs for Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs"
2. Appendix A, "Materials License Reviewer Qualification Journal"
3. Appendix B, "Materials Health Physics Inspector Qualification Journal"

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1. IMC 1248, "Qualification Programs for Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs"
2. Appendix A, "Materials License Reviewer Qualification Journal"
3. Appendix B, "Materials Health Physics Inspector Qualification Journal"

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