

May 24, 2012

The American Board of Radiology
ATTN: Gary J. Becker, MD
Executive Director
5441 E. Williams Blvd., Suite 200
Tucson, Arizona 85711-4493

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF REVISED BOARD CERTIFICATION CERTIFICATE

Dear Dr. Becker:

I am writing in response to your March 19, 2012 letter requesting recognition of the 2012 changes to the American Board of Radiology (ABR) board certification certificates in medical physics, and your subsequent April 19, 2012 letter to Donna-Beth Howe, Ph.D., that further clarifies the ABR "continuous certification" process.

NRC staff reviewed the information provided in both letters, describing the changes made to the certificate and the reason for these changes. It is the staff's understanding that the changes (ongoing certification contingent upon meeting the requirements of Maintenance of Certification) were made with the ABR's transition to continuous certification. It is the staff's further understanding that no changes were made to the ABR's certification process previously accepted by the NRC (i.e., education/academic background, clinical experience supervised by an ABR-certified medical physicist, and examination content/sequence). In your April 19, 2012 letter, you also indicate that each board certificate issued from 2012 forward will be valid for a minimum of four years from the time of issuance and that the ABR expects to develop a publically available website that will provide access to regulators and other members of the public to verify an individual's board certification status from year four going forward.

Based on this information, NRC will continue to recognize the pre-2012 ABR board certificates, with 10 year expiration dates, and with "RSO eligible" appearing above the ABR seal for Medical Nuclear Physics, Diagnostic Radiologic Physics, Nuclear Medical Physics, and Diagnostic Medical Physics, as well as "AMP eligible" appearing above the ABR seal for Therapeutic Radiologic Physics and Therapeutic Medical Physics. NRC will only recognize ABR board certificates issued in 2012 (and subsequent years) for four years past the certification date for those certificates with "RSO eligible" appearing above the ABR seal for Nuclear Medical Physics, and Diagnostic Medical Physics, as well as "AMP eligible" appearing above the ABR seal for Therapeutic Medical Physics, in accordance with the requirements in 10 CFR 35.50(a), and 35.51(a). We will reevaluate extending the recognition period beyond four years once your website becomes available. Accordingly, all nine ABR board certification certificates for physicist will be included with the ABR recognition on NRC's web site for Part 35 matters, at <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/miau/med-use-toolkit.html>.

Please notify the NRC, via letter, six months in advance of ABR plans for becoming inactive or disbanding, plans to inactivate or disband any of your ABR medical physics certification programs, as well as of changes to certification procedures and certification documents that would affect the recognition of ABR's medical physics certification process under the requirements of 10 CFR 35.50 (a)(2) or 35.51(a).

For further information or for questions, please contact Donna-Beth Howe, Ph.D. of my staff at (301) 415-7848 or via e-mail: donna-beth.howe@nrc.gov.

/RA/

Christian E. Einberg, Chief
Radioactive Materials Safety Branch
Division of Material Safety and
State Agreement
Office of Federal and State Materials and
Environmental Management Programs

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