

September 7, 2012

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

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF REVISED BOARD CERTIFICATION CERTIFICATE

Dear Dr. Becker:

I am writing in response to your April 19, 2012 letter describing the American Board of Radiology's (ABR) new "Maintenance of Certification" process for Diagnostic Radiology, Radiation Oncology, and Medical Physics in 2012 and corresponding changes to the associated ABR board certificates beginning in 2012. In letter dated May 24, 2012 (ML12139A294), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recognized the new "Maintenance of Certification" process and certificates issued by the ABR for Medical Physicists.

NRC staff reviewed the information describing the changes made to the certificates 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 additional changes are being made to the ABR's certification process previously accepted by the NRC (i.e., education/academic background, supervised clinical experience, and examination content/sequence). You also indicate that each board certificate issued from 2012 forward will be valid for a minimum of 4 years from the date 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 4 going forward.

Based on this information, NRC will continue to recognize the pre-2012 ABR Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Oncology certificates with 10 year expiration dates and with "AU Eligible" above the ABR seal. NRC will only recognize ABR Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Oncology board certificates issued in 2012 (and subsequent years) with "AU eligible" above the ABR seal for 4 years past the certification date. We will reevaluate extending the recognition period beyond 4 years once your website becomes available. Accordingly, all four ABR physician board certificates (two pre-2012 and two 2012 and after) will be included with the ABR recognition on NRC's web site for 10 CFR Part 35 matters, at <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/miau/med-use-toolkit.html>.

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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 physician 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 35.290 (a), 35.390(a), 35.392(a), 35.394(a), 35.490(a), or 35.690(a).

For further information or for questions, please contact Sandra Gabriel, Ph.D. of my staff at (301) 801-3889 or via e-mail: Sandra.Gabriel@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/Chris Einberg for/RA

Brian J. Mc Dermott, Director
Division of Material Safety and
State Agreement
Office of Federal and State Materials and
Environmental Management Programs

G. Becker

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For further information or for questions, please contact Sandra Gabriel, Ph.D. of my staff at (301) 801-3889 or via e-mail: Sandra.Gabriel@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/Chris Einberg for/RA

Brian J. Mc Dermott, Director
Division of Material Safety and
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Office of Federal and State Materials and
Environmental Management Programs

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