

NUREG 1021, REVISION 11

Status of Changes (August 2016)

Licensing Process Changes

- 1) Revised examination development schedule (ES 201-1) to allow more time to develop, review and validate NRC licensing exams
 - a. Compilation of NRC staff and industry recommendation received during public comment period
 - b. Schedule now starts at 240 days before exam vice 180 days
 - c. Maintain flexibility for facility licensee and NRC chief examiner to adjust schedule as-needed
 - d. See handout
- 2) All waiver and excusal request determinations documented on signed "final" application form (NRC Form 398)
 - a. No preliminary/informal decisions communicated to the licensee
 - b. Facilities can formally request waiver/excusal in writing but NRC cannot render a decision until signed application form received, however, the NRC can indicate if enough information has been submitted for NRC to make the determination
 - c. Removed any time limits on excusal request
- 3) GFE schedule revised such that 2 exams offered per year
 - a. Project Aim item
- 4) Deleted informal staff review process (appeal)
 - a. Project Aim item
 - b. Informal Review Process is not required by regulation
 - c. Eliminates practice of holding licenses in abeyance during review
 - d. Licensees and applicants allotted 20 calendar days to submit post exam comments
- 5) Changed many "should" statements to "shall" statements throughout the NUREG
 - a. Promotes consistency across regions

Written Exam Changes

- 1) NRC will create all written exam outlines and approve any changes
 - a. Promotes consistency across regions
 - b. Relieves burden on licensees to develop the sample plan
- 2) Facility licensees must provide analysis for each question and must use the SRO-only guidance to develop SRO questions
 - a. Enhances review process and timeliness of the review

- 3) Time extensions for RO and SRO exam only allowed under unavoidable circumstances
- 4) Incorporates changes necessary to transition to the updated BWR and PWR K/A catalogs
 - a. Expect to publish NUREG 1122 and 1123 Revision 3 at end of calendar year 2016

Operating Test Changes

- 1) Revised simulator test grading from a scale of 1 – 3 to a scale of 0 – 3
 - a. Lessons Learned Review Team (LLRT) recommendation
 - b. More accurately reflects applicant performance
 - c. Adjusted Technical Specification grading area to remove over-emphasis in this area as compared to other competencies
 - d. A single “0” in any one rating factor will not result in an overall failure
- 2) Eliminated the practice of restoring a point back if applicant demonstrates correct performance in the same rating factor
 - a. LLRT recommendation
 - b. Applicant starts with highest score and points deducted for errors
- 3) Performance deficiencies limited to 2 rating factors
 - a. LLRT recommendation
 - b. Removed previous “no limit” based on industry recommendations received during public comment period
- 4) Facility licensee will develop exam administration schedule and assign crew members and examiners
 - a. NRC may make changes if justified
- 5) All SRO Admin JPMs at the SRO level
 - a. Previously no absolute guidance; promotes consistency
 - b. Ensures SRO applicants tested at the higher level
- 6) New simulator scenario overlap limits
 - a. Each scenario shall be new or significantly modified (significantly modified means at least two events have not been used on the previous two NRC exams)
 - b. Modified overlap limits based on comments received during public comment period
 - c. NRC will delay public availability of operating test material for 2 years based on comments received during public comment period
- 7) Clarified critical task criteria and defined a post-scenario critical task
 - a. LLRT recommendation

- b. Deleted conflicting guidance and critical task examples based on recommendations received during public comment period
 - c. Retained critical task grading as proposed in Draft Revision 11 (a missed CT results in a “0”) to represent the safety significance of a critical task
 - d. A “0” in one competency does not result in an overall failure
- 8) Added new Operating Test Review Worksheets for NRC staff use
- a. Promotes consistency

Post Exam Changes

- 1) Facility licensee shall submit all post exam comments (including applicant comments) supported by a facility position
 - a. Allows NRC to provide a more thorough review
 - b. Includes comments from the Operating test
 - c. NRC HQ’s operator licensing program office developing guidance for regional offices to seek an independent assessment of facility and applicant comments for potential failures. This is based on recommendations received during public comment period

- 2) If simulator scenarios videotaped, applicant and licensee allowed to view entire scenarios following notification to NRC chief examiner