SAMPLE LETTER TO BE SENT TO CERTIFICATION BOARDS

American Board of XXX

_____
_____

Dear Dr. _____:

As you know, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is revising its medical use regulations in 10 CFR Part 35, "Medical Use of Byproduct Material." I anticipate the Commission will publish the final rule in the Federal Register in early 2000, with an effective date 6 months after publication. As part of this revision, the regulatory text will no longer incorporate a listing of the specific boards whose diplomates automatically fulfill the training and experience requirements for an authorized medical physicist, authorized nuclear pharmacist, authorized user, or Radiation Safety Officer. Rather, the NRC will recognize certification boards that require individuals to complete the training and experience requirements specified in the regulatory text. Once recognized, the board's name will be placed on the list of recognized boards maintained on the NRC website. This change is being made to eliminate the need for a rulemaking each time a board would be added or deleted.

I am writing to notify you of our intent to initiate the recognition process immediately. Other specialty boards whose diplomates are likely to seek authorization are being similarly notified. If you are interested in having your board recognized by the NRC, please submit a letter to me listing each training and experience section of the rule for which you believe your Board's diplomates should be deemed to have met the requirements. Enclosures 1 and 2 should assist you in preparing your letter. Enclosure 1 lists all requirements where NRC plans to recognize boards. Enclosure 2 is a copy of the draft final regulatory text that lists the training and experience criteria for authorized medical physicists, authorized nuclear pharmacists, authorized users, and Radiation Safety Officers.

Your letter should clearly state that an individual must have completed the training and experience required by a particular section prior to receiving board certification. For example, if your board would like to be recognized under 10 CFR 35.390, "Training for use of unsealed byproduct material for which a written directive is required," the letter should state: The American Board of XXX has reviewed 10 CFR 35.390 and has determined that our certification process requires an individual to meet all the requirements in paragraph (b) of this section prior to being certified by our board."

The letter should be dated and signed by the chief executive of your board. If you have any questions or comments, please contact xxx (301-415-xxxx or E-mail at xxx@nrc.gov) .

Sincerely,
Donald Cool, Ph.D., Director
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety

Enclosures: 1. Areas where NRC plans to recognize boards
2. Applicable training and experience requirements (to be added prior to mailing)

Enclosure 1

REQUIREMENTS WHERE NRC PLANS TO RECOGNIZE BOARDS
PART 35--MEDICAL USE OF BYPRODUCT MATERIAL

35.50	Training for Radiation Safety Officer.
35.51	Training for an authorized medical physicist.
35.55	Training for an authorized nuclear pharmacist.
35.190	Training for uptake, dilution, and excretion studies.
35.290	Training for imaging and localization studies.
35.390	Training for use of unsealed byproduct material for which a written directive is required.
35.392	Training for the oral administration of sodium iodide I-131 requiring a written directive in quantities less than or equal to 1.22 Gigabecquerels (33 millicuries).
35.394	Training for the oral administration of sodium iodide I-131 requiring a written directive in quantities greater than 1.22 Gigabecquerels (33 millicuries).
35.490	Training for use of manual brachytherapy sources.
35.491	Training for ophthalmic use of strontium-90.

35.590 Training for use of sealed sources for diagnosis.

35.690 Training for use of remote afterloader units, teletherapy units, and gamma stereotactic radiosurgery units.