

September 8, 2006

American Board of Health Physics
ATTN: James S. Willison, CHP, PE
Chair, American Board of Health Physics
1313 Dolley Madison Boulevard, Suite 402
McLean, Virginia 22101

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF SPECIALTY BOARDS

Dear Mr. Willison:

I am replying to your letter dated August 1, 2006, in which you requested U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recognition of the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) certification process prior to the current listed effective date of January 1, 2006. This was based on your recently completed review of the academic credentials of all certifications granted in 2005 and your conclusion that all the individuals certified in 2005 met the NRC requirements in 10 CFR 35.50(a)(1). The Medical Uses Licensee Toolkit website has been updated to reflect the revised effective date of January 1, 2005.

In the above referenced letter, you also requested that all certifications granted by the ABHP since its inception through January 1, 2005, be deemed as meeting the requirements for an RSO, provided that the individuals demonstrate that they meet the NRC academic requirements of 10 CFR 35.50(a)(1)(i) through the submittal of an official transcript. The NRC staff believes that the current 10 CFR 35.50(a)(1), as written, does not permit NRC to recognize the ABHP's certificates because of the reference to all relative to specialty board candidates. Regarding the ABHP, this means that the NRC can only recognize those years when all the diplomates met the requirements of this section. Other specialty boards have approved this issue by 1) evaluating the qualification of the diplomates who were granted certification prior to January 1, 2005 to determine if his or her qualifications meet the requirements and, 2) modifying the certificate to distinguish those diplomates who meet NRC's training and experience requirements under the board certification pathway. The ABHP may wish to consider this alternative.

For further information or for questions, please contact Mr. Mohammad Saba of my staff at (301)415-7608 or via e-mail: mss@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas H. Essig, Chief
Materials Safety and Inspection Branch
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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