



CONVERSATION RECORD

NAME OF PERSON(S) CONTACTED OR IN CONTACT WITH YOU Craig Adams, Interim Director	DATE OF CONTACT 03/19/2015	TYPE OF CONVERSATION <input type="checkbox"/> E-MAIL <input type="checkbox"/> INCOMING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONE <input type="checkbox"/> OUTGOING
E-MAIL ADDRESS Craig.Adams@va.gov	TELEPHONE NUMBER (501) 257-1571	
ORGANIZATION Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) National Health Physics Program (NHPP)	DOCKET NUMBER(S) 030-34325	
LICENSE NUMBER(S) 03-23853-01VA	CONTROL NUMBER(S) 585968	

SUBJECT

DVA's proposed revisions to SOP-04 "NHPP inspector/permit reviewer qualifications"

SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUIRED (IF ANY)

I contacted Mr. Adams to discuss the proposed revisions to SOP-04.

Item 6 of SOP-04, which describes NRC core training courses, was revised slightly. Based on our review we noted that subitem a.(6) was incorrect in that the NRC does not offer a course entitled "Fundamentals of Inspection" (G-101). This was confirmed by Kevin Null during a telephone conversation with Jeff Griffis of the NRC's Technical Training Center (TTC) on March 19. This course should be deleted from item 6.

Item 7 was added in response to a recommendation made by the NRC during the October 2014 biennial inspection. The recommendation was that improvements should be made to SOP-04 by describing specific criteria that the NRSC uses to grant equivalency for required NRC training courses. During the inspection, the NHPP Director agreed with the recommendation and committed to submitting a revision to SOP-04 with a request to amend the MML to incorporate the revised procedure. This amendment addresses the recommendation.

For the H-201 NRC course (Health Physics Technology), and after confirmation from Jeff Griffis of the NRC's TTC during the March 19 telephone call, it was agreed that certification from the American Board of Health Physics qualifies as being equivalent. However, in order for us to recognize equivalency to the certification from the American Board of Science in Nuclear Medicine for Nuclear Medicine Physics and Instrumentation Specialty and the Radiation Protection Specialty; the American Board of Medical Physics with special competence in Medical Health Physics; and the American Board of Radiology for Diagnostic Radiologic Physics, Nuclear Medical Physics, or Therapeutic Medical Physics Specialty, the DVA will need to submit a detailed comparison to the H-201 course syllabus for our review in order to demonstrate equivalency.

For the H-304 NRC course (Diagnostic and Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine), in order for us to recognize equivalency with the certification from the American Board of Science in Nuclear Medicine for Nuclear Medicine Physics and Instrumentation Specialty; and the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board, the DVA will need to submit a detailed comparison to the H-304 course syllabus for our review in order to demonstrate equivalency. Based on a discussion between Kevin Null and Jeff Griffis of the NRC's TTC on March 19, 2015, it was agreed that certification from the American Board of Radiology for the Diagnostic Radiologic Physics, Nuclear Medical Physics, or Therapeutic Physics Specialty would qualify as being equivalent to H-304.

For the H-313 NRC course (Brachytherapy and Gamma Knife), it was agreed that certification from the American Board of Radiology for the Diagnostic Radiologic Physics, Nuclear Medical Physics, or Therapeutic Physics Specialty would qualify as being equivalent to H-313, based on a discussion between Kevin Null and Jeff Griffis

CONVERSATION RECORD (continued)

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SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUIRED (IF ANY) (Continued)

of the NRC's TTC on March 19, 2015

Item 7.e. was also added which described a generalized approval process for equivalent training. This description is too vague and non-specific for us to consider and should be revised to be more specific, or removed in its entirety.

Mr. Adams stated that he would consider either providing a side by side comparison for the certifications above with the appropriate NRC training course, or revise their request to eliminate those certifications. He stated that he would let me know by Friday, March 27 of his decision. If he chooses to submit a side by side comparison, we will void this action and Mr. Adams will resubmit his request at a later date with the comparisons.

NAME OF PERSON DOCUMENTING CONVERSATION

Kevin Null

SIGNATURE

Kevin A. Null

DATE OF SIGNATURE

3/19/15