

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Bureau of Radiological Health (BRH)
Lucas State Office Building, 5th Floor
321 East 12th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319

January, 2014

IDPH INFORMATION NOTICE: 2014-P1 Revision to Chapter 42, “Permit to Operate Ionizing Radiation Producing Machines or Administer Radioactive Materials”

ADDRESSEES: All Iowa facilities with bone densitometry units

PURPOSE:

This IDPH Information Notice is to inform all facilities with bone densitometry units that Chapter 42 was revised effective March 13, 2013. Rules were added regarding operators of bone densitometry units. Please read this Information Notice carefully and consult the IDPH website for the forms cited in this notice.

www.idph.state.ia.us/permitstooperate/

RATIONALE FOR THE REVISION:

Chapter 42 was revised to require operators of bone densitometry units to have a permit to operate the bone densitometry units. The purpose of the revision is to ensure the radiological health and safety of the public by requiring all operators to meet the same minimum standards of training, testing, and continuing education.

WHAT THIS MEANS

By January 1, 2015, all individuals currently performing bone densitometry must have a current permit to operate. This permit can be a permit as a:

1. General or limited (any category) radiologic technologist,
2. Nuclear medicine technologist,
3. Radiation therapist, OR
4. X-ray Equipment Operator in bone densitometry.

HOW DO YOUR OPERATORS GET A PERMIT IF THEY DON'T ALREADY HAVE ONE

If your operators do not have a permit and qualify for 1., 2., or 3., they should click on the appropriate category and submit the appropriate application.

If your operators do not have a permit and do not qualify for 1., 2., or 3., they should click on the “X-ray Equipment Operator” category. Print off the application. Complete the application and submit it with the \$25 fee. Proof of completion of formal education must be verification of manufacturer’s training or equivalent training as is currently required in chapter 41 under the bone densitometry rules. **All applicants submitting before January 1, 2015, are not required to provide proof of testing.**

All applications received after January 1, 2015, must meet the training and testing requirements. More information will be provided on the revised training programs and required test later in 2014.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The application is processed and a permit is sent back to the facility. This takes approximately one to two weeks. An annual renewal notice will be sent to each individual at their home address.

Each permit holder is required to obtain 4.0 hours of continuing education every two years. Acceptable hours may be any lectures, online, or correspondence courses that are American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) approved. Proof of completion must be submitted with the renewal notice every two years.

REMEMBER

If your bone densitometry operators already have a current Iowa permit to operate, they do not need to apply for an x-ray equipment operator permit in bone densitometry. Only those individuals who are performing bone density procedures and no other radiologic procedures are to apply for the x-ray equipment operator permit in bone densitometry.

FACILITY RESPONSIBILITY

It is the facility responsibility to have the permit to operate on file at the facility for each individual performing the bone densitometry procedures.

If you have any questions regarding the permit process, please contact Charlene Craig at 515-281-0415 or charlene.craig@idph.iowa.gov.

Angela Leek, Bureau Chief

Date