

AMERICAN BOARD OF HEALTH PHYSICS

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Report of the American Board of Health Physics

BOARD MEMBERS

E E ANDERSON
J W HEALY
J S LAUGHLIN
W A MCADAMS
L S TAYLOR

The American Board of Health Physics was formally established on October 28, 1959 by action of the Board of Directors of the Health Physics Society. The Board of Directors reappointed the four remaining members of the temporary American Board of Health Physics which was set up on November 8, 1958 and named J. W. Healy to fill the vacancy left by C. M. Patterson. In December 1959, W. A. McAdams was asked to serve as temporary Chairman of the Board.

It was evident from the start that incorporation of the American Board of Health Physics was essential and would have to be an accomplished fact before any actual certification could be made. A lawyer was consulted and details of incorporation were worked out and approved by the Board. Final incorporation papers are now being circulated to the Board members for signature and it is expected that the incorporation will become effective within the next three or four weeks.

The Board held its first meeting on March 1960, elected its officers, drafted a set of bylaws and developed procedures for the review of the applications. Some of the decisions reached at this meeting were as follows:

1. W. A. McAdams was elected President, L. S. Taylor, Vice President and J. W. Healy, Secretary-Treasurer. The President will act as Chairman of the Board.
2. The terms of office of the Board members will expire at the end of each calendar year instead of on July 1 as was previously specified.
3. The size of the Board will be maintained at a minimum of five members and a maximum of ten members. It was tentatively agreed that the Health Physics Society would continue to be asked to submit nominations for five members of the Board as their terms of office expire and that other interested organizations, such as the American Industrial Hygiene Association, would be asked to submit nominations for additional members at some appropriate time after incorporation has been achieved.
4. Board members retiring from the Board will not be eligible for reappointment for at least three years.
5. The requirements for certification were changed to extend, until December 31, 1960, the period during which the Board could certify especially well qualified individuals without examination.

6. Applications from foreigners will not be accepted by the Board, at least for the time being.

These decisions and others are contained in a set of bylaws which have not yet received final approval of the Board. The bylaws will be available to all interested parties as soon as they are approved.

At its first meeting the Board gave considerable attention to the methods to be used to appraise applicants for certification and to select those who would be certified without examination. The Board agreed unanimously to certify without examination the group which were used as "guinea pigs" to develop the requirements for certification. To simplify the appraisal of other candidates, the Board adopted a point system to be used on a trial basis as a guide in evaluating the qualifications of candidates. This system appears to be working well, but may be modified to some extent at the next meeting of the Board which is scheduled for July 1, 1960. A copy of the present point system is attached.

The Board has selected an Examination Panel and was fortunate in persuading Dr. F. P. Cowan to chair this Panel. The Panel has developed its first written examination and this will be given to 15-20 candidates on June 28, 1960. The Board has not yet decided whether to release copies of the examination questions to candidates who may be asked to take the examination in the future. It is hoped that other examinations can be scheduled in various parts of the country before the end of the year.

The Board began receiving applications for certification in January and has been receiving them at a steady rate of about ten per week. The Board has already made a preliminary review of about 140 of these applications and has completed its review of about 60. It will probably complete the review of another 60 to 70 within the next few weeks.

Under the present procedures, each Board member makes an independent appraisal of each application. The appraisals are consolidated by the Chairman and a report of the results distributed to the Board members. When the Board members disagree significantly on an appraisal the application is returned to the Board members for reappraisal or further information is requested from the candidate. A few difficult cases will undoubtedly have to be decided in discussions at meetings of the Board.

The first actual certifications will not be made until the incorporation of the Board has been completed and the examination papers of the candidates taking the examination on June 28 have been graded. No certification, or publicity regarding certification, will make any distinction between those required to take the examination and those approved without an examination. It is expected that more than 100 certifications will be issued by the middle of

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August.

The Board members have been working diligently and conscientiously to establish sound practices of operation and fair methods of judging the qualifications of candidates. It is expected that there will be some unfavorable criticism of the Board actions, but little of this has come to the attention of the Board to date. The Board remains open to suggestions for improving its procedures, and will be glad to discuss details with members of the Health Physics Society.

W.A. McAdams

W. A. McAdams
Chairman
American Board of Health Physics

June 23, 1960