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American Board Of Health Physics

Savannah River Laboratory
Aiken, S. C. 29801

March 15, 1976

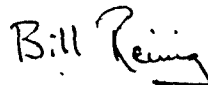
Dear Colleagues:

The American Board of Health Physics has progressed with the development of the continuing certification program. We have carefully considered the extensive comments and suggestions that many of you provided the Board on this important topic. They were a valuable asset in the formulation of the program thus far.

We are now at a point in our considerations where we again need your guidance. The attached draft represents the continuing certification program as we now see it. The Board has not adopted the program.

We would appreciate your comments and recommendations on any aspect of the plan. We know that you have many demands on your time, but we hope that you recognize that your viewpoints will have a substantial influence on the final plan. Your input will be particularly useful if I receive it within the next four weeks.

Sincerely yours,



William C. Reinig
Chairman

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Attachment

AMERICAN BOARD OF HEALTH PHYSICS
CONTINUING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

I. Renewal Period

In the five-year period beginning on January 1, 1977, and during each four-year period thereafter, each Certified Health Physicist shall renew his certification. Individuals certified after January 1, 1977, shall renew their certification within each four-year period starting on January 1 in the year after certification is awarded.

Explanatory Note: Present Certified Health Physicists would be required to renew their certification before January 1, 1982. The next renewal deadline would be January 1, 1986. For example, an individual may choose to be recertified in 1977 and he may wait until 1985 before the next renewal.

II. Extension of Renewal Period

The ABHP may extend the renewal interval, upon request, when an individual cannot meet the requirements because of sickness, foreign residence or other unusual circumstances.

Explanatory Note: This flexibility is provided to allow the Board to grant extensions when necessary. These cases should be infrequent.

III. Requirements for Continuing Certification

To renew his certification a diplomate shall remain active in the profession of health physics and keep abreast of new developments in the profession. Demonstration of these requirements shall be provided through the following steps that shall be accomplished during the renewal period:

- a. Submission of an Application for Renewal of Certification.
- b. Attendance at ABHP-approved continuing education courses.
- c. Submission of further documentation to verify professional responsibilities and activities may be required by the Board.

Explanatory Notes:

- a. The Application for Renewal of Certification will provide the Board with information about the diplomate's professional activities during the past four years. The form will be similar to the original application for certification. The application will also include a reaffirmation that the individual is fulfilling the Professional Responsibilities of a Certified Health Physicist. No reference statements shall be requested.
- b. The continuing education requirement will be met by attending professional-level courses approved by the ABHP. During the renewal period, each diplomate shall attend a course or courses providing a total of at least 16 contact hours of lectures and demonstrations on advanced health physics topics. No examinations will be associated with the courses. Courses may be sponsored by any organization. Each course must be approved by the ABHP prior to attendance. The Board will establish

a. Panel on Continuing Education to arrange and accredit courses. To prevent the Panel from being overburdened in reviewing the content and quality of proposed courses, each course must include at least 4 hours of health physics topics. The course may include other topics, but it must meet the 4-hour requirement for approval. Lecturers at an ABHP-approved course will receive appropriate credit depending on the extent of their participation. Whenever practical, the ABHP will announce the approved courses in advance through selected publications; however, the sponsoring organization will have the primary responsibility for course announcements.

- c. If the Board cannot determine through a review of the Application for Renewal of Certification that the applicant is actively engaged in the profession of health physics at least 25% of his/her working time and fulfilling the Professional Responsibilities of a Certified Health Physicist, the Board shall require the applicant to submit reports or other documentation to assist the Board in its review. These cases should be infrequent.

IV. Classification of Certified Health Physicists

There shall be three classes of Certified Health Physicists:

Certified Health Physicist: This class shall consist of all diplomates who, in the judgment of the Board, meet the requirements for recertification. These individuals shall be included in published listings of Certified Health Physicists.

Certified Health Physicist - Emeritus: This class shall include Certified Health Physicists who have retired from full-time professional activity. These individuals shall be included in published listings of Certified Health Physicists with the Emeritus designation.

Certified Health Physicist - Inactive: This class shall consist of all individuals who, in the judgment of the Board, do not meet the requirements for continuing certification. These individuals shall not be included in the published listings of Certified Health Physicists. At any future time, an individual in this class may regain active status upon completion of the requirements for renewal of certification.

Explanatory Notes:

- a. The Emeritus status will be awarded, upon request, to Certified Health Physicists who retire from full-time active participation in professional activities because of age or health requirements.
- b. The Inactive status will, in most cases, result from individuals changing disciplines. For several reasons, the Board chooses to place these individuals in an Inactive status rather than revoke certification. The most compelling reason is that legal action may be initiated to prevent revocation of certification. Although the Board is confident that its judgment would be upheld, the Board prefers to use its limited resources to further the certification program rather than expend them in legal procedures.

V. Renewal Fee

The renewal fee shall be \$15.

Explanatory Note: The fee for renewal of certification will be paid at the time the Application for Renewal of Certification is submitted. In addition, organizations that sponsor continuing education courses may charge a registration fee for the courses. The Board will encourage these organizations to establish the registration fees at a reasonable level. Preferably, these fees should only reimburse the sponsoring organization for the expenses incurred in the administration of the course.

VI. Appeals

Individuals shall have the right to meet with the Board and appeal any decision made by the Board that affects their certification status.