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## **RADIOGRAPHER LICENSE AND LIMITED X-RAY MACHINE OPERATOR PERMIT**

*Please be aware that the specific requirements described below are based upon administrative rules which have been submitted to the legislative subcommittee. All applications forms will be available through the DRL website when the rules receive final adoption.*

In 2010, a new law was enacted in Wisconsin which establishes licensing and permitting requirements for those who perform medical radiography or provide medical radiographic services. The new law, 2009 Wisconsin Act 106, which created Chapter 462 of the Wisconsin statutes, requires that any person who performs radiography or operates an X-ray machine or X-ray equipment, and is not exempt from the law, shall obtain a license to perform radiography or a permit to operate X-ray machines or perform limited scope radiographic procedures. This advisory bulletin is issued by the Wisconsin Radiography Examining Board to inform all persons who are affected by the new law about the options for obtaining the license or permit, the requirements and qualifications required for each, and to briefly explain the application process.

### **How do I know whether I need a radiography license or LXMO permit?**

If you are seeking to perform the full range of diagnostic radiography procedures, only a licensed radiographer is qualified to do so. A person who is operating x-ray equipment in a limited scope (e.g. x-rays of extremities or chest X-rays); a permit will allow you to do so.

If you are ARRT certified, or will soon qualify for an ARRT certificate, you should apply for a radiography license. If you are taking radiographs, but you are not a student or ARRT certified, you should apply for the LXMO permit.

Beginning on March 1, 2012, all persons who do not meet any of the exemptions in the new state law (see ‘Who is Exempt...’ below) will be required to have a license or permit to perform radiography or perform limited scope radiologic services.

### **Who is Exempt from the Requirements for a License or Permit?**

The new laws apply to all individuals who operate x-ray equipment, except for the following:

1. A physician (Office personnel are **not** exempt);
2. A person enrolled as a student in a radiography program approved by the board, if the person is directly supervised by a physician or a person licensed as a Radiographer under s. 462.03(2);
3. A Chiropractor licensed under s. 446.02 or a person under the direct supervision of such a chiropractor, if the person has successfully completed a course of instruction comprising at least 48 hours of instruction approved by the chiropractic examining board related to x-ray examination;
4. A dentist licensed under s. 447.04(1), a dental hygienist licensed under s. 447.04(2), or a person under the direct supervision of a dentist;
5. A physician assistant licensed under s. 448.04(1)(f);
6. A podiatrist licensed under s. 448.63 or a person under the direct supervision of such a podiatrist, if the person has successfully completed a course of instruction approved by the podiatrists affiliated credentialing board related to x-ray examinations under s. 448.695(3).

### **Radiographer License**

Under the new law, there are two options for obtaining the radiographer license:

- Persons who are currently certified as a radiography technologist by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (A.R.R.T.) and hold active A.R.R.T. certification will automatically qualify for the new Wisconsin radiographer license. Active certification as a radiologic technologist from the ARRT fulfills the education and examination requirements for the new licensure, and continuing education requirements for renewal of the license.

ARRT certified radiographers will need to submit an application with proof of active ARRT certification and pay the required fees for the state license.

- Persons who are not currently ARRT certified may obtain a license based upon relevant work experience in radiography and passage of a state approved examination. This option is referred to as the ‘transitional license.’ The purpose of the transitional license is to allow persons who have been working in the field before the new licensure requirements were enacted to obtain the license without having to complete the educational requirements of the new law. However, the transitional licensure is only available for a limited time.
- **Please be aware that the ‘transitional’ option will only be available until March 1, 2012. After the end of the transitional period, applicants will no longer be able to substitute their work experience for completion of the required formal education in radiography.**

The transitional licensure requirements are described below:

- In order to receive a transitional license, applicants must submit proof that they have worked as a radiographer for at least three (3) of the five (5) years immediately preceding the date of their application.
- The Board will review the supervisor’s affidavit to determine if the applicant has sufficient work experience to take the license examination.
- The Board will also consider the applicant’s background to determine if they are barred from licensure due to adverse factors in their background (criminal convictions, licensure encumbrances, termination from employment negligence in practice, termination from employment or other adverse circumstances
- After the applicant’s work experience has been reviewed and found acceptable, the applicant will be eligible to take the state of Wisconsin radiographer examination, which is administered by the A.R.R.T. Upon successful passage of the examination, the applicant will be granted a

Wisconsin radiographer license. This license will authorize the person to perform radiography in the state of Wisconsin but will not qualify the person for A.R.R.T. certification.

- Beginning on March 1, 2012, the transitional period for licensure ends and the full requirements for licensure will be in effect. At that point, a person shall successfully complete an approved course of study or degree in radiography and pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification examination. After the transitional period ends, only those persons who meet one of the exemptions in state law will be allowed to practice radiography without a state license.

### **How to Apply**

To apply for a Radiography license, go to the Department's website at <http://drl.wi.gov>, select 'Profession' and scroll to 'Radiographer' which opens the webpage that contains general information about the radiography credentials, information about the license requirements and information about how to apply for the license. The webpage also contains links to the printable application forms.

## **LIMITED X-RAY MACHINE OPERATOR PERMIT**

Under the new law, there are two options for obtaining the permit:

- The first option is for persons who are currently working as limited X-ray machine operators (LXMO) or have been performing limited radiographic procedures under the supervision of an employer or other licensed health care provider for at least three (3) of the five (5) years immediately preceding the date of their application. If a person has verifiable work experience, they will be allowed to take one or more of the components of the state of Wisconsin limited scope permit examination. A limited scope permit will be granted in the components successfully passed.

- Persons who do not qualify for the transitional permit or who apply after the transitional period ends on March 1, 2012, may obtain a limited scope permit if they have completed a state approved course of study and passed the limited scope examination. A limited scope permit will be granted in the components successfully passed.

### **How to Apply:**

To apply for an ‘X-Ray Machine Operator Permit’, through this transition period (between now and March 1, 2012), go to the Department’s website at <http://drl.wi.gov>, select ‘profession’ and scroll to ‘Limited X-Ray Machine Operator’, this will bring you to the webpage which has information about the license requirements and information about how to apply for the license. The webpage also contains links to the printable application forms.

### **Exam Study Materials**

The Board and the Department does not sell, endorse, or recommend study guides or preparation materials for the limited scope exam. ARRT has information about the exam and will deliver an examination handbook to registrants. In addition, you may wish to contact a local [radiologic technology program](#) or the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) for study resources, including possible review courses to be offered in the future. The ASRT may be reached at (505) 298-4500 or through their web site at [www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org). (Information from ARRT Website)

## **WARNING**

- **The ‘transitional’ period will end as of March 1, 2012. This means that every person who applies for a radiography license or limited scope permit after this date will have to satisfy both education and examination requirements. Work experience will no longer be considered.**

- **Any person who continues to perform radiography or work as an X-ray machine operator without the required credentials shall be in violation of law and subject to enforcement action and penalties for unlicensed practice.**

## **Questions?**

If you have questions about the new requirements for a radiography license or limited x-ray machine operator permit and how they affect you, please contact the Department of Regulation and Licensing via Email at [DRL@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:DRL@Wisconsin.gov)