

**LICENSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ATOMIC ENERGY LICENSING
ACT 1984 (ACT 304) FOR SPECIALISED DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY SERVICES
PROVIDED BY PRIVATE HOSPITALS/RADIOLOGY CLINICS**

1 BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is continuously taking steps to improve the quality of specialised radiological services provided by the private hospitals and radiology clinics. This is to ensure that optimum diagnostic information is obtained with the least exposure to patients as well as staff. Over the years, MOH has taken both administrative and legislative measures to enforce the various requirements under the Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 (Act 304).

In order to further upgrade and enhance the quality, safety and efficacious of radiological services, the MOH has decided that the implementation of Quality Assurance Programme (QAP) shall be made mandatory.

It is envisaged that through to the implementation of QAP, the private medical institutions will be able to institutionalise and internalise the culture of quality and safety in the applications of radiation in medicine.

For specialised diagnostic radiology services (other than general radiography such as mammography, fluoroscopy, angiography and computed tomography, etc) provided by private hospitals and radiology clinics, the new licensing requirements and their respective implementation schedule are as summarised in the following table;

No	Requirements	Implementation Schedule
1.	<p>Operators/Personnel</p> <p>1.1 Employment of at least one qualified radiographer</p> <p>1.2 Employment of qualified female radiographers trained in mammography to perform mammography procedures</p> <p>1.3 Direct supervision/service of at least one radiologist for specialised radiological procedures</p>	1/1/2000
2.	<p>QAP</p> <p>2.1 Quality control (QC) of equipment, processors and associated facilities</p> <p>2.2 Monitoring and analysis of film reject rate</p> <p>2.3 Continuous Professional Education</p>	1/1/2000

2 PERSONNEL/OPERATORS

- 2.1 By 1 January 2000, all establishments in which specialised radiological procedures other than general radiography such as mammography, fluoroscopy and computed tomography (CT) are provided; at least one radiographer shall be employed to conduct/supervise x-ray examinations.
- 2.2 Mammography procedures should only be performed by a qualified female radiographer trained in mammography.
- 2.3 All specialised radiological procedures should be directly managed, supervised and reported by a radiologist.

3 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME (QAP)

- 3.1 An appropriate and acceptable QAP shall be implemented in all hospitals/radiology clinics in which specialised diagnostic radiology services are provided. QAP shall comprise of at least the following;

- i) **Quality Control (QC) of equipment, processor and associated facilities**

All the x-ray equipment, processor and associated facilities shall be maintained and calibrated wherever applicable. The performance and safety standards of the x-ray equipment, processor and associated facilities shall be in accordance with the regulatory requirements and relevant code of practice (please refer to Appendices).

The above shall be certified by a Class H licence holder/Consultant Medical Physicist approved by the Ministry of Health annually. Certification of proper functioning of the above equipment is mandatory for new licence applications and licence renewals.

- ii) **Monitoring and Analysis of Film Reject Rate**

Monitoring and analysis of film reject rate shall be instituted and reported every year. A report of monitoring and analysis including corrective action taken is required for the licence renewal.

- iii) **Continuous Professional Education**

A continuous professional training programme shall be instituted. All personnel/operators are required to attend the continuous professional education programme that is recognised by the appropriate authority to update their knowledge annually. The training programme should comprise of at least radiation safety pertaining to the usage of x-ray

facilities, radiographic techniques, image quality and film processing, quality of reporting and quality assurance.



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