

April 8, 2020

IDPH Information Notice 2020-01: Industrial Radiography Certifications during the COVID-19 Pandemic

ADDRESSEES:

Iowa issued industrial radiography certification I.D. cards that expire between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020.

PURPOSE:

A proclamation issued by Governor Kim Reynolds on March 22, 2020 temporarily suspends regulatory provisions of Iowa Code 136C until April 16, 2020. Agencies are directed to provide guidance to licensees related to any changes in requirements for licensing that will be implemented under this proclamation authority. Please note that all regulatory requirements remain in effect unless changes or waivers are specifically outlined by the Iowa Department of Public Health in guidance or rulemaking. The guidance in this information notice outlines the specific rules with waivers implemented pursuant to the suspension authorized by the March 22, 2020 proclamation. The Department is continuously monitoring the COVID-19 situation and additional guidance will be issued as the COVID-19 situation changes or additional direction is provided in future proclamations.

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES:

On March 22, 2020, Governor Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation stating a public health disaster emergency in connection with the COVID-19 outbreak. This proclamation prohibits mass gatherings of more than 10 people and planned large gatherings must be canceled or postponed until after termination of this disaster. IDPH is temporarily discontinuing administering the industrial radiography certification examination at this time. The Agency understands that this could impact applicant's abilities to maintain certification in industrial radiographic operations required by Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) 641-45.1(10).

Iowa Administrative Rules waived in accordance with the guidance described below:


- 641-45.1(10)"b"(2) No licensee or registrant shall permit any individual to act as a radiographer unless the individual has successfully completed within the last five years the appropriate agency-administered examination prescribed in 45.1"p"(2) or equivalent; and
- 641-45.1(10)"b"(3) unless the individual possesses a current I.D. card.
- 641-45.1(10)"c"(4) No individual shall act as a radiographer trainer unless such individual possesses a valid radiographer trainer card issued by the Agency.
- 641-45.1(10)"j"(3) Certified radiographers who are granted reciprocity by the agency shall maintain the certification upon which the reciprocal recognition was granted, or prior to the expiration of such certification, shall meet the requirements of 45.1(10)"b."

All other Iowa Administrative Rules not described above remain in effect.

The Agency's guidance is as follows:

- Industrial radiographers and industrial radiography trainers who possess an Iowa issued certification card with an expiration date between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020, have been automatically granted a 6-month extension to allow these individuals to continue to work beyond the expiration date listed on their identification card. This extension is only valid in the State of Iowa where IDPH maintains jurisdiction. Please make sure to confirm with other jurisdictions on whether they will accept Iowa's extension prior to using this extension to perform operations outside of Iowa. If individuals require a letter to establish proof of this extension for employment or regulatory purposes, they can contact this office directly.
- Industrial radiography certification programs outside of Iowa, including the American Society of Nondestructive testing (ASNT) that issue extensions will be recognized under the contingency policies of the issuing agencies, not to exceed 12 months past expiration date. Documentation of those policies need to be available along with the industrial radiography certification card at the site of industrial radiographic operations in Iowa.
- All Iowa industrial radiography trainee cards due to expire during the COVID-19 impacted timeframe referenced above are granted a 6-month extension. New Trainee card applications will continue to be processed as requested.

This IN requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please contact this office via email at iowaram@idph.iowa.gov.



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