

# Licensed Radiographer

The following are answers to some frequently asked questions received by the Department of Regulation and Licensing. These questions and answers are general in nature and are provided as a public service. Licensees and applicants with specific questions should refer to the Wisconsin statutes and administrative code provisions which govern their profession. In any instance in which an answer may differ from the provisions of the statutes and administrative code provisions, the latter will govern.

## 1. WHEN WILL THE APPLICATIONS BE AVAILABLE?

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.

## 2. WHAT IS CONSIDERED THE PRACTICE OF RADIOGRAPHY?

The practice of radiography means the imaging of anatomic structures produced by the application of x-rays to the human body for the purpose of medical diagnosis. This includes operation of *all* x-ray emitting devices such as computed tomography, fluoroscopy, and general diagnostic imaging.

Bone densitometry, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), sonography, nuclear medicine, and radiation therapy treatment planning are not included under Chap. 462, Stats.

## 3. WHAT IS A RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST?

A radiographer or radiologic technologist is person who has completed an approved course of study equivalent to the standards adopted by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) or a regionally accredited college or university radiography and the approved national examination. A person who has completed these requirements is eligible for licensure and may practice radiography and use the title radiographer.

## 4. WHAT IS A LIMITED X-RAY MACHINE OPERATOR (LXMO)?

LXMO is a person who has completed an approved course of study no less stringent than the standards adopted by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) and passed the limited scope examination. A person who has completed these requirements is eligible for a permit to practice as limited x-ray machine operator and use the title.

## 5. WHAT PROCEDURES ARE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF A RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST?

A radiographer may perform the following procedures: the state of Wisconsin adheres to the scope of practice as defined by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT). Please see the ASRT publication entitled "The Practice Standards for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy".

**6. WHAT PROCEDURES ARE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF A LIMITED MACHINE X-RAY OPERATOR?**

A limited x-ray machine operator means a person who may perform limited scope radiography to only those areas for which they have been approved through the appropriate testing in the Wisconsin limited scope examination, these areas have been identified as: thorax; lungs; ribs; upper and lower extremities; and lumbar spine. This does not include fluoroscopy.

Applicants can apply to any individual or combination of the modules, which are relevant to their areas of practice. For example: If an applicant performs upper and lower extremity radiographs only, the applicant need not prepare and apply for the modules that contain lungs and thorax, ribs, lumbar spine.

**7. IS BONE DENSITOMETRY WITHIN THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF RADIOGRAPHY?**

The practice of radiography does not include bone densitometry.

**8. HOW IS A LXMO APPLICANT NOTIFIED OF THEIR EXAMINATION ELIGIBILITY?**

Upon submission of a complete application, contingent upon meeting all minimum requirements, a LXMO applicant is notified by the Department of their eligibility to sit for the Wisconsin Limited Scope of Practice in Radiography examination. In order to sit for the examination applicants will be required to register directly with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and pay the ARRT the required testing fee.

**9. WHO IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A LICENSE OR PERMIT IN WISCONSIN?**

As of March 1, 2012, anyone who operates a device that utilizes x-rays for human medical diagnosis is required to hold a license to practice radiography or a permit as a limited X-Ray machine operator (LXMO) unless exempted (see below). This is pursuant to Chap. 462, Stats.

**10. ARE THERE EXEMPTIONS TO THE LICENSURE/PERMIT REQUIREMENT?**

Yes. This does not apply to a physician, physician assistant, chiropractor, dentist, dental hygienist or podiatrist who takes the images directly or a person directly supervised by a chiropractor and has completed a training program approved by the Chiropractic Examining Board or a person directly supervised by a podiatrist who has completed a training program approved by the Podiatrists Affiliated Credentialing Board.

**11. 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.

## 12. WHAT ABOUT INDIVIDUALS WHO OPERATE PET/CT AND SPECT/CT?

This specialized imaging modality is covered under s. DHS 157.80, Wis. Admin. Code, and is not included in Chap 462, Stats. If however the CT scanner is operated for diagnostic purposes, the operator must hold a radiography license.

## 13. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN A RADIOGRAPHY LICENSE?

The Radiography Examining Board may grant a license to a person who holds an active ARRT certification as a Radiologic Technologist. Active ARRT certification is evidence that the person is at least 18 years of age, holds a high school diploma or equivalent, has completed a JRCERT (Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology) approved or ARRT approved course of study and has passed the certification examination from the ARRT.

## 14. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN A LXMO PERMIT?

The Radiography Examining Board may grant a LXMO permit to a person who is at least 18 years of age, holds a high school diploma or equivalent, pays a fee, completes a Board-approved course of study provided under the auspices of a program that is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) and passes the Wisconsin limited scope examination.

There is a transitional application period that ends on February 29, 2012. During this time, an applicant may obtain a LXMO permit based upon proof of work experience in 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of application. During this period, applicants still must pass the Wisconsin limited scope examination. A sample listing of educational resources to prepare for the Limited Scope Examination (transitional application period only) are provided below.

**NOTE: The Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensing has a listing of educational programs gathered from various sources. This list is not exclusive and many other educational resources may be available. The Department does not endorse any part of this list and is not responsible for the content of any of these educational sources.**

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES		
Wisconsin Society of Radiologic Technologists		<a href="http://www.wsrj.net/">http://www.wsrj.net/</a>
Self Directed CE	Mark Hohman <a href="mailto:email@selfdirectedce.com">email@selfdirectedce.com</a>	<a href="http://selfdirectedce.com/">http://selfdirectedce.com/</a>
Basic Radiography	Patricia Raths <a href="mailto:rcraths@isd.net">rcraths@isd.net</a>	Adjunct Instructor at Argosy University, Copyright Unpublished

for X-ray Operators		Work © Patricia M. Rath
X-RAY CE	866-405-9729	<a href="http://www.xrayce.com/%20">http://www.xrayce.com/%20</a>
The X-Ray Lady	502-425-0651	<a href="http://www.x-raylady.com/">http://www.x-raylady.com/</a>
Radiographic Operations Consulting	800-929-8709	<a href="http://www.radedbyroc.com/">http://www.radedbyroc.com/</a>
Glacier Valley Medical Education	360-327-3224	<a href="http://www.glaciermedicaled.com/">http://www.glaciermedicaled.com/</a>
Radiological Educational Services	800-966-0452	<a href="http://www.reshomestudy.com/">http://www.reshomestudy.com/</a>
X-ray Operator textbook course	Eugene Frank 507-285-1319	Radiography Essentials for Limited Practice, 3rd edition. Workbook for Radiography Essentials for Limited Practice, 3rd edition.
Dakota County Technical College	Eric Mills 651-423-8249	<a href="http://www.dctc.edu/continuing-education/health-care/limited-scope-x-ray-operator.cfm">http://www.dctc.edu/continuing-education/health-care/limited-scope-x-ray-operator.cfm</a>
American Society of Radiologic Technologists		<a href="http://www.asrt.org/">http://www.asrt.org/</a>
Madison Area Technical College	Kay Parish 608-258-2478 kparish@matcmadison.edu	<a href="http://programs.matcmadison.edu/programs/radiography">http://programs.matcmadison.edu/programs/radiography</a>

Question Bank CD - available for Limited Scope exam questions

#### 15. WHAT EDUCATION DO I NEED TO OBTAIN A LXMO PERMIT?

In Wisconsin, only JRCERT accredited programs may provide Board-approved coursework to satisfy the educational requirement for a LXMO permit. Such may include: radiation protection, anatomy and physiology, radiographic positioning and technique, and image critique.

A list of JRCERT accredited programs may be found at the JRCERT website at <http://www.jrcert.org/>.

#### 16. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET MY LICENSE/PERMIT AFTER APPLICATION IS SENT?

After all items have been received and approved, the Department may issue the license or permit within 7 to 10 business days. Common reasons for a lag in application processing include, high application volumes, failure to submit all required application materials, and board review of prior disciplinary or criminal history. A person can check the status of their license or permit application on-line at (add DRL website). If your application is complete and you have not received your license after 10 business days, please contact the Department, see Contact Us.

**17. CAN I BEGIN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING A LICENSE OR PERMIT WHILE STILL IN SCHOOL?**

Yes. You may begin the application process prior to meeting all the requirements for licensure. To speed the issuance of licensure or a permit, the Board recommends that those interested in obtaining a license or permit begin the application process approximately 6 months prior to graduation or completion of your program.

**18. HOW OFTEN DO I NEED TO RENEW A LICENSE OR PERMIT?**

The license and permit is good for a period of two years which is renewable on even years. If you have been granted a license or permit on or after March 1, 2012 or before September 1, 2012 you are not required to renew until September 1, 2014.

**19. ARE THERE (CEU) CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL?**

There will be 24 units of continuing education required for each 2 year renewal period for the licensed radiographer. The LXMO will require 12 units of continuing education for the 2 year renewal period.

**20. WHAT DO I NEED TO RETAIN FOR PROOF OF (CEU) CONTINUING EDUCATION?**

Licensed Radiographer: Proof of active certification by American Registry of Radiologic Technologists shall constitute adequate proof of compliance with continuing education requirements.

LXMO: Retain certificates that are received after educational activities including, name of course, name of person attending course, course number and date. These should be kept at least 3 years in the event of an audit of credits acquired is performed.

**21. WHAT ARE THE FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE LICENSE/PERMIT?**

The fee will be \$75 for a 2 year period for both permit and license. For initial applications needing to take the Wisconsin exam, there is a \$15 exam contract fee.

**22. WHAT IF I DO NOT OBTAIN A LICENSE/PERMIT PRIOR TO MARCH 1, 2012?**

After March 1, 2012, unless otherwise exempted, you may not practice radiography or limited scope radiography without the radiography license or LXMO permit.

**23. DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD, WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS IF I CANNOT MEET THE LXMO WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT IN 3 OF THE 5 YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF APPLICATION?**

You will need to complete an *"approved course of study"* for a LXMO by March 1, 2012 and then pass the limited scope examination. If you are not currently in a limited scope radiography program or expect to finish it before the law goes into effect, another option to fulfill the education requirement is available. Currently, the Madison Area Technical College

will provide the opportunity for candidates to test out of the LXMO course requirements in order to sit for the state LXMO exam. An applicant could complete any online course and then take a test-out exam through the MATC testing center. If the candidate passes the test-out exam, MATC will provide a certificate of completion. Upon verification of completion, the applicant would be eligible to sit for the LXMO exam.

This option will only be available until **March 1, 2012**. An example of an online program is offered through Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) in Minnesota. There may be other online programs available. The Board does not specifically endorse. Applicants who are interested in this option should contact the programs directly.

**24. DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD, WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS IF I CANNOT MEET THE RADIOGRAPHY WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT IN 3 OF THE 5 YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF APPLICATION?**

You will need to document completion of an approved course of study for a radiologic technologist and successfully complete the Wisconsin State examination administered by ARRT.