

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### FDA - MQSA Rules and Regulations

Hotline: 1-800-838-7715

You can also fax your question(s) to 1-410-290-6351  
or email at MQSAhotline@hcmsllc.com

**RadComm, Inc.**  
**20 Rancho Verde**  
**Tijeras, NM 87059**  
**888-497-2923**  
**www.radcomm.net**

### RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST MAMMOGRAPHY SPECIFIC TRAINING

**Citation: 900.12(a)(2)(ii)(A)(B) and (C): Mammography requirements. All mammographic examinations shall be performed by radiologic technologists who meet the following mammography requirements: Have, prior to April 28, 1999 qualified as a radiologic technologist under paragraph (a)(2) of this section of FDA's interim regulations of December 21, 1993, or completed at least 40 contact hours of documented training specific to mammography under the supervision of a qualified instructor. The hours of documented training shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:**

**(A) Training in breast anatomy and physiology, positioning and compression, quality assurance/quality control techniques, imaging of patients with breast implants;**

**(B) The performance of a minimum of 25 examinations under the direct supervision of an individual qualified under paragraph (a)(2) of this section; and**

**(C) At least 8 hours of training in each mammography modality to be used by the technologist in performing mammography exams.**

**Copies of certificates earned or other documentation from the training provider will suffice for initial mammography specific training.**

### MQSA CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.

Following the third anniversary date of the end of the calendar quarter in which the requirements of paragraphs (a)(2)(i) and (a)(2)(ii) of this section were completed, the radiologic technologist shall have taught or completed at least **15 continuing education units in mammography during the 36 months** immediately preceding the date of the facility's annual MQSA inspection or the last day of the calendar quarter preceding the inspection or any date in between the two. The facility will choose one of these dates to determine the 36-month period.

Units earned through teaching a specific course can be counted only once towards the 15 required in paragraph (a)(2)(iii)(A) of this section, even if the course is taught multiple times during the previous 36 months.

At least six of the continuing education units required in paragraph (a)(2)(iii)(A) of this section shall be related to each mammographic modality used by the technologist.

**REQUALIFICATION.** Radiologic technologists who fail to meet the continuing education requirements of paragraph (a)(2)(iii)(A) of this section shall obtain a sufficient number of continuing education units in mammography to bring their total up to at least 15 in the previous 3 years, at least 6 of which shall be related to each modality used by the technologist in mammography. The technologist may not resume performing unsupervised mammography examinations until the continuing education requirements are completed.

Before a radiologic technologist may begin independently performing mammographic examinations using a mammographic modality other than one of those for which the technologist received training under paragraph (a)(2)(ii)(C) of this section, the technologist shall have at least 8 hours of continuing education units in the new modality.

### MQSA CONTINUING EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS.

Following the second anniversary date of the end of the calendar quarter in which the requirements of paragraphs (a)(2)(i) and (a)(2)(ii) of this section were completed or of April 28, 1999, whichever is later, **the radiologic technologist shall have performed a minimum of 200 mammography examinations during the 24 months immediately preceding the date of the facility's annual MQSA inspection** or the last day of the calendar quarter preceding the inspection or any date in between the two. The facility will choose one of these dates to determine the 24-month period.

**REQUALIFICATION.** Radiologic technologists who fail to meet the continuing experience requirements of paragraph (a)(2)(iv)(A) of this section shall perform a minimum of 25 mammography examinations under the direct supervision of a qualified radiologic technologist, before resuming the performance of unsupervised mammography examinations.

## **ARRT Continuing Education Requirements:**

American Registry of Radiologic Technologists®  
1255 Northland Drive  
St. Paul MN 55120  
(651) 687-0048, ext. 8540  
www.arrt.org

**RadComm, Inc.  
20 Rancho Verde  
Tijeras, NM 87059  
888-497-2923  
www.radcomm.net**

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION**

Once certified, R.T.s must renew their ARRT registration of the certificate each year. Every other year, they are required to report compliance with ARRT's continuing education requirements.

### **BIENNIUM REPORTING CYCLE**

The CE requirements are linked to a two-year cycle (biennium) that is defined in relation to a registrant's birth month. The biennium begins on the first day of the registrant's birth month. The biennium extends for two years to the end of the month prior to the birth month.

### **OPTIONS FOR SATISFYING CE REQUIREMENTS DURING A BIENNIUM**

There are three options for meeting the CE requirements. Only one option must be met to satisfy the requirements. The options are:

1. Earn 24 CE credits that meet the criteria set forth by the ARRT;
2. Pass a primary examination in a discipline not previously passed and for which the individual is eligible;
3. Pass one of the post-primary examinations not previously passed and for which the individual is eligible.

### **CE REQUIREMENT FOR R.T. CERTIFIED IN BOTH RADIOLOGY AND MAMMOGRAPHY**

Mammography technologists need to earn only 24 credits per biennium for the ASRT. To simplify, let's assume that the technologist obtains 12 credits per year. In order to comply with MQSA's continuing education requirement of 15 mammography-specific credits during a 36-month period, the mammography technologist would be wise to obtain at least 5 mammography credits of the 12 obtained annually.

## **ARRT LEGISLATION**

- **CQ2011: Continued Qualifications**

ARRT certifications awarded **January 1, 2011**, and thereafter will be time-limited to 10 years. Prior to the end of the 10-year period, the individual will be required to demonstrate continued qualifications in order to continue to hold the certification. **But, ARRT certifications that are awarded prior to January 1, 2011, and that are kept currently registered, will not be subject to Continued Qualifications requirements.**

- **Applications Training Capped at Eight CE Credits - Effective January 1, 2011.**

The ARRT Board of Trustees adopted the decision to **cap applications training at eight credits, per biennium, for technologists** and applications specialists or trainers. The cap applies only to onsite, facility training and the requirement goes into effect **January 1, 2011**. Online, webinar or corporate facility training is not affected.

## **FUTURE ARRT LEGISLATION**

- **2015: Associate degree requirement for primary pathway to ARRT certification**

Only affects individuals graduating from an educational program leading to primary certification in Radiography, Nuclear Medicine Technology, Radiation Therapy, Sonography, or Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Beginning **January 1, 2015**, certification candidates must have earned an academic degree. Anyone graduating on or before December 31, 2014, will be exempted from the degree requirement.

The regulation states that candidates graduating on or after **January 1, 2015**, must have earned an associate degree, baccalaureate degree, or graduate degree from an institution accredited by a mechanism acceptable to the ARRT. The degree does not need to be in radiologic sciences. The degree may be earned before entering the professional educational program, after graduation from the program, or may be awarded by the program, but must be awarded prior to the candidate being granted eligibility to sit for the ARRT examination.