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**State certified additional education
and training in medical physics**

Recommendation of the German Commission on Radiological Protection

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Empfehlung der Strahlenschutzkommission

**In the event of any doubts about the meaning,
the German original as published shall prevail.**

- (1) One of the major radiation protection requirements in medicine is to guarantee the expertise of persons in charge of radiation protection, such as the "especially trained physicist or other adequately instructed persons" operating accelerators, gamma radiation units and remote-controlled afterloading equipment.
- (2) This requirement is expressed in the EC Council Guideline 84/466 Euratom of 3 September, 1984, article 5:
"a qualified expert in radiophysics shall be available to sophisticated departments of radiotherapy and nuclear medicine".
- (3) For adaption by German law serves the "Guideline on Radiation Protection in Medicine", currently undergoing revision, in addition to § 19 StrlSchV (Radiation Protection ordinance). In annex 2, the guideline regulates the "aquisition of expertise in radiation protection of those in charge of radiation protection who are not medical or dental physicians" by the requirements of
 - a) prior professional training (university or equivalent academic study);
 - b) expertise (professionell experience) acquired on accelerators or gamma-radiation equipment during a training period of 24 months of which at least 6 months on accelerators or gamma-radiation, respectively;
 - c) participation in radiation protection training courses (basic course 24 hrs., special course 48 hrs.).
- (4) The Commission on Radiological Protection furthermore recognizes the following recommendations and legal regulations:
 - a) vote of the Federal Health Council; Federal Health Circular Nr. 8 (1986) 251-252. In this publication the Federal Health Council is reconfirming its vote of 1974 for additional education and training in medical physics and is extending the basic requirement by a alternatively, completed physics study by, alternatively, a completed study of a technical physics discipline of the engineering sciences and demands that legal means will be provided for examining the qualifying certification of completed additional education and training in medical physics.
 - b) law of 26 November, 1987, in regard to ownership of the professional title of Medical physicist; Law- and Ordinance Circular for Berlin, 43rd edition, Nr. 70, 9-12-1987, p. 2673-2674; regulating the basic requirements (completed study of physics or a technical physics discipline of the engineering sciences, 3-years professional experience and 360 hrs of additional education and training or supplemental study.
 - c) disposition Nr. 2 of 2 February, 1981, in regard to postgraduate study at universities and equivalent academic institutions of the German Democratic Republic, GB.I Nr. 8, p. 91 and instruction on the postgraduate study of natural science and technical university cadres as well as for graduated psychologists and sociologists in the public health services of 1 April, 1981; dispositions and communications of the Ministry of Health, Nr. 4, 1981, p. 61-64. Established herein were principles and details on the state certified qualification as medical physicist. At that time,

about 250 persons in the GDR went through this additional education and training program.

- d) enactment of the Austrian Ministry for Science and Research of 9 January, 1989, GZ 69142/9-15/88 "academic course for postgraduate additional education and training in medical physics" on the basis of the general university study law, for additional training with the recognition as "academically certified medical physicist" upon completion.
- (5) The Commission on Radiological Protection is furthermore convinced that the additional education and training program as it is already voluntarily practised within the European Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (EFOMP) and the German Society of Medical Physics (DGMP) corresponds with these requirements, in particular in the form of the Berlin law.
- (6) In view of the continuous professional and legal development, the Commission on Radiological Protection is of the opinion that the earlier mentioned requirements for radiation protection in medicine can be excellently fulfilled also in today's entire Federal Republic of Germany by state certified additional education and training in the field of medical physics. Therefore, the Commission on Radiological Protection is emphatically in support of all necessary steps towards the establishment of a state certified additional education and training in medical physics with an appropriate conclusion.
- (7) From a legal view, this is seen as a further contribution toward conformity with EC Guideline 84/466 Euratom. As soon as the state certified additional education and training program is introduced, it should be incorporated into the "Guideline for Radiation Protection in Medicine" as another possible approach towards the acquisition of expert qualification. The Commission on Radiological Protection recognizes that the proposed state certified additional education and training would also provide physicists with the required professional knowledge about further equipment and methods used in medicine. The Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety is requested to initiate appropriate action by the Federal Government.