New California Radiography Supervisor and Operator Permit Examination Launches July 1, 2018

The California Department of Public Health, Radiologic Health Branch (RHB) is pleased to announce that as of July 1, 2018, The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists® (ARRT®) will develop and administer the California Radiography Supervisor and Operator Permit Examination on behalf of the State of California. This examination will replace the examination previously developed by the State of California. Starting April 1, 2018, applicants will be provided with specific information about the new examination implementation date along with the new and the previous examination content specifications. After July 1, 2018, applicants will be provided only with the new examination content specifications.

Purpose of the Examination
The purpose of the examination is to assess the knowledge and cognitive skills expected of licentiates who supervise operators of radiographic equipment or who operate radiographic equipment themselves.

Preparing for the new California Radiography Supervisor and Operator Examination:
The table below presents the major content categories and the number of test questions appearing in each category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Number of Scored Questions</th>
<th>Testing Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient Care</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety*</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image Production</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1 hour and 55 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* International System of Units (SI) are the primary (principle) units of radiation measurement used on this examination.
The Content Specifications for the California Radiography Supervisor and Operator Permit Examination, with a detailed listing of the topics included on the examination, will be available to applicants on April 2, 2018. This document should guide candidates as they prepare for the examination. Candidates should make certain that they have a working knowledge of all of the content listed in the Content Specifications for the California Radiography Supervisor and Operator Permit Examination.

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) publishes online modules and directed readings that may be helpful in preparing for the examination. These educational materials are available for purchase through the ASRT website beginning April 2, 2018.

The previous examinations referenced the California Code of Regulations for specific equipment requirements and radiation dose limits, as presented in the Radiography Syllabus that served as the examination’s study material. The new examination content is referenced to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement (NCRP) Reports and the Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (21 CFR), the U.S. Food and Drug Administrations’ regulations pertaining to X-ray machine standards. The ASRT’s directed readings address the NCRP recommendations and 21 CFR requirements. Because of these changes in content references, RHB’s Radiography Syllabus is being retired on June 30, 2018, and should not be used as study material for the ARRT-developed examination.

Application and Fees:
Administration of the new California Radiography Supervisor and Operator Permit Examination will begin on July 1, 2018. The previous examination, and the accompanying syllabus, will no longer be available after June 30, 2018. Those interested in taking the California Radiography Supervisor and Operator Permit Examination must apply by using RHB’s form CDPH 8230 (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/CDPH%20Document%20Library/ControlledForms/cdph8230.pdf).

Starting April 1, 2018, applicants will be provided with specific information about the new examination implementation date along with the new and the previous examination content specifications. After July 1, 2018, applicants will be provided only with the new content specifications. Those candidates that wish to take the previous (current) examination will need to be sure to take all necessary steps to have their examination date occur before June 30, 2018.

In addition, the examination fee will change after June 30, 2018. Candidates who pay the examination fee to ARRT either online by credit card or by cashier’s check or money order postmarked after June 30, 2018, will be charged a fee of $275.00. Candidates who pay the examination fee to ARRT either online by credit card or by cashier’s check or money order postmarked on or before June 30, 2018, will be charged the current posted fee of $250.00.
Scores:  
Percent correct scores for the *California Radiography Supervisor and Operator Permit Examination* will be provided to the California RHB by the ARRT. The RHB will then notify the candidates of their scores and of their pass-fail status.

Examination Development:  
The ARRT conducted a practice analysis on a nationwide sample of radiographers to identify the tasks typically associated with the performance of imaging procedures using radiographic equipment. The content of the examination reflects the knowledge and cognitive skills required to safely and effectively perform the selected tasks.

Advantages of the new California Radiography Supervisor and Operator Permit Examination:  

Examination Updated Annually:  
The examination will be updated annually by a panel of subject matter experts and no question will be included on the examination unless it has been approved by this panel of experts. The panel will be composed of physicians, physicists and radiographers.

The Examination Questions Verified:  
All of the questions on the new examination are written by experts with specific radiographic knowledge and experience. Once written, the questions are reviewed by a panel of experts. Questions are approved for use on the examination only if the panel believes that the questions are technically accurate, written to the appropriate level of difficulty, and relevant to current practice.

The Examination Questions have been Pre-tested:  
All of the questions on the new examination have been pre-tested at a national level and meet stringent psychometric standards. This means that the questions are not too difficult nor too easy. It also means that the questions’ statistics indicate that candidates who do better on the examination overall are not confused by the questions and are more likely to answer the question correctly than those who do poorly on the examination.

All of the Examination Forms are Controlled for Difficulty:  
Even though new forms of the examination are developed using the same set of content specifications and rigorous quality control standards, any two forms may differ slightly in overall difficulty. Rasch One-Parameter Item Response Theory question calibrations are used to evaluate the difficulty of each examination form and to minimize differences in form difficulty.

Efficient and Accurate Reporting of Candidate Scores:  
Highly detailed quality control procedures are followed to assure that exam scores are accurate. The State of California notifies the candidates of their results.
For questions regarding requirements and the application process, please contact:

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