

CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON EXAMINATION AND CERTIFICATION REPORT

December 1999

The Sub-Committee on Examination and Certification after due discussion and evaluation of the sub-committee's charge, is recommending that the following findings be implemented into regulation by the Department (DHS).

The Sub-Committee recommends that:

- The Department exercise its authority per Section 1262 and 1264 of the Business and Professions code (BPC) and accept National professional certification examinations in lieu of State licensure examinations, whose requirements are equal to or greater than those required by Chapter 3 and regulations established by the Department with limitations as follows.

Intent: This language recommends the Department exercise its authority as defined by BPC Section 1262 and 1264 and is the first charge to the sub-committee.

- The examinations of national accrediting agencies shall be evaluated and approved on format, quality and content of examinations by the Department with the assistance of the CLTAC with at least four persons appointed by the Department to include, but not limited to:
 - An individual licensed under Chapter 3 as a clinical laboratory scientist or specialist;
 - A psychometrician; and
 - An educator who is licensed under Chapter 3 as a CLS.

Intent: This language is mandated by BPC Section 1262 and 1264 and should be placed into regulation. It is part of the second charge to the sub-committee. The language directs the Department to provide a continuous quality assurance mechanism for evaluating the format, content and quality of the national examinations. It is also part of the standards as directed in charge number four to the committee.

- The examinations will be evaluated/reevaluated at least every 5 years by the appointed committee. All approved examinations must be nationally recognized. Standards for approval of accrediting organizations examinations shall be set in regulations submitted by the Department. Standards shall include, but not limited to, quality of testing process, availability to State candidates, cost and willingness to allow review of test format.

- **Intent: This language should be placed into regulation. The language insures the national recognition of eligible examinations, as well as, directs the Department to provide continuous Quality Assurance mechanisms for evaluating the format, content and quality of the examinations. It is also part of the standards as directed in charge number four to the sub-committee.**
- The Department shall maintain the exclusive authority to approve the eligibility of a candidate for these examinations for the purposes of California licensure. National organizations would be expected to accept any candidate for examination who has been approved by DHS as having met all requirements for education, training and experience. These candidates may not necessarily meet that organization's certification requirements.

Intent: This language should become regulation. By maintaining the exclusive authority for a candidate's eligibility to take the national examination, DHS satisfies all the other statutory requirements for BPC Sections 1222, 1262, and 1264 as well as the training regulations. It is also part of charge number two and four to the sub-committee. It also eliminates the necessity to address charge number three to the sub-committee.

- Candidates applying for licensure in California must have passed a California-approved examination within five years immediately preceding enactment of regulations. Individuals not licensed in the previous year must have completed 12 units of continuing education before licensure.

Intent: This language should be incorporated in regulation. It is also mandated by BPC Section 1262 and establishes a set point for the "equal to or greater than" clause of BPC Section 1262. It is part of charge number four to the sub-committee.

- For any national examination adopted for licensure, the Department shall assess the candidate's knowledge of California State laboratory laws and regulations separately from the licensure examination.
- The Department shall establish regulations, which shall comply with these recommendations, as well as, the requirements of Section 1262 of the Business and Professions Code.
- Adoption of national accrediting examinations for new or current licensure examinations for the limited scientists specialties and subspecialties and scientist directors limited to the areas of their specialties shall serve as a phase-in period. Adoption of national accrediting examinations for Clinical Laboratory Scientist licensure shall not be included in this phase-in period.

Intent: This language defines and limits the Department to the implementation of the process via a phase-in period in order to allow for the opportunity to adequately evaluate, develop and modify, if necessary, the process. This trial period however, allows DHS to provide an immediate mechanism to adopt and implement licensure examinations for those new categories of licensure or certifications created by the department.

- A report on the status of the phase-in period shall be generated annually by the Department for review by the Clinical Laboratory Technology Advisory Committee (CLTAC). The term of the phase-in period shall not be more than 3 years before other licensure categories shall be considered. The Department shall provide annual reports to the Clinical Laboratory Technology Advisory Committee (CLTAC) about the use of national examinations for licensing of laboratory personnel.

Intent: This language provides for continuous quality reviews, opportunities for public comment and appropriate oversight of the trial period by members of the regulated community as defined by BPC Section 1228.

