



## Missouri Radiation Control Program Guidance Document/Frequently Asked Question

See below for regulatory guidance on the following issue. If you have additional questions, you may contact the Missouri Radiation Control Program at [MRCP@health.mo.gov](mailto:MRCP@health.mo.gov) or 573-751-6083

### What are the state regulatory Requirements for X-ray Operators in Missouri?

Overall, Missouri is currently one of only five (5) states (MO, AL, ID, NC, & SD) that does NOT have any statewide licensure requirements. In other words, a person does NOT have to be licensed to operate x-ray equipment, and in fact no such license exists in Missouri.

There are a few exceptions to the above, based on specific imaging modality:

- **Mammography equipment operators** must be registered with the American Registry of Radiological Technologists (ARRT) as well as having additional specialized training, per both federal FDA rules as well as state rule 19 CSR 30-11.050
- **Portable x-ray equipment operators** (providing x-ray services in nursing homes or for home health agencies) that are employed by Medicare-certified Portable X-ray providers must be registered with the American Registry of Radiological Technologists (ARRT) per federal rules.
- **Many individual facilities set their own credentialing standards, or are part of voluntary accreditation organizations, or participate in insurance agreements which may have their own requirements.** Many hospitals and clinics require that only physicians, ARRT Radiologic Technologists, or students in an ARRT-approved training program can operate x-ray equipment. Although ARRT registration is by far the most common standard, it should be noted this is NOT a statewide requirement, or equivalent to mandatory licensure.

#### **Overall facility responsibility to ensure safe usage of x-ray equipment.**

State Law 192.430, RSMo states: “*All sources of radiation shall be shielded, transported, handled, used and kept so as to prevent all users thereof and all persons within effective range of them from being exposed to unnecessary radiation.*” Moreover, rules and regulations of many of the professional registration boards of Missouri do require that equipment be operated by competent personnel, but “competence” may be determined in large degree by the physician in charge of the facility.

In summary, each facility that owns or controls x-ray equipment is responsible to ensure that x-ray equipment is used competently and safely. However, other than the exceptions noted above, setting the standards for training and experience is largely left up to the individual facility, and the type of x-ray usage that the facility practices in Missouri.

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