

May 14, 2008

Dear Mammographer:

I have just returned from a seminar about the final MQSA rules. There was a lot of discussion (and confusion) about medical physicist involvement when your mammography machines or processor requires "major repairs". We have previously sent you a table that outlines MP involvement, but I think this update will make things clearer for you.

The MQSA rules **require the medical physicist to perform an equipment evaluation on-site** under the following circumstances:

- X-ray tube replacement
- Collimator replacement
- AEC/AEC circuit board replacement
- Generator replacement
- Bucky replacement (if involving AEC circuit replacement)
- Filter replacement
- Processor replacement or major overhaul
- Relocation of X-ray unit (unless it is a mobile unit)
- Software upgrade

Medical physicist oversight (**we don't have to be there**) is required under the following circumstances:

- Density Control internal adjustment
- Internal adjustment for AEC thickness compensation
- Internal adjustment of mAs, kVp, timer
- Cassette replacement if a different screen speed
- Collimator adjustment
- Thickness scale accuracy adjustment
- Compression paddle adjustment or replacement
- Film type change
- Bucky replacement (without AEC change)

You should keep this letter handy so you know when to contact us about inspecting your machine. We will do our best to perform the required tests as soon as we can. For the situations that require only MP oversight we will provide you with documentation necessary for the MQSA. I hope this letter settles some of the confusion about when MP involvement is necessary.

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