

# Office of Radiological Health

## X-RAY BULLETIN

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### ORH-705: Policy on Bone Densitometry Equipment and Operator Licensure Reissued Dec. 5, 2018

The Virginia Department of Health, Office of Radiological Health's Radiation Protection Regulations address Bone Densitometry Equipment and Operator Licensure. Operator licensure of this equipment is required by law and is regulated by the Department of Health Professions, Board of Medicine.

This bulletin provides additional detail that may be useful to operators as well as public and private inspectors. A state X-Ray inspection shall be conducted by a state or private inspector every three years or after major repairs whichever is sooner.

1. Quality control checks must be performed according to manufacturer's specifications. This may involve the use of a phantom. Quality control results should be documented before the unit is used on patients to ensure the values are within manufacturer tolerances. Operator's manuals should be available for reference.
2. Each facility shall maintain an X-ray log or other record-keeping device containing the patient's name, type of examination performed, the date of the examination, and the name of the person conducting the examination.
3. The X-ray equipment should have a Warning Statement, legible and accessible to view. There should be some indication of radiation exposure during the exam either visual or audible.
4. A scatter radiation survey should be conducted around the unit during operation and at the operator's position. A diagram should be prepared indicating the survey readings. Other data, if feasible, would be radiation exposure output, reproducibility, and HVL. If it is determined that the operator is likely to receive 10% of the maximum permissible dose (MPD) in a calendar quarter, dosimetry will be required.
5. Individuals operating the equipment must be licensed by the Board of Medicine. Individuals working in hospitals and nursing homes are exempt from the licensing requirement. A limited license is available for bone density equipment. More information can be obtained by contacting the Board of Medicine at (804) 367-3051.