



Commission for the Protection From Ionising and Non-Ionising Radiation

F22, Mosta Technopark,
Triq Valletta, Mosta
Email: info.rpc@gov.mt
Website: rpc.gov.mt
Tel: 27998676

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Criteria for the Recognition of Medical Physics Experts

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1 Overview

The Basic Safety Standards for Ionising Radiation regulations, SL585.01, hence forth referred to as the regulations, requires certain undertakings to make use of the services of a Medical Physics Expert (MPE).

The regulations have provisions on:

- The role of the MPEs;
- The obligations of undertakings with respect to MPEs; and
- The need for MPEs to be approved against criteria by the Commission for the Protection from Ionising and Non-Ionising Radiation hence forth referred to as the Commission.

This document provides the legal basis and the approval criteria for MPEs.

2 References to MPE in the Regulations

2.1 Definition of MPE

The definition of an MPE is given in Regulation 4 as:

“an individual having the knowledge, training and experience to act or give advice on matters relating to radiation physics applied to medical exposure, whose competence in this respect is recognised by the Commission;”

2.2 Undertakings obligations with respect to appointing MPEs

Regulation 68(b) gives the obligations of undertakings with respect to the appointment of MPEs

“Undertakings shall ensure that:(b) in medical radiological practices, a medical physics expert shall be appropriately involved, the level of involvement being commensurate with the radiological risk posed and is given in the Table (given in 20th Schedule):

...

Practice	Level of Involvement of the MPE	Contractual agreement between undertaking and the MPE
<i>External Beam Radiotherapy</i>	<i>Close involvement: To be present on site for at least part of the working day and to be available for consultation as required for any individual patient-specific issues</i>	<i>Documented agreement between undertaking and MPE</i>
<i>Brachytherapy</i>		
<i>Other Radiotherapeutic practices (Excluding standardized nuclear medicine practices)</i>		
<i>Standardised nuclear medicine radiotherapeutic procedures</i>	<i>Shall be involved: Monitor practices regularly and be available for consultation as required, and to respond for any individual patient-specific issues</i>	<i>Documented agreement between undertaking and MPE</i>
<i>Diagnostic nuclear medicine procedures</i>		
<i>Interventional Radiology</i>		
<i>Computed Tomography</i>		
<i>Other high dose radio-diagnostic practices</i>		
<i>Health Screening</i>		
<i>Other medical radiological practices not covered by above points</i>	<i>Involved as appropriate</i>	<i>None required</i>

2.3 Role of the MPE

The role of the MPE is given in Regulation 107 which states:

“(1) Medical physics experts are to act or give specialist advice, as appropriate, on matters relating to radiation physics for implementing the requirements set out in Part VII and in paragraph (b) of regulation 31(1).

(2) Depending on the medical radiological practice, the medical physics expert shall take responsibility for dosimetry, including physical measurements for evaluation of the dose delivered to the patient and other individuals subject to medical exposure, give advice on medical radiological equipment, and contribute in particular to the following:

(a) radiation protection programme;

(b) development of safety culture;

- (c) *optimisation of the radiation protection of patients and other individuals subject to medical exposure, including the application and use of diagnostic reference levels;*
- (d) *the definition and performance of quality assurance programmes of the medical radiological equipment;*
- (e) *testing of medical radiological equipment;*
 - (f) *the preparation of technical specifications for medical radiological equipment and installation design;*
- (g) *the surveillance of the medical radiological installations;*
 - (h) *the analysis of events involving, or potentially involving, accidental or unintended medical exposures;*
- (i) *the selection of equipment required to perform radiation protection measurements;*
 - (j) *the training of practitioners and other staff in relevant aspects of radiation protection.*
- (3) *The medical physics expert shall, where appropriate, liaise with the radiation protection expert”*

2.4 Role of the Commission

Regulation 108 states:

“The Commission shall issue approval certificates for medical physics experts for a validity period of not greater than a period of five years in a specialty (radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, diagnostic and interventional radiology)”

The Commission has decided that the approval validity of MPE certificates shall be that of 5 years.

MPE's will be recognised in one or more of the following areas:

- 1 Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology
- 2 Nuclear Medicine
- 3 Radiotherapy

Further to Regulation 102(3) the Commission may specify limitations in the approval certificate to areas that the applicant has demonstrated experience in

Regulation 102(3) states

“Commission shall issue approval certificates... and approval certificates shall be time limited and may specify limitations”

2.5 Criteria for Initial MPE Certification

The criteria set by virtue of regulation 109(1) is that MPEs for initial certification shall meet the following requirements:

“Medical physics experts shall meet the following criteria for initial certification by the Commission:

- (a) be registered by the Council for the Professions complimentary to Medicine in Malta as a medical physicist; and*
- (b) two years documented full time work experience, within the preceding 28 months, in specialty (radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, diagnostic and interventional radiology) with documented CPD.”*

With regard to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) the Commission will require documented CPD that is a combination of 150 points from CPD, as outlined in 3.2.

2.6 Criteria for Renewal MPE Certification

The criteria set by virtue of regulation 109(2) is that MPEs for re-certification shall meet the following requirements:

“Medical physics experts shall meet the following criteria for re-certification by the Commission:

(a) 48 months full time work experience in their specialty during the valid approval period, but not necessary 48 consecutive months.

(b) Documented CPD since the last certificate issued.”

With regard to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) the Commission will require documented CPD that is a combination of 150 points from CPD, as outlined in 3.2.

3 Applying for initial or reapproval of MPE status

MPEs will be recognised in one of the following areas:

- 1 Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology
- 2 Nuclear Medicine
- 3 Radiotherapy

Further administrative details of the application process will be elaborated by the Commission.

An application fee of 150 Euro (non-refundable) will be charged by the Commission per application.

The Commission shall process applications within 2 months. In the event that certification (or re-certification) is refused, the Commission shall state which criteria are not met.

3.1 General Application procedure for initial and reapproval

All applications, either for initial or renewal of MPE status shall, along with the completed application form, provide:

- 1 Copy of Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine (CPCM) registration as a Medical Physicist.
- 2 For initial approval, evidence of two years documented full time work experience post being awarded an MSc in the area of Medical Physics, and within the preceding 28 months, in specialty (radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, diagnostic and interventional radiology). For reapproval, evidence of 48 months full time work experience in their specialty during the valid approval period, but not necessary 48 consecutive months. The evidence in both cases shall include a resume of work activities performed and signed off by a professional who has direct contact knowledge of the work performed by the candidate. In the case of full time employment professionals should include for example the head of department or an official in the capacity of employer who can validate the work experience.
- 3 Evidence of 150 points documented CPD as per Section 3.2.

4 Application fee (non-refundable).

3.1.1 Re-approval application

Re-approval submission date should be at least two months prior to the expiry date.

3.1.2 Overseas applications

Applicants from overseas need to meet all the requirements, including the need for registration by CPCM.

3.2 Continuous Professional Development points system

The Continuous Professional development (CPD) system is designed in order that candidates can demonstrate that they have:

- a) the knowledge of radiation protection techniques relating to medical exposures, and
- b) the ability to develop and provide appropriate advice with those topics on which the MPE is expected to provide advice.

With regards to CPD, applicants must be able to demonstrate having a combination of Categories 1, 2 and 3 from Section 3.2, and attaining a total of at least 150 points (except if the provisions of 3.3 apply). The combination shall include:

Minimum of 15 Points (10%) from	Category 1	(Regulatory Learning Activities)
Minimum of 30 Points (20%) from	Category 2	(General Learning Activities)
Minimum of 75 Points (50%) from	Category 3	(Practice Activities)

It is important that on-going records of CPD are maintained. CPD Points system for MPEs is shown in the below tables

MPE Regulatory Learning Activities (Category 1)				
Ref	Activity (Carried out within the last 5 years)	Max Pts per year	Max Pts per 5 years	Minimum Points in 5 years
1.1	Attending a national meeting on radiation protection legislation in Malta, Such meetings be notified to the Commission 2 points per hour	8	20	15

MPE General Learning activities (Category 2)

Ref	Activity (Carried out within the last 5 years)	Max Pts per year	Max Pts per 5 years	Minimum Points in 5 years
2.1	Attendance at international, radiological meeting 2 point per hour	15	25	30
2.2	Attendance at, national radiological meetings of professional societies 1 point per hour	4	10	
2.3	Attending a radiation related course/workshop organised within an undertaking 0.5 point per hour	4	10	
2.4	Online virtual real-time radiation related meeting or presentation 0.5 point per hour	4	10	
2.5	Planned self-directed radiation related learning, e.g computer-based e-learning. 2 point per topic	2	10	
2.6	Visits to overseas departments for special training 4 point per day	12	20	
2.7	Membership of medical physics related body, committee, working group or official sub-committees 2 points per year	2	10	
2.8	Formal non-radiation safety related on the job training activities and experiences, e.g. development of interpersonal skills, time management etc. 1 point per topic	2	10	

MPE Practice Activities (Category 3)				
Ref	Activity (Carried out within the last 5 years)	Max Pts per year	Max Pts per 5 yr	Minimum Points in 5 years
3.1	Documented advice to undertaking on regulatory obligations related to medical exposures 2 points per documented activity	4	20	75
3.2	Documented contribution to the development of the radiation protection programme within an undertaking 2 points per documented activity	4	12	
3.3	Documented example of the development of safety culture within an organisation 2 points per documented activity	4	12	
3.4	Documented example of optimisation of the radiation protection of patients and other individuals subject to medical exposure, including the application and use of diagnostic reference levels; 2 points per documented activity	8	24	
3.5	Development of quality assurance programmes of the medical radiological equipment 4 points per documented activity	4	12	
3.6	Development of testing protocols for medical radiological equipment 2 points per protocol;	4	12	
3.7	The preparation of technical specifications for medical radiological equipment and installation design 2 points per specification	4	12	
3.8	Development of new technique in medical exposure 8 point per technique	16	24	
3.9	Incident report of events involving, or potentially involving, accidental or unintended medical exposures 2 points per investigation	4	12	
3.10	Training of practitioners and other staff in relevant aspects of radiological aspects of medical exposures 1point per contact hour	4	20	
3.11	Preparation and delivery of formal lectures or seminars, 1st presentation 4 points per development and delivery of 1 hour lecture	8	16	
3.12	Repeat delivery of formal lectures or seminars. 0.5 points per hour of repeat delivery	2	10	
3.13	Supervision and mentoring of physics staff 2 points per 8 contact hours with 1 or more staff member(s)	6	18	
3.14	Publication of a paper in a recognised scientific journal Points dependent on the contribution of the author (Lead author=50 Co-author= 50/number of authors)	50	50	
3.15	Oral or poster presentation at a congress, 10 points for oral presentation at international event 5 points for poster presentation at international event 5 points for oral presentation at national event 2 points for poster presentation at national event	10	30	

4 CPD Transitional provisions

A reduced number of CPD (refer to 3.2) points are indicated in the below table.

When applicant applies relative to publication date of this document	Period of CPD pts to be collected in	Minimum Percentage points needed in each of the three categories
25-Oct-21 to 24-Oct-23	2 years prior to application	50%
25-Oct-23 to 24-Oct-24	3 years prior to application	60%
25-Oct-24 to 24-Oct-25	4 years prior to application	60%
25-Oct-25 to 24-Oct-26	5 years prior to application	80%
Post 25-Oct-26	5 years prior to application	100%

5 MPE Register

All new applicants will have their name and their MPE recognition area included in a publicly available list maintained by the Commission.

Revision History

Prepared by	Approved by	Approval Date	Summary of change
P Brejza	Board	25 Oct 2021	Initial version in Microsoft Word
P Brejza	Board	16 Oct 2023 (last issue date)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Update of document to take into account 2022 amendments to regulation 106 of the BSS namely removal of 109(1)(b) and (c) – Mentioning that the Commission can issue limitations to the MPE certificates in line with Reg 102(3) – Information on professionals who can sign off work experience (section 3.1) – Insertion of dates into transitional period Section 3.3
P Brejza	P Brejza	24-Jan-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review and conversion to new format – Change of name from Doc 54 to GDL-02