

Preparing to Take the Radiography Supervisor's or Fluoroscopy Certification Test?

Here's what you need to know.

Resources for preparing for the test.

The California Radiologic Health Branch enforces a state law that requires physicians and surgeons to be permitted in order to perform or supervise individuals operating x-ray equipment and to operate fluoroscopy equipment during an operation. This is true even though you may have been in practice in another state and utilizing fluoroscopy in surgery for many years.

It can take 6 months to get through this testing process – so get started early. You can apply to sit for the test even before you arrive in California or complete your orthopaedic training program.

Here are the Steps:

Step 1 Go to the RHB website to print the application:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/CDPH%20Document%20Library/ControlledForms/cdph8230.pdf>
Application must be submitted via regular mail to the RHB along with the application and supporting documents (valid physician license). Only certain health care professionals are allowed to take the test.

Step 2 RHB Registration and Certification Support Unit reviews the application and issues a letter of eligibility via regular mail if the candidate is qualified to sit for the test or if not eligible what is still needed for consideration of your application. RHB typically acts within 30 days from receipt of your application.

RHB enters the candidate information into the StateRHC.org database.

Step 3 Once the candidate receives their eligibility letter, they have one year to sit for the test. If they miss this deadline, they can request an extension. The American Registry of Radiology Technologists (ARRT) administers all of the RHB certification tests – 24 different categories of tests – including fluoroscopy. Handbook for candidates sitting for California Certification test: https://www.arrt.org/docs/default-source/state-licensing/fluoroscopy-handbook.pdf?sfvrsn=58a801fc_30

Within 10 days, the ARRT assigns the candidate an ID number and they mail the candidate a “candidate status report” and an overview of the test – no study materials. The candidate has 90 days to get scheduled to take the Certification test. Candidate must pay the ARRT the examination. Have to pay the fee at least 30 days before taking the test.

Step 4 Once the candidate receives their ID number they can go on-line or call – Pearson Vue – (www.pearsonvue.com/arrt) the entity that ARRT contracts with to administer the test to schedule their test. Candidates must go to a physical Pearson Vue testing center which are located throughout California.

There can be a delay in being able to sit for a test -sometimes 1-2 month delay. Particularly, in the spring when many candidates are sitting for various certification tests.

Pearson Vue is a national testing entity. A physician in Colorado could sit for the California fluoroscopy certification at a Pearson Vue testing site in Colorado – don't have to be located in California. Pearson Vue administers certification tests for hundreds of national and state entities of many different professions - (list attached). There can be delays in getting scheduled to take your test depending on available test times at your nearest testing site. Candidates can travel to other testing sites in order to take the test more quickly. If you are trying to take the test in the spring, when many schools are graduating candidates, there can be additional delays in getting scheduled for the test. Testing slots are assigned on a first come basis regardless of your testing deadlines.

Pearson Vue reports the test results to ARRT who has the responsibility of distributing the test results to the candidates. For some certification tests, not fluoroscopy, the candidate is given a preliminary report of their test results on the screen immediately after they finish taking the test. No documents are printed at the test center – not even the preliminary certificate.

ARRT sends the test results to the RHB on a weekly basis. The Registration and Certification Support Unit handles the test results and ultimately reports the test results/Certificate to the candidate via regular mail, they say within 45 days after taking the exam. It can actually take longer – 2 months – to receive the mailed communication.

What do You Need to Know About the Test?

It's a tough test. Do not just assume you will pass without studying.

The test is all about radiation safety and extensively tests your knowledge of physics.

Study Tools

Study tools can be found at:

Fluoro Prep

Some of our members have found Fluoro Prep to be helpful in explaining what you need to know to pass the test and taking their sample tests helped them to pass the test:

https://www.fluoroprep.com/california?gclid=EAlaIQobChMlyr-o1ovA5glVmMjkCh3CwAFQEAAAYAiAAEgLVvD_BwE

Examination Handbook from the ARRT: https://www.arrt.org/docs/default-source/state-licensing/fluoroscopy-handbook.pdf?sfvrsn=58a801fc_30

Ongoing CME Requirement – Radiation Safety – Renew Certification

At COA's Annual Meetings, we regularly offer CME hours accredited to meet the every 2-year requirement to take 10 hours of CME in radiation safety every two years.