

X-ray Certification: A Great Decision!

*The Arizona Dental Association gratefully acknowledges
Barbara Traines, CDA, M.Ed.,
for supplying the following information (www.TrainesConsulting.com)*

You have made an excellent decision to become x-ray certified. Not only is it required by law, it is an investment in your career. The following information should provide some clarification and help you get started.

It is the Law

Arizona Revised Statutes

32-1291 Dentals Assistants; regulations; duties (REVISED-2004)

A. A dental assistant may expose radiographs for dental diagnostic purposes under the general supervision of a dentist licensed pursuant to this chapter if the assistant has passed an examination approved by the Board.

The entire rules and regulations document is available from Arizona Board of Dental Examiners website www.azdentalboard.org

The Examination Process

The examination process approved by the Arizona Board of Dental Examiners requires successful completion of two examinations. Both are offered through DANB, an independent testing agency.

- DANB's Radiation Health & Safety (RHS) Component Exam
- Arizona Radiologic Proficiency Exam (AZ RAD).

DANB is an acronym for Dental Assisting National Board, located in Chicago. Their telephone number is 1-800-367-3262; web address is www.danb.org

Information about the examination process and applications can be accessed and printed from the web site.

The Certificate

After both written and clinical exams are successfully completed, DANB will issue your Arizona Radiologic Proficiency Certificate. This certificate will serve your entire career without renewal.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is it OK to take x-rays without certification as long as I am currently taking a course?

No. The Arizona Radiologic Proficiency Certificate is required before taking x-rays.

Is it OK to take x-rays as long as I have passed at least one of the exams?

No. The Arizona Radiologic Proficiency Certificate will be issued only after both exams have been successfully completed.

Do I have to take a class in order to take the written exam?

Although statistics confirm a higher pass rate for those who have taken a course, it is not required by law.

How do I get an application?

Contact the Dental Assisting National Board at 1-800-367-3262 or print from the website www.danb.org

If I have questions about the examination who can I call?

The Dental Assisting National Board at 1-800-367-3262.

How often do I have to renew my x-ray certification?

The Arizona Radiologic Proficiency Certification is good for life. Mine was among the first issued in Arizona, is very old, remains current to this day, and has never required renewal.

Is my Arizona x-ray certification good in other states?

It may be. Current information is available from DANB at www.danb.org

Is my x-ray certification from another state good in Arizona?

It may be. Contact the Arizona Board of Dental Examiners for further information at 602-242-1492 or www.azdentalboard.org

How can I enroll in a course?

Contact the Arizona Dental Association at (480) 344-5777 or www.azda.org to request information and registration for "Oral Radiography Review for Dental Assistants," a 12-hour course that focuses on preparing you to pass the written exam required for the Arizona Radiologic Proficiency Certification.

Phoenix College (602) 285-7320 or www.pc.maricopa.edu

Pima Community College-Tucson area (520) 206-6916

Progressive Dental Academy-Scottsdale (480) 945-2959

Does the clinical exam use digital or film?

The clinical exam is film based. You are given enough dual packet film to expose an FMS. The films will be processed (developed) for you, then you must place them in film mounts that are provided for you.

If our office only takes panoramic films (panos) do I still need the x-ray certification?

Yes. The Certification is required for any and all x-ray exposures.

Do I have to take a panoramic film as part of the clinical exam?

No. The clinical requires that you expose a full mouth series. All the details of the clinical and written exam are available by contacting the testing agency, DANB. Their number is 1-800-367-3262 and the website is www.danb.org

Is it OK to develop (process) the films without X-ray Certification?

Yes. The Certification is required only for exposing X-rays.

Is it OK to push the button without the X-ray Certification?

No. Pushing the button generates x-ray exposure and exposure requires X-Ray Certification.

Is it OK to expose x-rays under direct supervision of the dentist?

No. You must have the X-ray certification (Arizona Radiologic Proficiency Certification) in order to expose x-rays.

Our office uses digital – do our assistants still need the x-ray certification?

Yes, Absolutely! The word "digital" refers to the way the image is recorded – you are STILL exposing the patient to x-rays and Certification is required for exposing x-rays.

What should I do with my x-ray certificate?

The certification should be displayed in a visible location at the office where you are working. If you help out at many dental practices as a temp, take it with you.