

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR ENGAGEMENT OF RADIATION SAFETY EXPERT ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS FOR ASSESSMENT OF AERB COMPLIANCE PROGRAMME UNDER NHM

National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) was established in 2006 under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM/NHM) of Government of India to serve as an apex body for technical assistance in policy and strategy development to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW). NHSRC also provides technical support to the states in capacity building, implementation, and other areas of health systems. The goal of this institution is to improve health outcomes by facilitating governance reform, health systems innovations and improved information sharing among all stake holders at the national, state, district and sub-district levels through specific capacity development and convergence models.

Medical use of X-Rays for diagnosis and treatment has proven to be beneficial to society at large. Diagnostic radiology includes various modalities of medical imaging by using X-Rays. However unsafe use of X-Ray radiation has the health risks associated with it hence it is required that proper care is exercised throughout the life cycle of the equipment. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) Safety and compliance program was launched in 2017 under NHM to strengthen the public health facilities having diagnostic radiology (X-ray related) equipment as per Rule 3 of AE(RP)R-2004, which is mandatory for all the users of x-ray equipment, to obtain requisite 'Licence' from AERB and registration on AERB portal for ensuring the safety code for operational safety.

1. Background

Launched in 2005, the National Health Mission (NHM) is a flagship programme of the Government of India which envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health services which are accountable and responsive to people's needs. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) Safety and compliance program was launched in 2017 under NHM to strengthen the public health facilities having diagnostic radiology (X-ray related) equipment as per Rule 3 of AE(RP)R-2004, which is mandatory for all the users of x-ray equipment, to obtain requisite 'Licence' from AERB and registration on AERB portal for ensuring the safety code for operational safety.

The AERB regulates the use of ionizing radiation in India including medical facilities with X-ray or other radiation sources. The desk review undertaken by NHSRC has indicated gaps in adherence to the safety code at many public health facilities and the major observations found were on non-compliance with AERB license of operation, lead shielding, type approval of medical equipments, warning lights, protective equipments like lead apron, thermo-luminescent dosimeter (TLD) badges, disposal of beyond economical repair (BER) equipment etc.

2. Objectives

MoHFW through NHSRC is seeking services of suitable qualified physicist to review the AERB compliance status at public health facilities under NHM or any other such study/ survey as required by MoHFW. \

3. Scope of Services

- The empanelled physicist shall undertake detailed assessment of the AERB Compliance status in the States/UTs and identify the enablers/ barriers for improving the compliance.

- The empanelled physicist shall work in close association with the Health Care Technology (HCT) division NHSRC and will report to Advisor HCT for the work to be carried out during the entire duration of contract period.
- The tour of duty will include visit to the States/UTs on as required basis for assessment of the AERB compliance in the public health facilities, and submit the visit report, findings, observations to ED-NHSRC through Advisor HCT.
- The duration of visit to a district for regular monitoring shall ordinarily be of 5-7 days excluding journey period.
- Any other specific tasks related to the AERB compliance program as allocated by MoHFW.

4. Eligibility Criteria

Experienced physicist having minimum 10 years or more of working experience in radiation safety/ radiodiagnosis/radiotherapy in a premier academic/ research institutes/ government institutes of National importance.

Academic Qualifications:

- (a) a post graduate degree in physics from a recognized university and,
- (b) a post M.Sc. diploma in radiological physics or equivalent from a recognized university

OR

- (a) a basic degree in science from a recognized university, with physics as one of the main subjects and,
- (b) A post graduate degree in radiological physics or equivalent from a recognized university.

Age: Below 60 Years

5. Other Conditions

- (i) The applicant may furnish any additional information which they think is necessary to establish their capabilities to successfully complete envisaged work.
- (ii) Even though an applicant may satisfy the above requirements, still they would be liable for disqualification if they have:
 - (a) Made misleading or false representation or deliberately suppressed the information in the forms, statements and enclosures required in the qualification documents
 - (b) In case the applicant is blacklisted by any of the Government departments.
 - (c) Any effort on the part of the applicant or their agent to exercise influence.

6. Honorarium

They will be provided an honorarium for actual days of visits, travel support, report writing and management cost.

7. Final Decision-Making Authority

NHSRC reserves the right to modify the eligibility criteria, to decide on cut-off date, to accept or reject any application, to annul the qualification process, to reject all applications or accept new applications at any time, without assigning any reason or incurring any liability to the applicants.

8. How to apply: Candidates are requested to fill the online application correctly which is available on the NHSRC website (<http://nhsrcindia.org>). Applications will be accepted in the prescribed online application format only. Last date for receiving applications is **9th Oct 2024** .

Terms and conditions for Radiation Safety Expert on contractual basis for assessment of AERB compliance programme under NHM

I. Remuneration

The Radiation Safety Expert would be given honorarium @ Rs 3000/- per day (excluding journey period) + DA @ Rs. 500/- day for actual days of visits only, subject to fulfilment of conditions of six hours spent in a day in allotted State/ district/ City which the Radiation Safety Expert should self-certify. No honorarium would be payable if the absence from the district headquarter is less than six hours in a day.

The Radiation Safety Expert would be entitled to claim report writing charges of Rs 5,000/- for preparing of report of each facility/District subject to fulfilment of the following:

- (a) Separate report is required to be submitted for each facility/ District.
- (b) The report should give an analytical insight into the status of implementation, X-Ray related equipment registration on E-LORA portal, availability of AERB license for operation, availability of Radiation Safety Officer, protective equipments like lead apron, thermo-luminescent dosimeter (TLD) badges, identify enablers and barriers for achieving 100% AERB safety compliance and suggestions to improve the programmatic outcome.
- (c) The report should be neatly typed in computer and duly bound and submitted along with soft copy.

II. Journey by Air

Tickets will be booked by Administration, NHSRC.

III. Local Transportation Expenses

- (i) The Radiation Safety Expert will be reimbursed actual expenses incurred by them in travelling from residence to railway station/Airport and back and airport/station to destination subject to production of original bills in support of claim which is restricted to prescribed government rate.
- (ii) If the Radiation Safety Expert hires a vehicle for field visit from one village/block to another village/block, actual cost will be reimbursed subject to production of original bills(s) countersigned by the district authorities (with rubber stamp) of the district being visited by the Radiation Safety Expert and a certificate from the district/State Authority/Agency to the effect that no official transport/vehicle was provided to the Radiation Safety Expert during the visit to the district.
- (iii) If any Radiation Safety Expert travels by his own conveyance for field visit from one village/block to another village/block, the rates of road mileage allowances will be fixed on the basis of prevailing rates in the metropolitan city of a particular state and where no rates have been fixed, then the rates of neighbouring state may be adopted as per the order issued by Ministry of Finance, department of Expenditure from time to time.

VI. Accommodation

Where stay arrangements are made by State/district administration in government guest house, the actual lodging charges would be reimbursed. However, in case of unavailability of government guest house accommodation, the Radiation Safety Expert would be reimbursed lodging charges restricted to Rs 2,500/-inclusive of all taxes per day/per head subject to

production of original bills and certificate from State/district authorities that no accommodation was provided by the State/district administration.