

TELEPHONE : (O) 2550 0018 (Direct)/ 25990606

FAX : (022) 2550 0018 / 25562344

E-MAIL: harikumar@aerb.gov.in

वेबसाइट/WEBSITE: www.aerb.gov.in



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

परमाणु ऊर्जा नियामक परिषद

ATOMIC ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD

नियामक भवन/NIYAMAK BHAVAN,

अणुशक्तिनगर/ANUSHAKTINAGAR,

मुंबई/MUMBAI-400 094



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PRESS RELEASE

AERB shuts down operation of some of the medical diagnostic X-Ray facilities at Hyderabad owing to non-compliances

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has suspended the operation of some of the medical diagnostic facilities at Hyderabad, which were not complying with the specified regulatory and radiation safety requirements. AERB has sealed 15 diagnostic X-ray equipment owned by seven facilities in the city following a surprise inspection carried out on many facilities during July 23 & 24, 2015. The sealed equipment included six Computed Tomography (CT) equipment. AERB has also issued warnings to three facilities in the city, to comply with the specified regulatory and safety requirements within thirty days.

The equipment sealed were found to be operating without complying with the mandatory requirement of obtaining the requisite license and registration from AERB, as per the provisions of the Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004. The Rules prohibit setting up and operating any CT equipment without obtaining the requisite 'license', whereas a registration is mandatory for the diagnostic X-ray facilities. Though the X-ray equipment are of low radiation hazard potential, it is important that they are installed and operated in accordance with the radiological safety requirements specified by AERB. AERB issues the requisite Licence/Registration after ensuring that they conform to the specified safety requirements.

AERB's action at Hyderabad comes on the heels of the recent drive initiated against the errant medical diagnostic facilities that are operating in violation of the regulatory and safety requirements. AERB had earlier initiated similar action against a number of medical X-ray diagnostic facilities in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Jaipur, Raipur and Chennai. AERB will be continuing similar action in other places in the country as well.

Though the country has a large number of medical diagnostic X-ray facilities many of them have not been registered with AERB. In the recent times AERB has initiated a number of steps to improve compliance by the X-ray facilities to the provisions of the Rules as well as the specified safety

requirements. This is important to ensure radiation safety for the persons operating these equipment as well as the patients who make use of them. In order to make the process of filling of applications and obtaining the AERB Registration/Licence easy, AERB has launched a web based e-licensing system (e-LORA). AERB has also undertaken a series of outreach programmes for the medical diagnostic X-ray facilities regarding the importance of obtaining the requisite registration and license, through advertisements in the print media and awareness programmes. The programme of surprise inspections and closure of the non-compliant facilities / equipment is coming on the back of such efforts from AERB.

AERB is therefore advising all those medical diagnostic X-ray facilities that are presently operating in the country, without the valid Licence / Registration from AERB to immediately obtain the Licence / Registration, by filing an application through AERB's internet based e-licensing system (e-LORA).

AERB also advises the public not to patronize the X-ray facilities which are not having valid Licence / Registration issued by AERB.



(S. Harikumar)