Mammography Testing Certification Course

This course is not comprehensive and is not intended for those who have no prior knowledge or experience. It is strongly advised to have some prior mammography testing experience, supervised or otherwise. This course will outline the tests required by RANZCR to RANZCR standards.

The pre-course assignment aims to assess your background knowledge to ensure you are able to utilise the material presented in the workshop. The two post-course assignment aim to assess your competency in completing the RANZCR tests to RANZCR standards. All assessments will be independently reviewed by two assessors before a final decision is made. The ACPSEM appeals process will apply. Replicated/plagiarised submissions will not be accepted and will result in an instant fail. Referencing must be included where appropriate.

Pre-course assessment

Format: Short answer question assignment testing background theory, knowledge of mammographic equipment testing and relevant performance standards.
Submission format: Unprotected word document uploaded to Comet.
Pass criteria: At least 60%.
Due date: 4 weeks prior to the workshop.
Feedback on the assignment will be given within 2 weeks of submission. Students who fail to meet the pass mark will be given the opportunity to address feedback and resubmit within 2 weeks. If the resubmission does not meet the pass mark, then students will be deemed to have insufficient background knowledge and will not be able to attend the livestreaming workshop.

Livestreaming Workshop

Format: livestreaming workshop designed to review and reinforce ACPSEM/RANZCR testing procedures and follow-up. This is an opportunity to ask questions, seek feedback and address any concerns related to mammographic x-ray performance testing.
Submission format: Nil
Pass criteria: Nil
Successful attendance at this course is a prerequisite for Post-course assignments

Post-course assignment - report submission

Format: After completing the livestreaming workshop, students will need to complete two equipment assessments to RANZCR standards (including reporting monitors/printers as applicable). Students will be expected to record their test results in the provided RANZCR testing spreadsheets. A description of the test background and methodology will also be required, either recorded within the testing spreadsheet or in a separate document (see attached example). The two reports must be of different vendors/technology. The following checklist should be used prior to submission:

- All applicable tests (including reporting monitors and printers as appropriate) have been performed according to RANZCR requirements.

- A description of the purpose of each test is included in your own words, including the theory, purpose and expected results.
- A description of your test methodology is included, with photos that corroborate your written methodology showing the set-up of all equipment, and screenshots/photos of test results to allow verification of the recorded test results.
- Results are meaningful and consistent between tests (e.g. ACR/SDNR/MGD/time), and have been analysed and interpreted correctly as passing or failing RANZCR requirements.
- All failures have been investigated and appropriate corrective action is recommended with consideration given to clinical significance.
- The summary sheet contains a summary of all significant test results, corrective action as necessary, and timelines for any rectification.
- DICOM images of the ACR phantom and resolution test object have been included.
- There are no blank cells, or a comment has been provided as to why they are blank.
- Tests have been performed .

Submission format: Unprotected excel spreadsheets, DICOM images of the ACR Phantom and resolution test object, accompanying document describing test methodology with set-up photos and screenshots, all uploaded to Comet.

Assessment criteria:
- Understands each test (e.g. theory, purpose, expected results)
- Performs all appropriate tests correctly, with correct equipment and correct set-up
- Correct evaluation of results
- Appreciates significance of results
- Communicates results effectively
- Is aware of limitations and additional resources to consult
- Safe work practises are followed

Pass criteria: Pass at least 4 out of the 7 assessment criteria, with no more than 1 failed assessment criteria for both submissions.

Due date: Within 6 months of attending the workshop.

Feedback on each testing report will be given within 4 weeks of submission. Students who do not pass will be given the opportunity to address any feedback and resubmit within 2 months. If the resubmission does not pass then students will be deemed not yet competent and will not pass the course. Students are encouraged to book time on equipment as soon as possible for a date after the workshop to ensure the material is fresh and they meet the 6 month deadline. Students are also encouraged to seek clarification on test procedures prior to submitting their final attempt. Equipment time may be organised through the ACPSEM at the students expense if required.

Post course assignment - troubleshooting

Format: Students will be provided with sample test results and given a series of questions to answer. This will be a time limited, short answer, online quiz.

Submission format: Online quiz. Responses will be submitted online in Comet.

Assessment criteria: Correct interpretation of test results and possible causes, a variety of troubleshooting steps taken, identification of clinical impact, appropriate communication of results and required action to site.

Pass criteria: At least 60%.

Due date: After successfully passing the report submission assessment, students will be given a four week window within which to begin the quiz. Once the quiz has begun, students will have 3 hours to complete the quiz.

Students who do not pass on the first attempt will be given feedback and the opportunity for a second attempt with a different scenario. Students who do not pass on the second attempt will not pass the course.