

**Title 16. Professional and Vocational Regulations
Division 20. Veterinary Medical Board**

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Hearing Date: 10a.m. on Wednesday, January 30, 2013

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Registered Veterinary Technician School Approval Regulations

Section(s) Affected: Title 16, Division 20, California Code of Regulations (CCR), sections 2064, 2065, 2065.5, 2065.6, 2065.7, 2065.8, 2065.8.1, 2065.8.3, 2065.9, 2066, and 2066.1.

Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:

1. Problem Being Addressed:

The purpose of the Veterinary Medical Board (Board) proposed language is to clarify and make specific that California and out-of-state registered veterinary technician (RVT) schools or degree programs accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) are accepted as Board approved educational programs. Specifically, this proposal would:

2. Anticipated Benefits from this Regulatory Action:

Adopt CCR section 2064

The proposed regulation establishes language to accept AVMA accredited RVT schools and degree programs as Board approved, allows for Board re-approval inspections and allows for Board withdrawal of said approval.

Amend CCR section 2065

The proposed regulation adds specific minimum educational requirements for approved RVT schools or degree programs in safety training, applicable regulatory requirements, zoonoses, medical record keeping, drug control and radiation.

The proposed regulation also deletes class size requirements, adds the requirement that schools or degree programs consider the health, safety and species of the animal patient when the animal patient is part of the teaching curriculum, deletes the requirement that out-of-state schools are approved by a national accreditation agency, clarifies the requirement that externships are at a facility that is Board approved or otherwise exempt, and make other non-substantive and clarifying changes.

Amend CCR section 2065.5

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive and clarifying changes to the regulation language.

Amend CCR section 2065.6

The proposed regulation adds specific language establishing the Board's authority to grant full or provisional approval to Board or AVMA approved schools or degree programs and makes non-substantive clarifying changes to regulation language.

Amend CCR section 2065.7

The proposed regulation exempts AVMA accredited schools or degree programs from initial inspections, establishes the Board's authority to conduct re-approval inspections, and makes non-substantive and clarifying changes to the regulation language.

Amend CCR section 2065.8

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive and clarifying changes to the regulation language.

Amend CCR Section 2065.8.1

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive and clarifying changes to the regulation language.

Amend CCR section 2065.8.2

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive and clarifying changes to the regulation language.

Amend CCR section 2065.8.3

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive and clarifying changes to the regulation language.

Amend CCR Section 2065.9

The proposed regulation makes non-substantive and clarifying changes to the regulation language.

Adopt CCR section 2066

The proposed regulation establishes out-of-state AVMA accredited school or degree program graduates are deemed to have completed the equivalent of a two-year veterinary technology curriculum. Candidates who obtain their minimum education from non-approved out-of-state schools or degree programs are mandated to prove the curriculum is equivalent to Board required instruction hours and curriculum.

Adopt CCR section 2066.1

The proposed regulation establishes language that requires candidates from non-approved California schools or degree programs meet courses relevant to veterinary medicine and/or veterinary technology in order to take the RVT examination.

Factual Basis/Rationale

Adopt CCR section 2064

The Board specifies all AVMA accredited schools or degree programs are also California approved because it already accepts, in its existing regulations, those schools with equivalent educational requirements.

Amend CCR section 2065

The proposed regulation clarifies the minimum educational requirement language for approved schools or degree programs. Additional educational requirements have been added because RVT duties are evolving to include increased knowledges and responsibilities. The proposed regulation changes the word "institution" to "schools or degree programs" to make the wording consistent and more accurate throughout the regulation.

Amend CCR section 2065.5

The proposed regulation changes the word “institution” to “schools or degree programs” to make the wording consistent and more accurate throughout the regulation.

Amend CCR section 2065.6

The proposed regulation establishes language that Board approval of schools or degree programs match the level of approval granted by the AVMA. Matching the level of approval will help alleviate confusion by students. The proposed regulation changes the word “institution” to “schools or degree programs” to make the wording consistent and more accurate throughout the regulation.

Amend CCR section 2065.7

The proposed language exempts AVMA schools or degree programs from initial inspections because they have previously undergone an AVMA inspection for their initial approval but allows the Board to conduct re-approval inspections if it is determined necessary in law. The proposed regulation changes the word “institution” to “schools or degree programs” to make the wording consistent and more accurate throughout the regulation.

Amend CCR section 2065.8

The proposed language specifically changes violations “of this chapter” to “violations against any part of the Practice Act” for accuracy. The proposed regulation changes the word “institution” to “schools or degree programs” to make the wording consistent and more accurate throughout the regulation.

Amend CCR Section 2065.8.1

The proposed regulation changes the word “institution” to “schools or degree programs” to make the wording consistent and more accurate throughout the regulation.

Amend CCR section 2065.8.2

The proposed regulation changes the word “institution” to “schools or degree programs” to make the wording consistent and more accurate throughout the regulation.

Amend CCR section 2065.8.3

The proposed regulation changes the word “institution” to “schools or degree programs” to make the wording consistent and more accurate throughout the regulation.

Amend CCR Section 2065.9

The proposed regulation adds “degree programs” to make the wording consistent and more accurate throughout the regulation.

Adopt CCR section 2066

The proposed regulation establishes language to include out-of-state AVMA accredited RVT schools or degree programs as Board approved and requires out of state minimum educational requirement candidates prove the education received is equivalent to the educational requirements in Section 2065(a) and 2065(b).

Adopt CCR section 2066.1

The proposed regulation establishes language to allow candidates an alternate path to licensure by meeting the requirements in courses relevant to veterinary medicine and/or veterinary technology.

Underlying Data

1. Registered Veterinary Technician Committee Meeting Minutes dated January 2009, October 2009, January 2010 and March 2010.
2. Veterinary Medical Board Meeting Minutes dated July, 2010.

Business Impact

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses. This initial determination is based on the following facts or evidence/documents/testimony:

This regulatory proposal ensures all AVMA accredited programs are accepted by California as Board approved, allows the Board to approve curriculum at trade-specific postsecondary institutions by utilizing AVMA approval, ensures these schools and degree programs teach minimum academic requirements, and gives authority to the Board to inspect the AVMA approved schools or degree programs after their initial approval.

Economic Impact Assessment

This regulatory proposal will have the following effects:

The proposed language clarifies and makes specific that California and out-of-state RVT schools or degree programs accredited by the AVMA are accepted as Board approved educational programs and will not create or eliminate jobs within the State of California, it will not create new business or eliminate existing businesses within the State of California, it will not affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California, it does not affect worker safety, and does not affect the state's environment.

The proposed language benefits the health and welfare of California residents because RVT students/graduates benefit with the change in language by ensuring all AVMA accredited programs are accept by California as Board approved.

Specific Technologies or Equipment

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

Consideration of Alternatives

No reasonable alternative to the regulatory proposal would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective or less burdensome to affected private persons and equally effective in achieving the purposes of the regulation in a manner that ensures full compliance with the law being implemented or made specific.