

CIH Test Specifications Updated for Fall 2009 Exam

The American Board of Industrial Hygiene contracted CASTLE Worldwide, Inc. to update and re-validate the scope of practice for the Certified Industrial Hygienist. The results of this study are being used to update the CIH exam offered beginning in October 2009.

The re-validation process is conducted approximately every five years. With the assistance of ABIH, CASTLE convened a panel of subject matter experts in the field of industrial hygiene in July 2008 to accomplish this task. The panel represented a variety of practice settings, geographic regions, educational levels and years of experience.

The critical reason for conducting a job analysis (JA) is to ensure that an examination is content-valid. Validation is the way a test developer documents that the competence to be inferred from a test score is actually measured by the examination. A content-valid examination, then, appropriately evaluates knowledge or skills required to function as a competent practitioner in the field. A content-valid examination contains a representative sample of items that measure the knowledge or skills contained in the profession being tested.

Thus, the JA is an integral part of ensuring that an examination is content-valid; that the aspects of the profession covered on the examination reflect the tasks performed in practice settings. The job analysis for the American Board of Industrial Hygiene consisted of the following 3 phases:

Initial Development The ten member job analysis panel identified the domains, tasks, knowledge and skills essential to the performance of a Certified Industrial Hygienist.

Validation Study A representative sample of professionals in the comprehensive practice of industrial hygiene reviewed and validated the work of the job analysis panel. This conclusion means that the domains, tasks, knowledge, and skills developed by the panel constitute an accurate definition of the work of an industrial hygienist.

Development of Test Specifications Based on the ratings gathered from the representative sample of professionals, the test specifications for the certification examination were developed. The content of the exam will be very similar to what it has been previously. The first exam that will test under the updated test specifications will be offered beginning in October 2009.

Rubric Definitions replace the Content Domain Definitions and cover essentially the same information in a different format.