







e –Newsletter

February 2010

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The ABIH e-Newsletter is published three times per year. Current and back copies are available on the ABIH web site (<http://www.abih.org>)

**ABIH | The American Board of Industrial Hygiene | 6015 West St. Joseph | Suite 102
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News

New ABIH Chair & Directors

J. Torey Nalbone, PhD, CIH, an Associate Professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of the University of Texas at Tyler, has been elected Chair of the ABIH. Nalbone will replace Scott Merkle who is rotating off the Board after serving a 4 year term, two as Board Chair.

Four new Board members have been elected. A public member, Mr. Charles Laszewski, and three new CIH Directors, Kimberly Castillon, Mark Finn, and Shamini Samuel. They replace Directors who have completed their terms: CIH Directors - Nancy McLellan, Scott Merkle and Mario Vasquez, and; the Public Member - Larry Postal, JD.

For more details, see the [January Press Release](#).

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Strategic Thinkers Wanted!

ABIH is scheduled to elect two new Directors in 2010. Although the deadline to self-nominate is mid-June each year, it's not too early to consider volunteering your time for this worthwhile effort. You can help set the strategic direction for the ABIH certification programs. The term of office is four years. There are three Board meetings per year, usually held on a weekend to avoid conflicting with work. Expenses related to Board travel are covered by ABIH.

If you would like to self-nominate, go to [ABIH Director Nomination](#).

If you have questions about Director responsibilities and the satisfaction of serving in this meaningful capacity, please contact one of the existing [Directors](#) or the [ABIH Staff](#).

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CM Worksheet Updated

The 2010 version of the [CM Worksheet](#) is now available in both Excel and Acrobat formats. The Excel automates point calculations and provides pick-lists to simplify the process of completing the form on your computer. The Acrobat format is for those completing the CMW via paper.



Both formats incorporate all the new CM rules. Older CMWs can still be used but some of the CM rules, as listed on the older versions, are now obsolete.

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Local Sections & ABIH Team Up for Item Writing Workshop

In mid-February ABIH facilitated an item writing workshop where CIH's generated draft items for the CIH examination using the revised blueprint that became effective with the Fall 2009 exam. Participants were trained in item development and coached in writing high quality items. Feedback was also given to attendees on their submissions. Many of these items were also validated at the workshop for potential use on upcoming examinations.

ABIH plans to conduct annual item-writing workshops. An ideal group composition is 14-16 CIH's who volunteer two days of their time. Participants earn CM points. If you are interested in ABIH holding a workshop in your area, contact Ron Drafta at rdrafta@abih.org.

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Diplomate U

Are Tests Required to Claim CM Points?

There has been some confusion about whether tests are required in order to award and claim CM points for some courses.

Awarding CM Points: ABIH awards CM points to courses based solely on subject matter and contact time. We do **not** require a test in order to award CM points. However, if a test is part of a course, test time is factored into the CM point values.

Claiming CM Points: If ABIH approved a course that included a test, the Diplomate must complete the test in order to claim the CM points. If the test is not completed, the Diplomate may not claim the CM points.

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Management Courses - Yes, No or Maybe

Effective 1 January 2010, ABIH no longer awards CM points for general management courses. However, two points are worth noting:

- 1) General management courses taken prior to 1 January 2010 are eligible for CM points, and if awarded, can be claimed on the CM Worksheet up to 5 points per 5 year cycle.
- 2) Many courses integrate EH&S aspects into generic management topics. These courses may be eligible for CM points in the point areas of IH, Safety, Ethics, or Fundamentals. For example, a course on *Business Metrics* would not qualify for CM points while a course on *EHS Metrics Applied to Business* does qualify.

If you ever have a question about whether any course will be eligible for CM points, please feel free to contact ABIH for a consult.

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Earning CM Points in Tough Economic Times

Earning CM points in 2009 was challenging since many companies placed restrictions on travel and training. For many of us, that is continuing into 2010. So how can a Diplomat earn CM points under these circumstances? Here are a couple of ideas:

1. Company Activities:

- a. **Training** – Many CIHs receive formal EH&S training from their employers. It doesn't always have to be a course, e.g., some 'EH&S drills' qualify as acceptable educational events. This is an easy way to fulfill your company-required training and claim CM points.
- b. **Internal Business Meetings** – Some topics may qualify for CM points especially if they contain EH&S-related training. However, all meeting time typically does not qualify for CM points. For example, we exclude topics such as EH&S goal reviews, setting strategy, performance updates, and organizational effectiveness reviews since these are already credited in Category 1 – Active IH Practice.

2. Free, Online Courses

There are many free, online Category 4 Educational activities. In the 4Q of 2009, ABIH began collecting activity cost data in the [online dB](#). Although this resource is slowly being built over time, it will eventually serve an excellent way to locate courses that are free and readily accessible. **Try it today!**

In the online ABIH dB:

<u>Field</u>	<u>Action</u>
Delivery	Pick "Distance Learning"
Free Activity	Pick "Yes"
Dates	Enter "1/1/2010" to "12/31/2010"
Include Multiple Offerings	Pick "Yes" radio button
	... hit "Submit"

Looking for specific topic? Use the *Subject of Interest* field to narrow the search.



Got a favorite tip or suggestion for other CIHs to earn CM points in tough economic times? Send suggestions to cm@abih.org. We'll collate & publish.

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Staying Connected

A Board View

The Board of Directors serve as the primary strategic planners for both ABIH and the professional certification needs of industrial hygienists. Here's a summary of some recent reflections from Scott Merkle (outgoing Chair) and Torey Nalbene (incoming Chair). The full text of their comments can be found on the [ABIH web site home page](#).

2009 Accomplishments:

- **ANSI Accreditation** - This new accreditation (to ISO/IEC 17024) clearly demonstrated that ABIH is providing a high-quality system, meeting internationally recognized standards, making the CIH even more value-added for those who do work outside the U.S..
- **Updated CIH Examination** – The examination was updated based on a new Job Analysis involving an expert panel and a survey of >1000 CIHs. This ensured that the exam continues to appropriately evaluate and discriminate for *current* IH knowledge and skills.

2010 Plans:

- **Maintain/Improve Our Core Strengths** – The Board is committed to strengthen ABIH's resources so that our stakeholders (those certified and desiring certification) are provided the service they have come to appreciate.
- **A New Focus on High Quality Training** – The Board is evaluating a way to increase recognition for high quality training events so that Diplomates can have greater assurance of learning excellence.
- **Increased International Focus** – The Board will seek ways to ensure high quality certification experiences outside the U.S., especially in the world's growth regions.
- **Enhance Sustainability of the CIH** – As part of an intersociety effort, the Board will increase efforts to “sell” the investment made in hiring and retaining a CIH. This will also help ensure that an adequate number of future replacements will be maintained.
- **Technicians/Technologist Certifications** – The Board is participating in a collaborative effort to develop an internationally recognized scheme of credentialing for occupational hygiene technicians / technologists.

The Board welcomes your input on these and other items of interest to the CIH/CAIH community. Please feel free to contact any of the [Board Directors](#).

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AIHA Local Sections - Invite Your Board Director



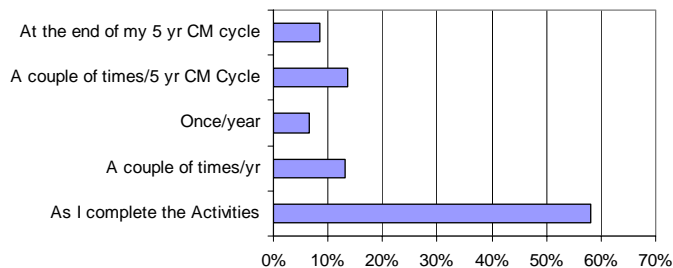
AIHA Local Sections – are you looking for a way to stay connected to ABIH? Consider an invitation to the [ABIH Director assigned to your Local Section](#). Depending on availability and location, the Director may be available for speaking engagements on topical issues important to ABIH – e.g. ABIH strategic direction, the future of certification, ethics. Obviously, this is also a great way for the Board to gather input on issues important to the Diplomate.

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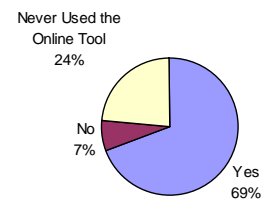
The Diplomate Pulse!

In September, we asked 2 questions about how Diplomates complete their CM Worksheets.

How do you document your CM activities during your 5 yr CM cycle? (n=153)



Do you know how to effectively search for approved CM activities in the online (dB) tool? (n=153)



Our View? ABIH believes that the *best practice* is request CM points at least once per year. This ensures that the CM points as listed on the CM Worksheet will be adequate without any surprises! And it avoids last-minute requests which usually occur at the time of year (Dec and Jan) when ABIH is busiest (and processing time is significantly longer than normal).



Got 30 more seconds? Please answer two questions on [Promoting Certification](#).

Submissions are anonymous. Final results will be published in the next ABIH Newsletter.

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AIHce Events - Get Certified, Stay Certified

- **ABIH Booth – Monday, May 24th –Wednesday, May 26th** – stop in to see us; learn what’s new; get questions answered.
- **ABIH Forum/RT 203 Monday, May 24th from 10:30 am -12:30 pm** – ABIH Directors and Staff will discuss certification topics, answer questions, and seek audience input on ABIH’s direction and programs.
- **Perspectives on Preparation for the CIH Exam/RT 230 Wednesday, May 26th 1-3 pm.** The roundtable will cover requirements to sit for the exam and information on preparation strategies. Sponsored by Students and Early Career Professionals Committee (SEPCC).
- **Training/Certification Models for Global Occupational Hygiene Professionals - 204 Monday, May 24th from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.** Hear experts speak to the global need for IH practitioners and the role of training and certification efforts.

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Milestones

Fall Examination Results - [see ABIH web Site](#)

Code of Ethics Disciplinary Issues - [see ABIH web Site](#)

Not Certified - In response to inquiries, ABIH reports that the following individual has never been certified by the Board and is not authorized to use the designations Certified Industrial Hygienist or CIH.

- **Gerald Wright**, Air 1 Quality Inspection, LTD, Vancouver, BC, Canada

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Key 2010 ABIH Dates

March 1 – last date for 2010 dues payment. After this date, the Diplomate is no longer authorized to use the designation of Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) or CAIH.

June 1 - All 2005-2009 CM cycle Worksheets must be submitted and cleared by this date; otherwise, the Diplomate will lose their certification.

June 25 – Self nominations due for ABIH Board of Director positions.

August 1 – Applications/Re-applications due for Fall Exam.

September 1 – begin submission of CM Worksheets for the 2006-2010 CM cycle.

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ABIH Staff & Office Hours

The ABIH Staff will be pleased to work with you on questions about this e-Newsletter or other topics related to ABIH and its certification programs. Feel free to contact the ABIH Staff, whose responsibilities are listed on the [ABIH web site](#).

ABIH office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, EST with exception of the following 2010 holiday periods when we will be closed for business:

2010 Dates

May 31
July 5
Sept 6
Nov 25 & 26
Dec 24 – Jan 4

Holiday

Memorial Day
U.S. Independence Day
Labor Day
U.S. Thanksgiving
Christmas and New Years

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Direct comments or questions about this pabulum to:
Tracy Parsons- tparsons@abih.org ; 517-321-2638 x15.

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