

# American Board of Industrial Hygiene



## 1999 - 2000 Annual Report

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### Message to the Diplomates - 1999 - 2000

There is a widely publicized phrase today summarizing the three generic choices in life: "lead, follow, or get out of the way". Unfortunately, the advice usually stops there. The successful person or organization could add "and you better know how and when to do each!"

Your ABIH has been acting on this advice. This past year we have led the way through major changes to accommodate - stay in front of - our changing professional practice. We are now prepared to offer, in 2001, the first professional ABIH credential specifically created for both multidisciplinary HSE professionals and for IHs who may practice in narrow scope. The "Certified Associate Industrial Hygienist" credential will be a bona fide, third-party-accredited recognition for more of today's IH practitioners than ever before. Concurrently we are strengthening our hallmark CIH credential by requiring the Comprehensive Practice examination and by adding specific IH-related academic requirements. Based on the updated Role Delineation/Task Analysis and state-of-the-art psychometric advice, we are restructuring the design of our exams. The ABIH co-sponsored the second IOHA workshop on International Credentialing, and we have developing partnerships with related professional organizations. We have even reorganized the ABIH itself to empower directors and committees for effective action. The leadership exhibited by today's ABIH is perhaps at an all-time high.

We've also remembered there are times to follow...whether it's our sister IH organizations for advocacy, innovative companies for management strategies, or our membership for advice and feedback. Following selected leaders in certain relevant areas allows us to leverage our resources without inventing everything here.

Finally ...as to "getting out of the way"...this is NOT the time!

/signed/

**Daniel E. Agopsowicz, CIH**  
**Chair, ABIH**

/signed/

**Lynn C. O'Donnell, CIH**  
**Executive Director, ABIH**

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## **Forty Years of Industrial Hygiene Certification 1960 through 2000**

The general recognition of industrial hygiene as a distinct practice is often related to the establishment of the American Public Health Association's industrial hygiene section in 1914. Another set of milestones were attained with the formation of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists and the American Industrial Hygiene Association in 1938 and 1939 respectively. These organizations cooperated in providing services to their industrial hygienist members such as annual conferences and AIHA's credible professional journal. In 1956, the [American Industrial Hygiene Association Board](#) of Directors, recognizing that a means of self-regulation was necessary for industrial hygiene to become seen as a true profession, appointed two ad hoc committees on certification and registration. In October 1957, the committee on certification recommended that the association establish a voluntary certification program for qualified industrial hygienists. A new ad hoc committee on certification standards, under the chairmanship of Henry F. Smith Jr., was established and, in February 1958, the committee recommended that the [ACGIH](#) be invited to join in initiating a certification program. In March 1959, this joint committee on certification standards recommended that a voluntary certification program should be conducted by an independently incorporated board; that the two associations should sponsor the Board with advanced monies to support its initial expenses, and that the joint standards committee should be disbanded and each association should delegate six of its members to the new independent board. In the summer of 1959, the memberships of both associations approved the plans and proposed qualifications for the new certification as well as the advance of monies for initial expenses.

The twelve delegates held their initial meeting on April 24, 1960. A petition for charter as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of Pennsylvania was approved in September 1960. The American Board of Industrial Hygiene held its first annual meeting in Pittsburgh on October 28, 1960. Initial qualifications were established, and by April 1963, 485 industrial hygienists had been certified. The new ABIH held its first written examinations in Cincinnati in May 1963. The newly certified industrial hygienists were enrolled as diplomate members of the American Academy of Industrial Hygiene (AAIH), an

organization established to promote the interests of Certified Industrial Hygienists (CIH). In 1973, the membership of the Board was modified to provide for two directors from nominees submitted by the Academy. In 1981 the makeup of the Board was modified again to allow for an additional four directors from the Academy, establishing equal representation from AIHA, ACGIH, and the AAIH. In 1999, the first non-CIH director was elected to a "public member" position to comply with accreditation standards. Most recently, with the transfer of the Academy into the AIHA, a mechanism is being implemented to replace the Academy-nomination of directors with directors elected at-large from members of the CIH population.

The need to establish credentialing criteria and provide a self-policing mechanism was not confined to the United States. In 1952 the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) was founded to promote the science of occupational hygiene in Britain. Subsequently, in 1967 the BOHS established the British Examining Board in Occupational Hygiene (BEOH). The purpose of this Board was to advance the quality of occupational hygiene practice in Britain. The Institute of Occupational Hygienists (IOH) was formed in 1975 to serve the professional interests of occupational (industrial) hygienists. In 1978 BEOH was restructured to allow a registration scheme for hygienists to be introduced, and it became the British Examining and Registration Board in Occupational Hygiene, subsequently reorganized as the [British Institute of Occupational Hygienists](#). To insure competent practice in Canada, the Canadian

[Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists](#) was formed in 1986 and began registering occupational hygienists for practice in Canada in 1987.

The safety profession also realized the need to promote and recognize technical competence among its practitioners. The American Society of Safety Engineers formed a task force in 1967 to study certification. This resulted in the formation of the [Board of Certified Safety Professionals](#) in 1968 to develop and operate a certification program for safety practitioners. Other groups encompassing functions that have a close relationship to the practice of industrial hygiene, such as the [Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics](#), are emerging to define the elements of their practice. The ABIH has developed a working rapport with these organizations with the objective of cooperating to maintain a cohesive certification mechanism for safety and health professionals and, particularly, the practice of industrial hygiene.

The proliferation of credentials in the 1990s caused a dilemma for those using professional services. Third party accreditation of certification programs became recognized as a means of ensuring quality within certifying bodies. The ABIH applied for and was awarded accreditation by the [Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards](#) (CESB) for its Certified Industrial Hygienist program.

### **Qualifications - Setting the standard for excellence**

Initially, qualifications were established such that "15 years of full-time practice of industrial hygiene, at least five of which had been in a responsible position during which

recognized contributions had been made to the profession"<sup>(1)</sup>, would be required for certification. "Specific educational requirements were not set because it was these industrial hygienists who had defined the field."<sup>(1)</sup> Qualification to sit for the first examination was set at eight years of full-time practice subsequent to earning a Bachelor's degree acceptable to the Board. Through 1963, candidates could be admitted to the examination without a baccalaureate degree if the Board was satisfied that their practice would compensate for the lack of a degree. Various modifications to these qualifications have been undertaken in the last 40 years, however the underlying premise of a basic science or engineering foundation has not wavered. The establishment of Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology-accredited industrial hygiene programs has strengthened the profession and its educational foundation. The current requirements for five years of broad scope industrial hygiene practice subsequent to earning a bachelor's degree is being augmented by phased requirements for specific industrial hygiene fundamentals education.

### **Examinations - Evaluating knowledge**

Each candidate accepted into the examination process next had to complete two days of examinations. The first day required completion of a core examination covering the broad field. On the second day, candidates completed an examination targeted to one of six specialty areas of industrial hygiene (Aspect), or alternatively, an examination covering all the areas, the Comprehensive Practice. Aspect areas were: Acoustical, Air Pollution, Chemical, Engineering, Radiological and Toxicological.

These two closed-book examinations lasted approximately eight hours each and consisted of 250-350 multiple-choice questions. In order to achieve a balance within the examinations, the questions were pulled from a selection of 32 "rubric" areas that defined the practice. Initially, the core and comprehensive practice examination questions were selected in roughly equal quantities from all the areas. The first day's examination was designed to test the basic knowledge in all the areas. This was felt to be necessary as the aspect examinations would concentrate in a particular specialty, and this process enabled some evaluation of overall industrial hygiene knowledge. Testing for the aspects would wane until the last remaining aspect examination, that of Chemical Practice, would be discontinued after the year 2000.

### **Certifications - Defining the practice**

The CIH was determined to be the hallmark of the practitioner. The six "aspects" were defined within the practice to denote specialized areas, while a generalist candidate for "Comprehensive Practice" was tested in all of these areas. Whether certification was earned in an aspect or comprehensive practice, the CIH designation was awarded in each case. All candidates had to pass the core examination that provided an evaluation of the basic knowledge in all of the rubric areas. Initially, it was expected that the aspects would be the predominant credential undertaken, but comprehensive practice was soon recognized as the preferred credential.

To ensure the relevance and validity of the "Certified Industrial Hygienist" credential, the Board undertook a study of the actual tasks performed by industrial hygienists in their day-to-day work. During 1984 and 1985, the first formal Role Delineation/Task Analysis (RDTA) study was performed with the assistance of Professional Examination Service. The domains of practice were defined as: recognizer of health stressors, evaluator of health stressors, controller of health stressors and manager of industrial hygiene programs. Tasks performed in practice settings were defined under the domains, such as "analyze biological and environmental specimens" under the "evaluator" domain. The study identified the importance, criticality and frequency of the tasks/domains which then led to the test specifications.

In 1972, the Board established a designation of "Industrial Hygienist-in-Training" (IHIT) for those candidates who had successfully completed the core examination only. This was a natural extension from the engineering beginnings of industrial hygiene. The "engineer in training" credential is a well-recognized certification mark within the engineering community. The IHIT certification would designate an industrial hygiene professional with demonstrated knowledge and career aspirations of full industrial hygiene certification. However, this designation was a temporary certification and would expire after period of time if the "CIH" certification were not achieved. Due to certification program changes, the "IHIT" will no longer be offered after the fall of 2000.

The Board also recognized the need for quality technician-level practitioners and in 1976 established a process and examination for Industrial Hygiene Technologists. It was soon recognized that many technologists overlapped functions within safety and industrial hygiene. The American Board of Industrial Hygiene formed a joint venture with the Board of Certified Safety Professionals to offer the [Occupational Health and Safety Technologist](#) certification. This new "Joint Committee" would expand its offerings to individuals performing safety and health technician duties at construction sites with the Construction Health and Safety Technician and Safety Training Supervisor-Construction certifications.

In the spring of 1993, the Board would offer its first subspecialty examinations. These examinations were intended to assess the quality of individuals performing industrial hygiene functions in Indoor Environmental Quality and Hazardous Material Response and Remediation. It was felt these examinations would provide quality assurance for potential regulatory compliance efforts. However, regulatory drivers never materialized, and these subspecialties never reached their potential audience.

During 1999, the ABIH finalized its decision to offer a new "associate-level" certification. Changes in the profession have seen individuals assuming many related duties in the health, safety and environmental areas. This meant that persons were performing industrial hygiene duties in conjunction with other related assignments. To assist in evaluating individuals performing industrial hygiene duties on a part-time basis, discussions began with allied associations resulting in a process and examination for a "Certified Associate Industrial Hygienist" credential. This "CAIH" will help ensure the

quality of individuals performing industrial hygiene functions within a narrow scope area or with a frequency of less than 50 percent of their time.

### **Certification Maintenance - Ensuring quality after the examination**

No profession can truly assert that is self-policing and ensuring quality practice through a one time procedure. Recognizing this, the ABIH implemented a program for maintenance of certification in 1979. The objective of this program was to develop a mechanism by which diplomates would demonstrate their continuing efforts to maintain and improve their own professional knowledge. To that end, a variety of activities could be documented to support this objective, such as continued professional activity, technical committee participation, attendance at meetings and educational programs, teaching, authoring peer reviewed articles and other alternative activities deemed appropriate by the Board. Initially, all diplomates were required to submit worksheets that specified the activities in which they had participated during the previous six years. The Board randomly selected a small fraction of these submissions for audit. This process is currently in transition to a five-year cycle to comply with accreditation requirements, but remains an essential component of the certification process.

### **The Future**

In September 1999, the Board approved a [revised strategic plan](#) indicating ABIH's direction for the future. There are a number of exciting developments underway.

- Implementation of the new associate-level certification will mean provide meaningful service to a new constituency.
- Results of the recently completed and validated RDTAs for the CIH and CAIH will require revisions in the question bank and the exams.
- Coordination with international associations and certification bodies has resulted in queries from non-North American groups about incorporating ABIH certifications in their locales or, alternatively, assistance in initiating new certification organizations and programs.
- Advances in computer and network technology provide opportunities to disseminate information as well as conduct business practices over the Internet.
- New means of communication with current and potential diplomates are being explored to provide information about Board developments as well as seek improved feedback to the Board.

<sup>1</sup>*Smyth Henry F.: [The American Board of Industrial Hygiene](#). *American Journal of Public Health*. 56(7): 1120-1127 (1966).*

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## **Timeline for ABIH:**

1914	IH Section of the American Public Health Association established
1937	Michigan IH Association founded
1938	ACGIH founded
1939	AIHA founded
1956	AIHA appointed an ad hoc Committee on Certification
Fall 1957	Committee on Certification Standards appointed
Spring 1958	ACGIH invited to join and began participation
March 1959	Committee recommended a separate Board be established for certification of IHS
April 1960	Twelve delegates held first meeting in Rochester, New York
September 1960	Petition for Incorporation approved by Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County
October 1960	First Board meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
July 1962	First application period expires - 485 IHS qualified under 15 year experience criteria.
May 1963	First examinations held in Cincinnati, Ohio. Bachelor's degree and 8-years experience required as a minimum. Examination consisted of Core and Comprehensive Practice or 1 of 6 aspect (acoustical, air pollution, chemical, engineering, radiological and toxicological) exams.
June 1963	Certificates issued June 28 for Comprehensive Practice, Chemical Aspects and Engineering Aspects.
June 1964	First certificates issued for Air Pollution, Radiological and Toxicological Aspects by written examination.
1967	British Examining Board in Occupational Hygiene (BEBOH) was formed by The British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)
1969	BCSP formed to certify safety professionals based on recommendations from an ASSE Ad Hoc Study

Committee

- 1969/1970 Toxicological Aspects examination withdrawn, pending update.
- May 1971 Last certificate issued for Radiological Aspects by written examination.
- 1972 Decision to reduce CIH examination eligibility from 8 years to 5 years experience/equivalency, beginning with 1973 examinations.
- Decision to separate Core and second level examination eligibilities. Core eligibility to be 1 year experience/equivalency to begin with 1973 examinations. Core-only examination to be for Industrial Hygienist in Training.
- 1973 Decision to restore eligibility provisions for applicants without bachelor's degrees.
- May 1974 Academy invited to send 2 delegates to Board
- First certificate for Acoustical Aspects by written examination.
- 1975 Milestone of 1000th certificate issued
- 1976 IH Technologist certification program established
- 1977-1978 Decision to accept credentials from the Institute for Noise Control Engineering (INCE) and from the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) in lieu of second level examinations in the Acoustical and Radiological Aspects respectively.
- 1979 Certification Maintenance program initiated.
- Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists formed.
- American Board of Toxicology formed
- May 1979 First ABIH Executive Director hired (half time)
- October 1979 Reintroduction of written examination in the Toxicological Aspects.
- 1980 Milestone of 2000th certificates issued

July 1981	AAIH given 4 added Directors
1984/1985	First formal Role Delineation/Task Analysis (RD/TA) study with PES
1986	Joint Committee established with BCSP for technician level certifications
1986/1987	Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists formed and began registration
1988	Last Toxicology Aspect examination given
	Milestone of 4000th certificate issued
	Decision to discontinue eligibility provisions for non-degree applicants after 1990
1990	Decision to discontinue certifications in the Acoustical, Air Pollution, Engineering and Radiological Aspects at the end of 1991.
	Decision to develop a program of one-half day examinations open to ABIH Diplomates in various specialty areas of IH practice.
	Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics formed.
October 1991	Decision to offer sub-specialty examinations in Indoor Environmental Quality and Hazardous Material Response and Remediation.
1992	Aspect exams (except Chemistry) eliminated
1993	Milestone of 6000th certificate issued
Spring 1993	Subspecialty examinations first offered - IEQ and HMRR
1994	HMRR Sub-specialty discontinued
1997	British Institute of Occupational Hygienists formed from a merging of the Institute of Occupational Hygienists with the British Examining Board in Occupational Hygiene
January 1999	CESB Accreditation obtained

March 1999	Public member first elected to the Board
October 1999	Board votes to establish a permanent Associate-level credential.
January 2000	AAIH merged with AIHA
Spring 2000	Milestone of 8000th certificate issued

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## American Board of Industrial Hygiene Strategic Plan Progress Report

*"Industrial hygiene " is the science and practice devoted to the anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of those environmental factors and stresses arising in or from the workplace that may cause sickness, impaired health and well-being, or significant discomfort among workers and may also impact the general community.*

### I. Vision

To ensure the highest level of competence among the practitioners in the profession of Industrial Hygiene for the protection of the workers and the public worldwide.

### II. Mission

To improve the practice and educational standards of the profession of Industrial Hygiene by maintaining and administering the highest quality comprehensive Industrial Hygiene certification system.

### III. Goals

- A. **Ensure that the certification process is responsive to and anticipates the needs of Industrial Hygiene practitioners and the Industrial Hygiene profession.**

\* Establish a mechanism to anticipate and evaluate emerging trends of IH practice and their impact on the certification process.

*There is no one single mechanism or means by which emerging trends of IH practice can be evaluated. However, as part of our concerted effort to live up to our Vision and Mission, the ABIH communicates with many of its sister organizations and others in the allied health profession field to try and anticipate changes taking place in the field. We also directly contact industrial hygiene academics, PDC instructors and technical committees for input to the ABIH Question Bank.*

*Two major initiatives completed by Columbia Assessment Services, Inc., our contracted testing company, during the past year include:*

*The updating and validation of the primary document which reflects what the current CIH practitioner in the field is doing. This Role Delineation/Task Analysis (RDTA) drives the exam structure and areas to be tested.*

*The development and validation of a RDTA to support the new permanent Certified Associate Industrial Hygienist (CAIH) program being offered to recognize the professional level practitioner who engages in industrial hygiene activities but who does not qualify for Comprehensive Practice certification.*

\* Cooperate with the industrial/occupational hygiene membership organizations to promote consistency in the definition of Industrial Hygiene and to ensure that the certification process reflects the current industrial hygiene practice.

\* Require all CIH applicants to take the Comprehensive Practice examination.

*Beginning in 2001, all CIH applicants will be required to qualify for and take the Comprehensive Practice exam. In essence, all aspects or specialty exams will be discontinued. This decision furthers the goal of assuring the CIH designation is recognized as the hallmark of the profession. In addition it makes fiscal sense when evaluated in terms of the number of applicants versus the required infrastructure needed to support continuation of these exams.*

\* Develop and implement a plan to raise the educational eligibility requirements for the CIH.

*To provide for some consistent educational course content for all practitioners seeking the CIH designation, the Board will require each applicant to have accumulated a number of semester and/or continuing education hours in specified industrial hygiene "fundamentals" coursework. A phased-in approach has been developed extending out to 2006.*

- \* Develop and implement a permanent certification to recognize the Industrial hygiene practitioner who does not meet the educational and experience requirements for the CIH.

*Beginning in the Spring of 2001, the Board will offer the first "Certified Associate Industrial Hygienist" (CAIH) examination. The CAIH program represents the culmination of several years of work. It will target two categories of professional level practitioners: EHS professionals who have IH responsibilities but they do not account for 50% or more total work time and individuals who primarily function in a single IH rubric area, such as ergonomics, noise, health physics, etc., thereby not meeting the CIH requirement for broad scope work experience.*

- \* If warranted, develop post-CIH subspecialty examination(s) in specific areas of Industrial Hygiene to provide additional recognition of professional knowledge in a multi-disciplinary field.

*The single subspecialty currently offered in Indoor Environmental Quality will be suspended after this fall's examinations. The EPA/OSHA regulatory drivers anticipated at the time of its inception did not materialize and less than 1% of CIHs have pursued this subspecialty.*

*If, and when, there is a perceived need for examinations of this type, the Board will explore all options available.*

- \* Evaluate mechanisms for administering the examinations electronically without compromising the quality of the examination process.
- \* Actively participate in Academy transition issues relating to Board functions.

*Staff briefings and transfer of records took place at the end of 1999 in preparation for the official January 1, 2000 Academy move from the Board to AIHA. ABIH staff continues to offer assistance as AIHA familiarizes itself with the Academy's administrative support.*

## **B. Enhance the value and meaning of our certifications in Industrial Hygiene.**

- \* Maintain CIH as the hallmark level of certification
- \* Cooperate with stakeholder organizations to increase public recognition of the value of ABIH certifications.

*Although the Board relies on the Academy, ACGIH and AIHA to help promote and increase recognition and value of ABIH certifications, we are also actively engaged in providing articles and information about the*

*certification process and the value of those certifications for publication in pertinent journals and magazines.*

- \* Continue to protect our professional designations including "Certified Industrial Hygienist", "CIH", and others through appropriate legal channels.

*We are completing the process to register "Certified Industrial Hygienist" and "CIH" as Trademarks with the US Patent & Trademark Office. We have also initiated protecting "Certified Associate Industrial Hygienist" and "CAIH".*

- \* Maintain appropriate third party accreditation of our certification processes.

*This is an on-going process with the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB). The CIH certification process was accredited in January 1999. We will be applying to CESB to also have the CAIH program accredited.*

- \* Promote the ability of Certified Industrial Hygienists to practice worldwide.

**C. Participate actively in international activities related to the professional practice of Industrial Hygiene and credentialing programs.**

- \* Improve the practice of Industrial Hygiene worldwide by promoting the development of appropriate educational resources and national or regional certification programs.
- \* Investigate the feasibility of extending the certification process to interested regions or countries worldwide.
- \* Establish formal communication links with IOHA, non-governmental organizations and the international committees of the IH membership organizations.

*This past year has been a busy one for the Board in this arena. Several Directors have participated in workshops and speaking engagements aimed at providing information and continuing dialogue with international organizations interested in promoting the practice of IH. Some of the countries the Board has had contact with include Columbia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand. ABIH took part in an International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) certification workshop in November 1999. As a result, an IOHA Certification Committee will be established to develop a model certification program and evaluate certification programs.*

**D. Ensure that the certification maintenance program continues to add value to the certification process.**

\* The certification maintenance program will ensure that Diplomates continue to develop and enhance their professional industrial hygiene knowledge and skills for the duration of their active careers.

\* Develop a plan to implement a certification maintenance program for any future certifications.

*The CM program has traditionally been one of the busiest aspects of the certification process. This past year has proved to be no exception. Along with the need for continual evaluation and auditing of submitted worksheets, a framework was developed to support the new CAIH certification program. Methods for evaluating the new means available for delivering educational programs (i.e., distance learning) are being established.*

**E. Improve communications with our constituents and allied professional organizations.**

\* Develop a formal communications plan to actively communicate with our constituents, industrial hygiene organizations and allied health, safety and environmental organizations.

*Although the Board has not yet developed a formal communications plan, we engage in several means of communicating with our constituents during the year. These include direct mailings, Academy publications, the Board forum at the AIHCE, our Web page, presentations to Local Sections, participation in the Intersociety Forum and the new ABIH newsletter. We continue to look for ways to be more effective in this area.*

**F. Manage our financial resources to ensure that the ABIH can accomplish its mission.**

\* Maintain our status as a not-for-profit organization.

\* Maintain an adequate reserve for operating expenses.

\* Develop a long-term strategy for fiscal management.

*This represents another key area of activity for the Board during the year. Many of the initiatives discussed in this report require financial resources to bring them to fruition. This past year the Board has developed and approved a strategy and investment policy that we believe will assure continuing sound fiscal management.*

**G. Provide exemplary service through the staff office to the Board and to constituents.**

\* Develop an office procedures manual to describe services to constituents relating to information requests, application processing, examinations administration, roster listings and certification maintenance.

\* Define and document the role of staff in representing the ABIH and in participating in Board activities.

*Office procedures are being revised to reflect the addition of the CAIH program, increased use of the ABIH web page and email for communication purposes and the use of new data base software in the Lansing office.*

*The responsibilities of the Executive Director and Technical Affairs Manager include representing the Board with constituents, outside contractors, allied professional organizations and others based on policy set by the Board. Individual staff members are assigned to provide administrative support to each of the four standing Board committees.*

**H. To be the preferred provider of Industrial Hygiene certification expertise**

\* Promote the use of ABIH materials/examinations to meet Industrial Hygiene criteria within certifying bodies'/organizations' certification programs.

\* Participate, where appropriate, in the development of Industrial Hygiene criteria within certifying bodies'/organizations' certification programs.

\* Partner with other organizations for possible certifications relating to aspects of Industrial Hygiene practice.

*Based on Diplomat feedback, which favored partnering with other certifying bodies rather than the Board developing new subspecialty exams, ABIH passed a Resolution supporting the credentialing program offered by the Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics (BCPE) and establishing an ongoing reciprocal relationship with BCPE.*

*We have also launched some preliminary discussions with other certifying organizations to explore the development of a broad-based EHS credential.*

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## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIPLOMATES**

- **Code of Ethics**

Diplomates agree to honor the [Code of Ethics for the Professional Practice of Industrial Hygiene](#). These canons provide standards of ethical conduct for industrial hygienists as they practice their profession and exercise their primary mission, to protect the health and well-being of working people and the public from chemical, biological, physical and ergonomic health hazards present at, or emanating from the workplace. The Board encourages you to become involved in implementing the Code and making the interpretive guidelines a living document.

- **Claims of False Certifications**

The Board continues to become aware of individuals who falsely claim certification. The Board and its attorney follow up on these cases and when a resolution can not be reached, the Board exercises its option to file civil and/or criminal complaints against those who fraudulently claim certification. Most of these fraudulent claims have been reported to the Board by Diplomates. The Board requests that you continue to identify potential cases of false certification claims.

- **Professional References**

The Board requires applicants to obtain at least one reference from a CIH who is familiar with the applicant's industrial hygiene work. Considerable weight is given by the Board to the Professional Reference Questionnaire (PRQ). The Board uses the PRQ to confirm that the applicant is in the full time practice of industrial hygiene at the professional level currently and for each year claimed as practice. The Board asks that you be as detailed and specific as possible about your knowledge of the applicant's experience.

- **Address of Record**

It is the CIH/IHITs responsibility to keep ABIH informed with regard to any name and/or address changes. The Board makes every effort to locate individuals when mail is returned to the office, however it is impossible to maintain accurate records without your assistance.

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## 1999 Application/Examination/Certification Statistics

### Applications

New applications	340
Reapplications	661

Reapplicants include IHITs requesting approval to take a second level examination, those previously approved who have delayed taking the exam(s) and those who are retaking an exam.

**Examinations**

<b>Examination</b>	<b># Examinees</b>	<b># Who Passed</b>	<b>% Who Passed</b>
CORE	Spring 135 Fall 249 Total 384	70 <u>107</u> 177	46.1
COMPREHENSIVE PRACTICE	Spring 196 Fall 322 Total 518	68 <u>81</u> 149	28.8
CHEMICAL PRACTICE	Spring 1 Fall 4 Total 5	0 <u>1</u> 1	20.0
INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Spring 4 Fall 2 Total 6	4 <u>2</u> 6	100.0

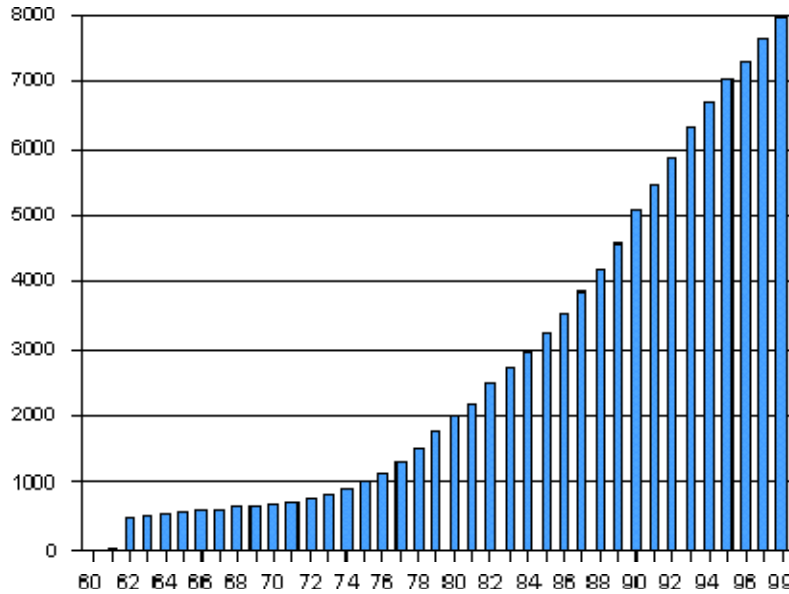
**Certification Maintenance**

<b>Categories</b>	<b>1993 - 1998 Cycle</b>
Certificates Due for Renewal	1208
Retired, Deceased or Previously Lapsed	270
Worksheets Due - February 1, 1999	938
Certificates Renewed	892
Certificates Not Renewed -September 25, 1999	46

<b>Categories</b>	<b>1994 - 1999 Cycle</b>
Certificates Due for Renewal	1191
Worksheets Due - February 1, 2000	
Certificates Not Renewed	

Voting will take place during the October 28-29, 2000 Board Meeting

**Cumulative Total of CIH Certificates Issued**



**CIHs/IHITs  
in Active  
Status**

Through May  
19, 2000 there  
were:

**6389** CIHs in  
Active status

**6045**

Comprehensive Practice

**279** Chemical Practice

**131** Other Aspects (Acoustics, Air Pollution, Engineering,  
Radiation and Toxicology)

\*Some Diplomates are certified in more than one aspect

**647** IHITs

**67** Diplomates holding Indoor Environmental Quality Sub-Specialty  
certificates

## ACCOUNTING RESOURCES

The resources required to meet the purpose of the Board include the financial support of the Diplomates, applicants and examinees; the full-time staff in Lansing, Michigan headquarters; and the time and talent of the Board members and others involved in Board activities.

### Financial Resource

The 1999 audited financial statement, prepared by Lewis M. Aronow, CPA, is presented on the [following pages](#). The accompanying notes to the statement are maintained on file

at the ABIH office in Lansing, Michigan. One financial objective of the Board is to maintain reserves equal to annual operating expenses. This goal through 1999 was being met, although the overall financial strength of ABIH has declined due to a loss of revenue.

[This full financial report is available on this Home Page as a separate document.](#)

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## Administrative Office

Lynn C. O'Donnell, CIH  
ABIH Executive Director

Lyle Edinger, CIH  
ABIH Manager, Technical Affairs

Barbara A. Saalfeld  
Barbara "Bee" Snow  
Pamela J. Trim

The full-time staff members at the ABIH offices in Lansing, Michigan provide a number of services to Diplomates, examinees, applicants, Board members and others. The office receives and processes applications, professional reference questionnaires, academic transcripts and other supporting documentation for applicants. The Lansing staff prepares the examination books, selects and arranges for examination sites, mails and processes dues and certification maintenance notices, maintains and mails the membership roster and keeps records of the certification maintenance program and produces the ABIH Newsletter. They provide support for the four Board Committees: Certification Maintenance, Examination, Executive and Qualification as well as the full Board. This includes research activities, meeting arrangements, minutes and implementing Board policy.



O'Donnell



Edinger



Saalfeld



Snow



Trim

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## 1999 - 2000 Officers and Directors

Chair	Daniel E. Agopsowicz, CIH Infineum
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