

American Board of Industrial Hygiene



1998 - 1999 Annual Report

American Board of Industrial Hygiene

Message to the Diplomates - 1998 - 1999

The ABIH exists for the express purpose of improving the practice and educational standards of the profession of Industrial Hygiene. This has been the aim of the Board since its incorporation in 1960 and continues to be our touchstone. However, as we are all keenly aware, the rate of change in all facets of society continues to increase, and this is no different for our professional lives and the supporting organizations.

In times of rapid change, any organization that wants to survive and succeed needs to focus on two priorities: 1) Identify the core process and strengthen it beyond challenge and 2) innovate ways to interface the core process with the changing surroundings. For the ABIH, our core process is qualifying, examining and certifying Industrial Hygienists for the ultimate protection of health. Our changing environment includes a proliferation of broad-based HSE practitioners, "narrow-scope" IH experts and mail-order credentialing offers. We are addressing these challenges head-on.

Our cornerstone credential, CIH, is being fine-tuned to ensure its professional stature and legal recognition. More robust eligibility requirements are being reviewed. A new Role Delineation/Task Analysis (RDTA) is being commissioned to improve exam content and balance and the format of the exam itself may soon be improved. The ABIH has also achieved Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB) accreditation to help protect the stature of all our credentialing processes.

We are actively addressing the need to provide high quality credentials to IH practitioners outside the strict CIH definition. Many practice IH as a part of a broad HSE role. At the other end of the envelope, today's job market fosters many single-subject experts who do important work for the IH profession. Our proposed Associate Industrial Hygiene

certification will create a high-value professional credential for these important members of the IH profession.

The ABIH is exploring new avenues of partnering with sister organizations of high credibility. We have collaborated for years with the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) to deliver the Occupational Health and Safety Technologist (OHST) family of credentials - a true success story. A new partnership is blossoming with the Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics (BCPE). When done properly, these alliances will be true "win-win-win" for our organization, the partner organization and you – the IH.

Finally, the ABIH is streamlining its own house; standing committees have been consolidated from nearly a dozen to four which represent our major activities: Qualification, Examination, Certification Maintenance and Executive. Our roles/responsibilities have been simplified and clarified to maximize the contribution of every Director.

In short, we are working hard to offer certification to a broad array of Industrial Hygiene practitioners while underscoring the value associated with credentials achieved with the ABIH.

On behalf of the members of the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, we present for your review our Annual Report to the Diplomates.

/signed/

Daniel E. Agopsowicz, CIH
Chair, ABIH

/signed/

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

About the ABIH

The American Board of Industrial Hygiene exists for the express purpose of improving the practice and educational standards of the profession of Industrial Hygiene.

The Board achieves this purpose by: (1) offering certification examinations to industrial hygienists with the required educational background and professional industrial hygiene experience; (2) acknowledging individuals who successfully complete the examinations by issuing a certificate; (3) requiring Diplomates to maintain their certification by submitting evidence of continued professional development; and (4) maintaining records and publishing a roster of certificate holders for the profession and the public.

The ABIH was incorporated in 1960 per the joint recommendation of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA). The ABIH has no formal obligation to the societies which initiated its formation, though it has clear responsibility to align its vision and strategies

with all facets of the IH Profession it serves. The American Academy of Industrial Hygiene (AAIH) was formed by the ABIH as a non-incorporated association of Diplomates (Certified Industrial Hygienists) certified by the ABIH. For those of you interested in the early history of this organization and how it came to be, we refer you to our web page.

The ABIH is comprised of 19 Directors who volunteer their time to gather and conduct the Board's business. Every two years 6 Directors rotate off the ABIH and are replaced, 2 each from nominees submitted by AAIH, ACGIH and AIHA. The total commitment as an ABIH Director is 6 years. One Director represents the public. This Director is elected to a two year term of office and may serve a total of three terms.

Supporting the ABIH Directors is a "home office" located in Lansing, Michigan which includes an Executive Director and a small staff of professional and administrative resources. Essentially all ABIH communications to/from applicants, examinees, Diplomates and organizations go through this office.

Within the ABIH are now 4 standing committees, each made up of 4-6 Directors. The committees are as follows:

- Executive Committee
- Qualifications Committee
- Examination Committee
- Certification Maintenance Committee

Individual Directors also represent the Board on a variety of other Boards and Committees:

- American Academy of Industrial Hygiene
- Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards
- Intersociety Credentialing Task Force
- Industrial Hygiene InterBoard Task Group
- Joint Council for Health, Safety & Environmental Education of Professionals
- Joint Industrial Hygiene Ethics Education Committee
- ABIH/BCSP Joint Committee

The primary function of the ABIH is to administer the process of certification(s) for those meeting all criteria for the professional practice of Industrial Hygiene. Several key activities support this mission:

- Establish education and experience requirements for candidates
 - This is done with input from all IH organizations, special task groups, and the collective IH membership.
- Evaluate all applicants against these requirements

- The home office processes applications which are straight forward; more complex applications require review by several Directors and/or the entire Board.
- Create, update and audit examination(s) for certification
 - includes question bank management and exam update exercises; a professional examination service is contracted for assistance.
- Administer examination(s) for certification
 - One offering each spring, 10-12 each fall; international offerings as appropriate.
- Determine the requirements for maintenance of certification
 - As above, done with a broad range of input.
- Review all recertification worksheets
 - Each worksheet is reviewed; currently 10% are fully audited.

Directors attend meetings of the full Board twice a year; other committees/responsibilities may require 1-4 additional meetings per year (most meetings are on weekends to avoid business conflicts). Activity between meetings focuses on application reviews, CM audits and special projects.

Comments regarding Board activities are welcome. We can be reached by phone (517) 321-2638, fax (517)321-4624, email ambrdih@ibm.net or check us out on the internet at <http://www.abih.org/homepage.htm>.

AMERICAN BOARD OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

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 our certification processes keep pace with the current practice of Industrial Hygiene.**

Cooperate with the AAIH, ACGIH, and AIHA to ensure that the definition of Industrial Hygiene and the functions of Industrial Hygienists reflect current practice.

This year ABIH will work with its testing company, Columbia Assessment Services, to update/develop "Role Delineations" for the practice of industrial hygiene. These exercises are fundamental to updating the existing exams and creating the proposed Associate Industrial Hygiene certification exam.

The protection of human health through the prevention of occupational illnesses is fundamental to the definition of Industrial Hygiene.

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

Cooperate with the AAIH, ACGIH, and AIHA to promote the recognition of the value of our certifications in Industrial Hygiene.

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

Achieve and maintain appropriate third party accreditation of our certification processes.

ABIH achieved accreditation by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB) in January 1999. CESB conducts peer reviews of certification programs for compliance with established standards. The Certification Maintenance cycle reduction from six to five years and a bylaws change to permit a Public Member on the Board of Directors were two changes the Board initiated to specifically meet the CESB standards. Third party accreditation helps provide credibility when referencing the CIH in legislation/regulation and title protection bills at the state level.

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 national or regional certification programs that meet the respective situations and needs.

At the invitation of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), ABIH and other industrial hygiene certification/registration bodies including those from Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom will participate in a Workshop scheduled for November.

Protect the ability of Certified Industrial Hygienists to practice world-wide.

Investigate the feasibility of developing an ABIH accreditation program for international certifying organizations.

Establish formal communication links with IOHA and the international committees of the AAIH, ACGIH and AIHA.

D. Develop a plan to expand our certification framework.

This expanded certification framework will have the following objectives:

Maintain CIH as the hallmark level of certification.

Require all CIH applicants to take the Comprehensive Practice examination.

With the creation of the proposed Associate Industrial Hygiene certification and consistent with the definition of professional, broadscope industrial hygiene practice as stated in the ABIH Bulletin, the Comprehensive Practice exam will become the only route to a CIH.

Develop a plan to raise the educational eligibility requirements for the CIH.

Academic requirements for CIH eligibility are being scrutinized and enhancements are proposed concurrent with implementation of the Associate Industrial Hygiene certification.

Develop a permanent certification to recognize the Industrial Hygiene practitioner who does not meet the educational and experience requirements for the CIH.

Plans to offer an Associate Industrial Hygiene certification have progressed with a target date of 2001.

Maintain our practice of developing a subspecialty examination in a specific area of Industrial Hygiene for CIHs when there is a need to provide additional recognition that CIHs have a professional knowledge in a multi-disciplinary field.

Partner with other organizations for possible certifications relating to aspects of health, safety or environmental that are outside of the defined functions of Industrial Hygienists.

Another important ABIH partnership has developed with the Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics. The full range of advantages of this partnership is still being explored.

Evaluate mechanisms for administering the examinations electronically without compromising the quality of the examination process.

E. 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.

F. Improve communications with our constituents and our allied professional organizations.

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

The ABIH director who serves as the public member is a communication expert and will advise on communication of the Board within and outside the profession.

G. Continue to soundly manage our financial resources to ensure that the ABIH can accomplish its mission.

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

Continue to maintain an adequate reserve for operating expenses.

H. Provide exemplary customer service through the ABIH office to our constituents.

Provide responsive, timely, and accurate services to constituents relating to information requests, application processing, examinations administration, roster listings, and certification maintenance.

1998 APPLICATION/EXAMINATION/CERTIFICATION STATISTICS

Applications

New applications 452
Reapplications 758

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

Examination	# Examinees	# Who Passed	% Who Passed
CORE	Spring 183 Fall 319 Total 502	90 <u>161</u> 251	50.0
COMPREHENSIVE PRACTICE	Spring 233 Fall 376 Total 609	98 <u>123</u> 221	36.3
CHEMICAL PRACTICE	Spring 4 Fall 5 Total 9	2 <u>2</u> 4	44.4
INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Spring 1 Fall 1 Total 2	1 0 1	50.0

Certification Maintenance

Categories	1992-1997 Cycle
Certificates Due for Renewal	1103
Retired, Deceased or Previously Lapsed	274
Worksheets Due - February 1, 1998	830
Certificates Renewed	818

Categories

1993-1998 Cycle

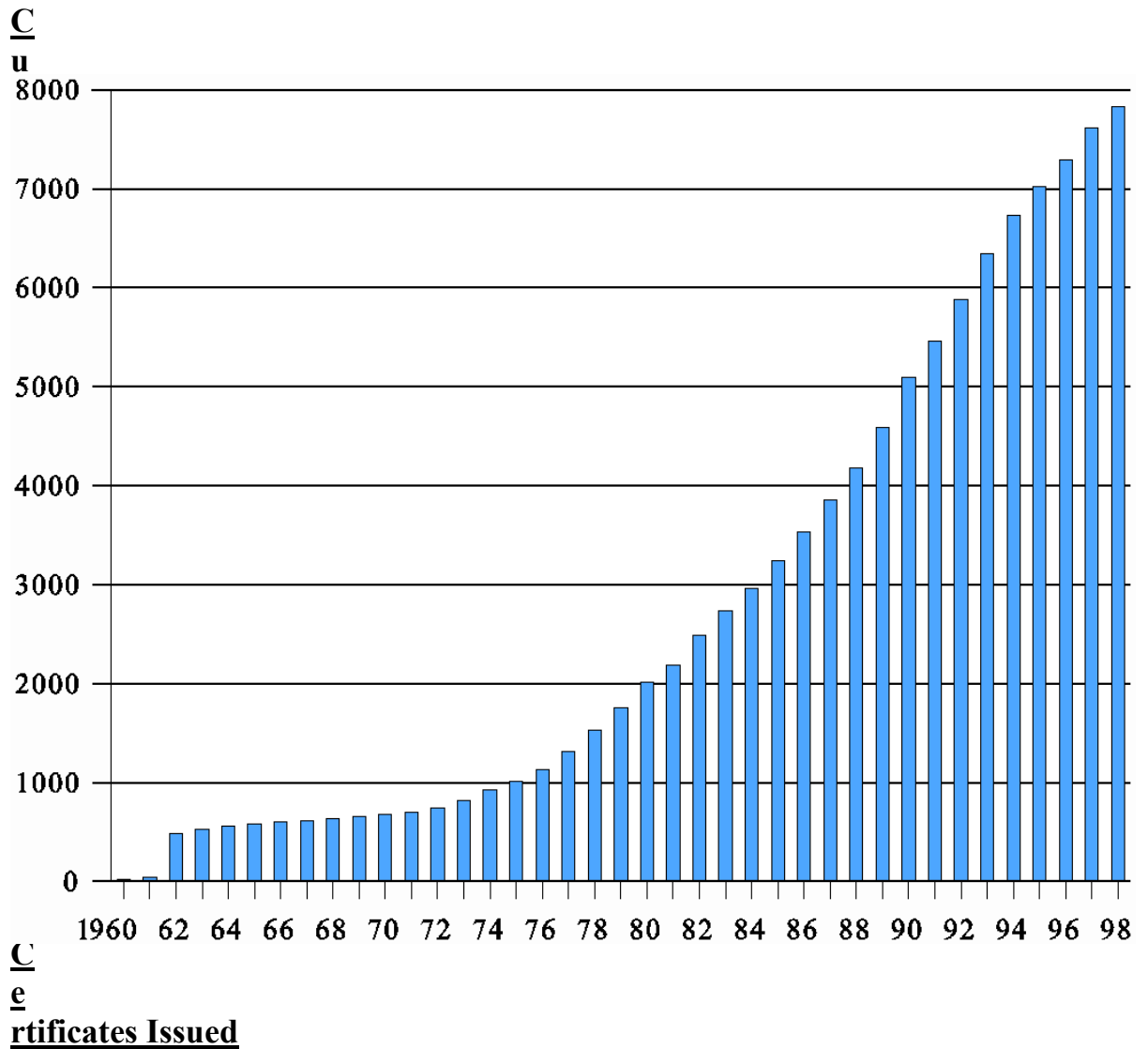
Certificates Due for Renewal

1208

Worksheets Due - February 1, 1999

Certificates Not Renewed

Voting will take place during the September 25-26, 1999 Board Meeting



CIHs/IHITs in Active Status

Through May of 1999 there were:

6356 CIHs in Active status

6005 Comprehensive Practice

284 Chemical Practice

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

*Some Diplomates are certified in more than one aspect

643 IHITs

61 Diplomates holding Indoor Environmental Quality Sub-Specialty certificates

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 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.

ACCOUNTING RESOURCES

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

Financial Resource

The 1998 audited financial statement, prepared by Lewis M. Aronow, CPA, is presented on the [following pages](#). The accompanying notes to the statement are on file at the ABIH office in Lansing, MI. The objective of the Board is to maintain reserves equal to annual operating costs.

This goal is currently being met and the financial position of the Board is sound.

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Officer/Director	1998		1999	
	Name/Affiliation	Board Term	Name/Affiliation	Board Term
Chair	J. Kenneth Conover, CIH, CSP Coca-Cola USA	1993- 1999	Daniel E. Agopsowicz, CIH Infineum	1995- 2001
Vice-Chair	Daniel E. Agopsowicz, CIH	1995- 2001	Ana M. Prieto, JD, CIH	1997- 2003

	Exxon Chemical Company		Novartis International AG	
Secretary	Roy J. Covert, CIH Covert and Associates	1991-1999	Edward T. Bartosh, Jr., CIH Health Risk Associates	1995-2001
Treasurer	Christopher Wiernicki, CIH, CSP Hamilton Standard	1993-1999	Thomas A. Hethmon, CIH, ROH Phelps Dodge Corporation	1997-2003
Directors	Edward T. Bartosh, CIH Health Risk Associates	1995-2001	Harry J. Beaulieu, PhD, CIH, CSP Industrial Hygiene Resources	1997-2003
	Harry J. Beaulieu, PhD, CIH, CSP Industrial Hygiene Resources	1997-2003	Ching-tsen Bien, CIH LAO Consulting, Inc.	1995-2001
	Ching-tsen Bien, CIH LAO Consulting, Inc.	1995-2001	Mary Brophy, PhD, CIH, CPE New York State Department of Labor	1995-2001
	Mary Brophy, PhD, CIH, CPE New York State Department of Labor	1995-2001	John J. Burke, JD Strategic Communications, Inc.	1999-2001
	Michel J. Crepeau, CIH, ROH Digital Equipment Corporation	1995-2001	Michel J. Crepeau, CIH, ROH Sun Microsystems	1995-2001
	Alice C. Farrar, CIH Clayton Environmental Consultants, Inc.	1995-2001	Alice C. Farrar, CIH Clayton Environmental Consultants, Inc.	1995-2001
	Theodore A. Felton,	1993-1999	David M. Gioiello, Jr.,	1999-

	CIH, CSP General Electric Company		CIH, CSP Industrial Health & Safety Consultants, Inc.	2005
	Elizabeth R. Gross, CIH Dana Farber Cancer Institute	1993- 1999	Barbara C. Hargis, CIH, CSP Los Alamos National Laboratory	1999- 2005
	Don W. Harvey, CIH, CSP US Dept. of Energy	1997- 2003	Don W. Harvey, CIH, CSP US Dept. of Energy	1997- 2003
	Thomas A. Hethmon, CIH, ROH Phelps Dodge Corporation	1997- 2003	Norman W. Henry, CIH, CSP E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co., Inc.	1999- 2005
	Joseph A. Jakubowski, CIH Pharmacia & Upjohn, Inc.	1993- 1999	Kirby P. James, CIH, ROH MDS, Inc.	1997- 2003
	Kirby P. James, CIH, ROH Toronto District School Board	1997- 2003	Chris Laszcz-Davis, CIH Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp.	1999- 2005
	Rosemary E. Patnode, CIH, CSP US Dept. of Veterans Affairs	1997- 2003	Rosemary E. Patnode, CIH, CSP US Dept. of Veterans Affairs	1997- 2003
	Ana M. Prieto, JD, CIH Novartis Corporation	1997- 2003	William Pependorf, PhD, CIH Utah State University	1999- 2005
			Katherine Teschke, PhD, CIH, ROH University of British Columbia	1999- 2005

HEADQUARTERS STAFF

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. They also assist the Board in maintaining and updating the question bank and in updating the examinations. The staff also makes arrangements for Board meetings, committee meetings and maintains the minutes of meetings. Administrative services are provided to the American Academy of Industrial Hygiene under contract.

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[Code of Ethics for the Professional Practice of Industrial Hygiene](#) is available on this Home Page as a separate document.

This was posted on July 27, 1999.

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