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If you have any comments or questions about the ABIH E-Newsletter, please contact Executive Director, Lynn O'Donnell, CIH at lodonnell@abih.org.

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Updated Exam Blueprint

ABIH will introduce an updated examination blueprint for the Fall 2009 Comprehensive Practice exam.

The development of a quality credentialing or licensing program must follow certain logically sound and legally defensible procedures for developing examinations. Before a content-valid examination is developed, the knowledge and skills needed to be a competent professional in the field must be determined. The process for identifying these competency areas is a role delineation/task analysis or job analysis, which serves as a blueprint for examination development.

The critical reason for conducting a job analysis study is to ensure that an examination is content-valid. Content validity is the most commonly applied and accepted validation strategy utilized in establishing certification programs today. In psychometric terms, 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 exam, then, appropriately evaluates knowledge or skills required to function as a competent practitioner in the field. A content-valid exam contains a representative sample of items that measure the knowledge or skills contained in the profession being tested.

The job analysis study is an integral part of ensuring that an examination is content-valid and that the aspects of the profession covered on the exam reflect the tasks performed in practice settings. For both broad content areas and tasks, the study identifies their criticality and frequency. These ratings play an important role in determining the content of the exam.

This job analysis study for ABIH was conducted in conjunction with our exam consultants from CASTLE Worldwide.

Initial Development - A ten member panel was convened in July 2008 to identify the domains, tasks, knowledge and skills essential to the performance of a Certified Industrial Hygienist. Panel members represented a variety of practice settings, geographic regions, educational levels and years of experience.

Validation Study - A random sample of CIHs certified within the last ten years then participated in a validation survey in the fall of 2008.

Development of Test Specifications - Based on the ratings gathered from the representative sample of CIHs, the test specifications for the certification exam have been developed - <http://www.abih.org/certified/index.html>

We would like to thank the ten individuals who volunteered their time and talents to participate on the Job Analysis, as well as the CIHs who completed the validation survey.

Job Analysis Panel:

- Carter Ficklen, CIH Mainthia Technologies/NASA Virginia
- Shannon Gaffney, PhD, CIH Chem Risk, Inc. California
- Cynthia Hanko, CIH Intel Corp. New Mexico
- Michael Larranaga, PhD, PE, CIH, CSP Oklahoma State University Oklahoma
- Rainbow Leung, CIH SRI International California
- Perry Logan, CIH 3M Minnesota
- Mike Rosenow, CIH Argonne National Lab Illinois
- Shamini Samuel, CIH Golder Associates Calgary, Canada
- Eduardo Shaw, CIH Exxon Mobil Corp. Texas Authority of the Panama Canal Panama
- Steve Skolnik, CIH OSHA Illinois

New Applicant/CM Requirement

Beginning in 2010, new applicants and CIHs/CAIHs due to recertify will be required to document that they have completed at least two hours of coursework in ethics. The coursework can be provided via classroom or distance learning. For applicants, this will count as part of the current IH coursework requirement. CIHs/CAIHs can include the ethics course as part of the requirement to show a minimum of 10 CM points per cycle in IH rubrics.

The Board will be communicating directly with applicants and Diplomates throughout the year to provide additional details. Related documents on the ABIH web site will also

be updated to reflect this change.

2008 Fall Examination Results

New certificate holders can be found on the ABIH website at <http://www.abih.org/certified/examinees/examresultsbyyear.html>

ABIH Board Chair and Newly Elected Directors

Scott Merkle, CIH has been re-elected as ABIH Chair.

Two new Board members, Janet Keyes, CIH and Lydia Renton, CIH, ROH, will take office at the conclusion of the March 2009 ABIH Board meeting.

Kent Candee, CIH and Lisa Quiggle, CAIH will rotate off the Board at that time - [January 2009 ABIH Election Results](#)

OSHA Alliance

As part of our OSHA Alliance - [http://www.abih.org/general/OSHA Alliance Agreement.html](http://www.abih.org/general/OSHA_Alliance_Agreement.html) -, ABIH supports NAOSH 2009 <http://www.asse.org/newsroom/naosh09/> - the North American Occupational Safety & Health Week, May 3-9, 2009. This year's theme for the campaign is "Safety Means Always Coming Home." NAOSH Week is aimed at increasing the focus of employers, employees & the general public on the importance of preventing injuries and illnesses in the workplace.

CCHEST

At the end of December 2008, the Board of Certified Safety Professionals purchased ABIH's interest in CCHEST. The Council of Certification of Health, Environmental and Safety Technologists was a joint ABIH/BCSP venture started in 1985. CCHEST offers certifications in safety and health for people working in technician and technologist positions as well as for first-line supervisors. CCHEST is not separately incorporated and will continue to be managed by BCSP - [January 2009 - CCHEST](#)

ABIH is currently exploring the need/interest for additional IH related certification products.

2008 Application/Examination/Certification Statistics

ABIH statistics specific to the 2008 calendar year can be found on our web site at

<http://www.abih.org/general/annualreport.html>.

Not Certified

In response to inquiries, the ABIH reports that the following individuals have never been certified by the Board and are not authorized to use the designations Certified Industrial Hygienist or CIH.

Lamar Gilliland
ERG Environmental, Inc.
Pelham, AL

Robert Keyser
New York, New York

Jason Mack
Environmental Testing & Consulting
Boise, ID

Edson Ogunshakin
Washington, DC

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