














# ABIH Newsletter

## Special CM Issue

### March 2011

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The ABIH Newsletter is published three times per year. Current and back copies are available at <http://www.abih.org/general/newsletter.html>

**ABIH | The American Board of Industrial Hygiene | 6015 West St. Joseph | Suite 102 | Lansing, Michigan | 48917**



## News



### New CM Program Handbook

In 2010, ABIH completed an Equity Analysis of all the Certification Maintenance (CM) Point Categories and the entire CM program overall. As a result, several changes are being made to reduce errors and costs, and position ABIH as a top-quartile professional certification firm. The changes are starting now and will be fully implemented over the next two years in various stages.

All the changes are briefly described in this Newsletter and will be further communicated as their implementation dates are approached.

Consequently, the CM Program Handbook is currently being updated and will be issued before April 1<sup>st</sup>. ABIH will announce its publication.

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### New Leave of Absence Program

ABIH has created a new Leave of Absence (LOA) program, approved by the Board of Directors in December 2010. The program provides CM relief for up to two years for Diplomates unable to practice industrial hygiene due to extended duration hardship circumstances, *and* where a CM Cycle Extension of four months will be insufficient. This includes but is not limited to:



- Medical or health related (personal or family)
- Military assignment
- Educational pursuit
- Family care

Note: Unemployment is excluded from the LOA program because there are free and online educational events that can be used to achieve the CM requirements.

A LOA will be considered for time periods from 12-24 months. Diplomates desiring a LOA should notify ABIH as soon as it is known that the need exists. Requests, which will be held in strict confidence, must be in writing and include a brief description of the circumstances and current status of CM points that have been accumulated. Supporting documentation may be required. Extension requests can be sent via fax, postal mail or email ([abih@abih.org](mailto:abih@abih.org)).

There are additional restrictions and conditions during the LOA period. All information will be available in the new CM Program Handbook. In the meantime, Diplomates may contact ABIH for more details on this program.

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## Changes to the CM Point Categories 4, 5 & 7

### Category 4 – Educational Programs

- Events previously assigned *Fundamentals* CM points have been retroactively reclassified as *IH* CM points. The point type *Fundamentals* has been discontinued and the cap has been eliminated.
- *IH Ethics* now has a cap of 5 points per CM cycle.
- CM approval numbers are now required for nearly all events in Category 4. (See below)

### Category 5 – Teaching/Presentations

- Co-authors of presentations at a peer-reviewed National or International Conference now receive 0.5 point per presentation.

### Category 7 – Other

- After 2010, CM points can not be claimed for writing exam questions or grading exams for the CSP, OHST, STS and ROH certifications.
- Any OHTA volunteer work can be claimed for pro-bono CM points
- A journal article reviewer now may claim 0.5 point for any peer-reviewed journal article that aligns to the IH rubrics. Previously, this was limited to just the JOEH.
- The following can now be claimed as *IH* type points in Category 4. CM#s have been assigned:
  - AIHA Synergist Test Series
  - AIHA Points for Podcast (P2)
  - Workplace HR & Safety participant

## ~~CM#s Required for All Events in Category 4 - Education~~



~~ABIH's CM approval numbers policy has changed regarding the AIHce, PCIH, their associated PDCs, Academic courses and Blanket Approved courses (i.e., Asbestos, Lead, Hazwoper). Previously, these events were given standing approvals and did not require a CM#. In practice, this has created some confusion and even more work for many Diplomates who often struggled to find the CM point values after the event was completed. Beginning in 2011, everything listed in Category 4 on the worksheet must have a CM approval number with the following exceptions:~~

- ~~1. PDCs at the 2007-2009 AIHce and PCIH~~
- ~~2. CM approval numbers have now been assigned for the 2007-10 AIHce, PCIH and Blanket Approved courses. Diplomates are encouraged, but not required, to use these assigned CM numbers since they will provide the CM point type and values.~~

~~ABIH believes the change will simplify the completion of the CM worksheet, decrease workload and reduce errors.~~

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## New CM Cycle Schedules Coming

ABIH is establishing an additional 60 month CM cycle which will run from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. This new CM cycle will be in addition to the current traditional cycle of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. The change is being made to load balance ABIH resources which will allow ABIH to better meet Diplomate needs at the end of the cycle.



**For Diplomates Certified in 2011:** Anyone passing the spring exam in 2011 or thereafter will be assigned to this new CM cycle schedule (July 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>). Those passing the exam in the Fall of each year will be placed on the traditional 60 month cycle that runs from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. This change will allow newly certified Diplomates to begin accruing CM points almost immediately after passing the exam. (Currently, they must wait until the start of the new calendar year.)

**For Diplomates Certified Prior to 2011:** Approximately half of the Diplomates certified prior to 2011 will be placed on a one-time 54 month CM cycle which will end on June 30<sup>th</sup> of their ending CM cycle year. The required number of CM points will be proportionately reduced for all the minimum point requirements except for ethics, which will remain at a minimum of 0.33 *IH Ethics* points per CM cycle. After the end of the 54 month cycle, the Diplomate will be returned to a 60 month cycle of July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

For currently certified Diplomates, this program change will not start until the 2008 - 2012 CM cycle group. All Diplomates will be notified if they are initially placed on the one-time 54 month cycle. ABIH will then work with all Diplomates to ensure that their assigned CM cycle optimally fits their needs.

## De-Certification for Non-Payment of Annual Fees

ABIH has implemented a new de-certification policy for Diplomates who do not pay annual fees for 2.5 years. The new policy is now in effect.

The previous policy allowed a Diplomate, in theory, to practice IH 5.5 years without payment before they would be de-certified. Diplomates were not allowed to use their certification mark (e.g. CIH) after one year of non-payment but ABIH found it very difficult to enforce this rule in practice, resulting in many work hours often without appreciable benefit to the IH professional community or to the Diplomate.

Payment of annual fees has always been a condition of maintaining certification. This policy change will better protect the integrity of the ABIH certification marks and ensure that ABIH resources are being used only by Diplomates who are legitimately interested in maintaining their certification.

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## CIH (Ret) Classification Discontinued



ABIH is discontinuing the CIH (Ret) program. In its place, Diplomates will be allowed to surrender their certification at any time for any reason as long as the Diplomate is in good standing (i.e., no unresolved ethics issues, and paid up on annual fees due before the end of the CM cycle). This change will affect all future Diplomates who surrender their certification as well as the former Diplomates who are currently classified as CIH (Ret). ABIH is in the process of contacting all former Diplomates with the CIH (Ret) classification.

Diplomates who voluntarily surrender their certification will be listed in the ABIH online public roster showing years of certification (e.g. Joan Smithe, CIH, 1972-2005). Diplomates will have the option to be removed from the roster.

Diplomates whose certifications were revoked or terminated will initially not be listed in the roster. They will have a future option of being re-listed (showing years of certification) except in the cases of loss of certification due to an ethics sanction.

**Why is this change being made?** When Diplomates retired from professional IH practice and surrendered the ABIH certification, they were classified as a CIH-(Ret). Under the terms of the retirement surrender, former Diplomates were restricted from using the term CIH-(Ret) in any professional capacity. Most former Diplomates honored that restriction but some have not. In some cases, the terms were used inadvertently or innocently. In other cases, the former Diplomates were deliberately mis-using the terms for purposes of professional gain. In both situations, ABIH has incurred unexpected resource drain and unnecessary legal costs to stop the term abuse.

In essence, either the Diplomate *is* certified or *was* certified. No other distinction is necessary. ABIH believes that the new program will be easier to understand and also increase the likelihood that only currently certified Diplomates are promoting themselves with the CIH designation.



## OHTA Needs Help

In January, 2011, the Board of Directors sent a special communication to all Diplomates asking help for the Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA). OHTA was formed to promote better standards in IH training practices primarily for countries that do not have college or university based IH educational programs. They have developed basic and intermediate level training modules and now have over 30 courses being offered in over 12 countries and in several different languages.

OHTA needs Diplomates to help with exam question writing; editing for language consistency; exam grading; and, formal mentoring. Volunteers will not only help the profession but they can earn pro-bono Category 7 CM points. If you're interested in helping, contact OHTA directly by sending an email to [Anthea.Page@bohs.org](mailto:Anthea.Page@bohs.org).

For additional information, see the ABIH communication posted on the "News" section on the ABIH home page. ABIH is supporting OHTA through a Memorandum Of Agreement but is not otherwise administering the OHTA or OHLearning.com programs.

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## Key Dates - 2011

<b>Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>CM Worksheets</b> – Diplomates in the 2006-2010 CM cycle can still submit a worksheet but will need to include a \$100 late fee.
<b>June 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Re-certification Deadline:</b> All re-certification decisions for the 2006-2010 CM cycle must be completed.
<b>July 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Self Nominate</b> – last day to submit a self-nomination form to be on the ABIH Board of Directors
<b>August 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Fall Exam</b> - Last day to submit an application including references, IH coursework with ethics, and transcripts for the Fall 2011 examination period.
<b>September 1<sup>st</sup></b>	First day to submit a CM worksheet for those Diplomates in the 2007-2011 CM cycle.

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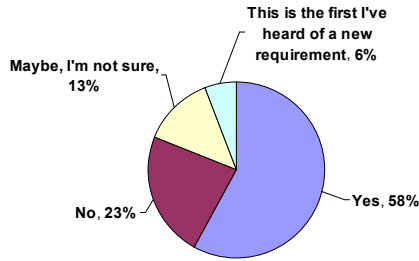


# Diplomate U

## The Diplomate Pulse! - Meeting the New Ethics Requirement

In October 2010, ABIH asked Diplomates about how they have met the *new ethics requirement* of at least 0.33 *IH Ethics* points (2 hrs) during the 5 year CM cycle.

### Have You Already Met the New Ethics Requirement?

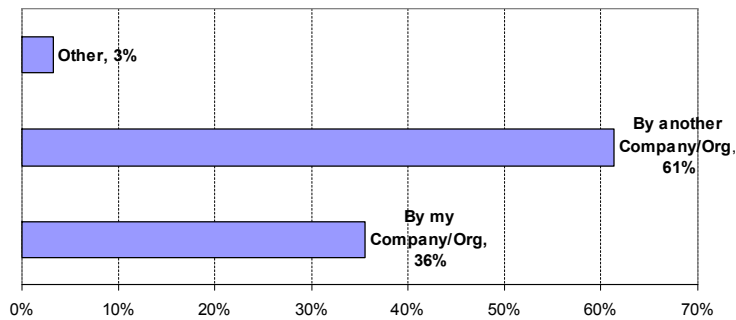


ABIH is encouraged that >50% have already met the new Ethics requirement for their CM cycle.

The 6% who were not aware is a concern to ABIH and we are likely to pursue additional communication efforts.

n = 245

### How Have You or Will You meet the new requirement?



In the “other” group, some thought they would meet the new requirement by “teaching ethics” but that cannot be counted for ethics credit in Category 4 (Education).

n = 245

**Got 30 more seconds?**

**Should ABIH use more Social Media?**



<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dEtKZFZOUJ2aVFRQW94RldWX1B4aFE6MQ>

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

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## Exam Myths - True or False?



1. Examinees outside North America have less success on the exam.
2. If you fail the exam the first time, the chances are slim that you will ever pass.

An analysis of examination data from the last two years is displayed below. The majority of tests were taken in North America (91%) with All Other Locations (9%) accounting for the remainder. Note: The table does not include CIHs who took the exam for recertification.

The data suggests that Myth #1 is just that, a myth. The overall pass rates for North America and All Other Locations were essentially the same. The data also suggests that those who repeat the exam will have some success, dispelling Myth #2. For a more detailed discussion on the on the repeat exams, see the October 2010 Newsletter. It showed that the eventual pass rate of the cohort group goes up an additional 20% within 3 years.

2009-2010	North America	All Other Locations
<b>Overall Pass Rate</b>	<b>39% (302/778)</b>	<b>38% (29/77)</b>
1st Attempt	45% (164/361)	32% (14/44)
Repeat	33% (138/417)	46% (15/33)

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## Why Didn't My Event Receive Category 4 CM Points?

ABIH will evaluate any event for Category 4 Education CM points but sometimes the points are not awarded as expected by the Diplomat. What happened and what can you do?

Courses less than 1 hour and conferences less than 3 hours are not eligible. So often, an event is denied CM points simply because there wasn't enough time.

Sometimes, the event is an internal business meeting with a mixture of training and business activities. The training often is eligible (for CM points) but business activities like strategic planning, reports/updates and organizational effectiveness are not eligible. (The CIH already receives credit in Category 1 – Active IH Practice.) So partial CM credit may be issued.

Sometimes, the subject matter doesn't align to our CM point types: *IH, IH Ethics, Safety, and Management*. (General management courses are eligible for points if taken before January 1, 2010) Events that do not have a direct or obvious EH&S aspect are most difficult to evaluate. We review the event objectives and target audiences, and then we make a judgment.

We recognize that Diplomates take many courses that help them in their professional career; however, just because a Diplomat takes a course does not mean that the course is eligible for CM points. Although this is a facetious example, one could argue that a course on "How To Bake A Pie" is EHS-related because the instructor talked about heat, skin damage, PPE and a hazardous waist when in fact the real objective of the course was to make a pie.

The Category 4 points program is not a perfect system with precise definitions. However the decisions must be defensible with rules that are consistently applied to everyone; otherwise, the integrity of the CM program would be compromised. If a CM point review does not go as expected, Diplomates should ask for a re-review stating the case for awarding points.

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## Self Nominate to be on Board of Directors

ABIH is scheduled to elect three new Directors at its October 22-23, 2011 meeting. These Directors will take office at the conclusion of the March 2012 Board meeting. The term of office is four years. There are three Board meetings per year. They are usually held on a weekend to avoid conflicting with work. Expenses related to Board travel are covered by ABIH.

If you would like to be considered for a Director position, please contact the Lansing office or go to the following ABIH web site link for the Director Nomination Process Information:

<http://www.abih.org/membersdirectornomprocess.html>

The deadline for submissions is July 1st. Questions about the election process can be directed to: Lynn C. O'Donnell, CIH, Executive Director at 517-321-2638 Ext.16 or [lodonnell@abih.org](mailto:lodonnell@abih.org)

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## Stay Connected

### AIHce Events

- **ABIH Booth** – learn what's new; get questions answered.
- **Perspectives on Preparation for the CIH Exam/RT 220 Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30-1 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).
- **ABIH Forum/RT 231, Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am -12:00 pm** – ABIH Directors and Staff will discuss certification topics, answer questions, and seek audience input on ABIH's direction and programs.

## Board of Directors Announced

The American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) has named its new Board of Directors that will take office in March 2011.

J. Torey Nalbone, PhD, CIH, an Associate Professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of the University of Texas at Tyler, has been re-elected Chair, serving a second one-year term in the role. He has served on the ABIH Board since March 2008. He holds a doctorate in Interdisciplinary Engineering from Texas A&M University and has been a practicing industrial hygienist for over 26 years. Dr. Nalbone has previously served as Secretary/Treasurer on the Academy of Industrial Hygiene and has been active on technical committees of both the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA).

### **Two new Board members elected to serve 4 year terms:**

- Patricia A. Beach, CIH, Harris & Lee Environmental Sciences, LLC
- Nicole Heider Greeson, CIH, Duke University.

### **Continuing Directors are:**

- Eric Bauer, CIH, Rockwell Collins
- Kimberly Castillon, CIH, OSHA
- Mark Finn, PhD, CIH, Consultant
- Janet L. Keyes, CIH, CHESS, Inc.
- Charles Laszewski, Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota
- Torey Nalbone, CIH, University of Texas-Tyler, **Chair**
- Lydia Renton, CIH, ROH, WESA Inc.
- Shamini Samuel, CIH, ROH, CSP, Suncor Energy
- Jeff V. Throckmorton, CIH, University of Utah-EHS

### **Two Board members have completed their service and will rotate off the Board in March 2011.** They are:

- Janice Camp, CIH, COHN-S, University of Washington
- John Henshaw, CIH, Henshaw and Associates, Inc.

Thank you Janice and John for four years of dedicated service to ABIH and our profession.

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## Meet Your New Directors

Each year, ABIH elects several new Board Directors to replace those rotating off the Board. Both of these Directors were elected to the Board for four year terms starting in 2011.



**Patricia A. Beach**, CIH is a Managing Partner and Senior Scientist at Harris & Lee Environmental Sciences, LLC. She has an MS in Environmental Health Sciences (IH Emphasis) from UCLA, and BS in Environmental Toxicology from UC Davis. Patty has over eighteen years of experience in environmental risk assessment, toxicology, environmental due diligence, and health and safety in a wide variety of industrial and community settings. She specializes in exposure assessment and control in an array of industrial settings from biopharmaceutical development to energy production, including nuclear power and solar. She is a California Registered Environmental Assessor and is a member of the AIHA Environmental Issues Committee. She is a Past-President of the AIHA-Northern California Local Section. She is currently a board member of the California Industrial Hygiene Council.

Patty was asked - *what do you find most rewarding about working in EHS?*

“I find that the variety of day-to-day work and the challenges that the EHS profession provides are the most rewarding for me. Not many careers combine the need for a multi-disciplinary science background with strong interpersonal skills like that of an EHS professional. From getting “up close and personal” when conducting personal sampling, to presenting discussions or training on risk and hazard to lay people, to selling the case for EHS to executives, the career has no end of growth opportunities. I’m so glad I found the profession that fits my personality and constantly pushes my skills to new levels, as well as fosters the development of new skills. One of the challenges of our profession now is to help the next generation see the opportunities that this career provides.” *Patty can be reached [patty@hlevn.com](mailto:patty@hlevn.com).*



**Nicole Heider Greeson**, CIH, is a Safety & Health Specialist at Duke University. Nicole has an MS in Environmental Sciences (IH Emphasis) from the University of Texas-Houston, and holds a BSPH in Environmental Science from the University of North Carolina. She has over ten years health and safety experience in the electronics industry and university settings. She has been a member of AIHA’s Ergonomics Committee, Students & Early Career Professionals Committee, and the Healthcare

Working Group. She’s served on the SEMI S8 (Ergo) Task Force, and as a Councilor for the Academy of Industrial Hygiene. She’s a graduate of the AIHA Future Leaders Institute and has served in a variety of positions for local organizations: AIHA – Texas Hill Country and the Austin Area Ergo Round Table.

Nicole was asked - *Why did you self-nominate to be on the ABIH Board?*

My role as an Academy Councilor over the last three years enabled me to participate in inter-society (i.e., Academy, AIHA, ACGIH, and ABIH) discussions and projects, such as the development of core competencies. I felt that I can continue to strengthen the connection between the Academy and ABIH by becoming a member of the ABIH Board of Directors. I hope to be of value in working through some joint projects as they move forward, particularly those that involve opportunities to increase the size of the industrial hygiene and CIH community globally. *Nicole can be reached at [nicole.greeson@duke.edu](mailto:nicole.greeson@duke.edu)*

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## Director Activities

ABIH Directors are actively engaged with the Diplomate community and routinely represent ABIH on matters of strategic interest. Directors are available to meet with AIHA Local Sections. Contact your assigned Director to arrange for their participation in a future meeting.

**Eric Bauer, CIH** met with the **AIHA Iowa-Illinois Local Section** in November, 2010. Eric's presentation focused on the ABIH organization, role of the Directors, the "new" ethics requirement and ABIH's strategic direction for examinees and Diplomates.

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**Fall Exam Results** - *see ABIH web site*

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## Board Actions

- **Code of Ethics Disciplinary Issues** - None to report at this time
  
- **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 Certified Industrial Hygienist or CIH designation.
  - William Parks, Joliet, IL

## ABIH Staff & Office Hours

The ABIH Staff will be pleased to work with you on any questions you may have about any topic related to ABIH and its certification programs. Feel free to contact any one of the Staff through our web site at <http://www.abih.org/general/staff.html>

ABIH office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, EST with exception of the following periods when the office is closed:

May 31	<b>Holiday</b>
July 4-5	U.S. Memorial Day
Sept 5	U.S. Independence Day
Nov 24-25	U.S. Labor Day
Dec 26-30	U.S. Thanksgiving
	Christmas

If you have any comments about this pabulum, please contact  
Tracy Parsons- [tparsons@abih.org](mailto:tparsons@abih.org) ; 517-321-2638 x15.

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