

CM Portion of ABIH Web Site Updated

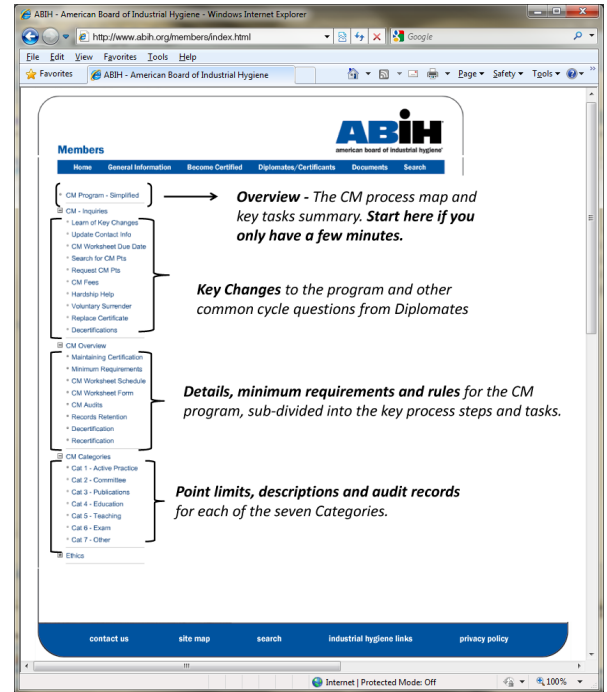
Have you visited the CM portion of the web site lately? It's undergone a major updating and reorganization of the content. Previously, the CM information was distributed across multiple documents, the web site and the CM Program Handbook. Diplomates were required to scavenge for information.

Now, all aspects of the CM program are available on the web site in a more intuitive structure, organized from the perspective of the Diplomate's tasks and options.

You can even find a simple listing of all the key changes that have occurred during the last 5 years that may affect you. Diplomates will find this to be especially useful when completing their CM worksheets.

Here's a screen shot of the new "Diplomates/Certificants" menu and the key, new sections.

<http://www.abih.org/members/index.html>



In This Edition



News pg 2

- ❖ New! – CM Survival Guide
- ❖ Paying Extra for CM Approval Numbers? We Hope Not!
- ❖ Worksheets for 2007-11 Cycle – Due Starting Sept. 1st
- ❖ Fall 2011 Exam Applications – Now Being Accepted
- ❖ Spring 2011 Exam Results – Welcome New CIHs!



Diplomate U. pg 5

- ❖ The Diplomate Pulse! – Social Media Survey Results and a New Question on Ethical Behavior
- ❖ Earn CM Points by Writing Exam Questions
- ❖ How to Check Your CM Cycle End Date
- ❖ Mentoring – Help Others; Help Yourself



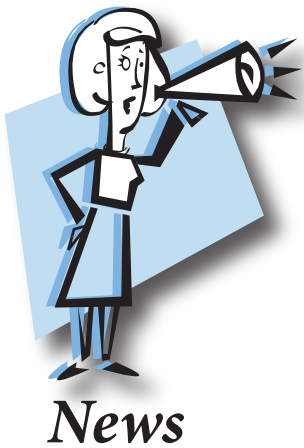
Key Dates pg 4

- ❖ CM Worksheet Due Dates
- ❖ Fall Exam
- ❖ 2012 Fees
- ❖ 2011 Point Accrual Dates



Stay Connected pg 8

- ❖ Board of Director Activities
- ❖ PCIH – Registration Opens Soon!
- ❖ Ethics Issues, Expired Certifications, Not Certified, & Lost



CM Survival Guide

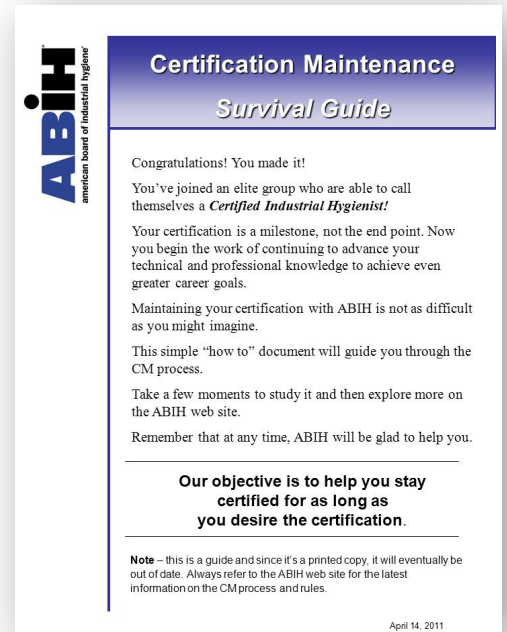
The Certification Maintenance process can be complex and confusing, especially for new Diplomates. To better explain the CM program, and increase the chance of understanding the rules, ABIH created a document which summarizes the program in a short, simple, straightforward fashion – **The Certification Maintenance Survival Guide**.

It lists the:

- ✧ Minimum Requirements
- ✧ Overall Process
- ✧ 5 Best Practices for CM
- ✧ 10 Ways to Easily Earn CM Points
- ✧ 5 Most Common Mistakes

The document is sent to all newly certified Diplomates but based on the response at the 2011 AIHce, many experienced Diplomates felt they also would benefit from a simplified version of the process and rules. So we're letting all Diplomates know about this document.

<http://www.abih.org/members/cmprogram.html>



Paying Extra for CM Approval Numbers? – We Hope Not

ABIH recently learned of an event Provider who was charging Diplomates \$100 for the CM Approval number and points associated with their event.



This was in addition to the conference registration fees.

ABIH contacted the Provider who stopped the charging and issued refunds.

This was a simple misunderstanding by the Provider who was trying to recover their costs. As you know, ABIH doesn't charge for CM point reviews so it seems unreasonable for a Provider to charge.

Events that have been awarded CM points are publically accessible in the ABIH online database. Anyone who participates in an event can claim the CM points provided they've met the reasonable expectations established by the Provider, e.g. taking a test or 100% attendance verification. Charging Diplomates extra money for the CM Approval Number is not a reasonable expectation.

2007-2011 Worksheets – Submit After Sept. 1

Those Diplomates due to recertify for the 2007-2011 CM cycle can submit their CM worksheets starting on September 1, 2011. **Some** changes that have occurred during the cycle are:

1. Each Diplomate must have accumulated at least 0.33 *IH Ethics* points (2 hours) during the 5 year CM cycle. Also, there is now a cap of 5 *IH Ethics* points per cycle.
2. CM approval numbers are now required for nearly all Category 4 events. **Submit the CM point requests as soon as possible.** At the end of the year, point request reviews can take 6+ weeks which can negatively impact the Diplomate's ability to submit a worksheet in a timely manner.
3. General management courses completed after January 1, 2010 are no longer eligible for CM points.
4. The CM worksheet form has been updated (March 2011) to help reduce worksheet errors. The older forms will be honored but be aware that many of the rules as listed on the older forms will be out of date.

For a list of all requirement changes that occurred during your CM cycle, see <http://www.abih.org/members/cmkeychanges.html>.

Applications Now Being Accepted for Fall 2011 Exam

The ABIH certification remains one of the most difficult and respected certifications for occupational hygiene professionals. If you know of someone who meets the education and experience qualifications, now is the time for them to consider the examination portion.

For the Fall 2011 examination, a completed application and support documentation must be submitted (e.g., references, transcripts, and IH coursework documentation) **by August 1**.

The fall exam is offered only in October and November.

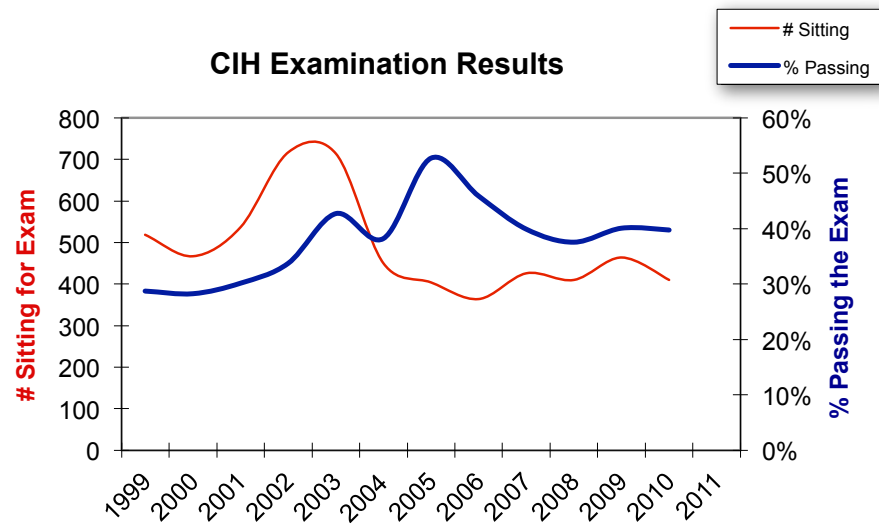
For approved or soon-to-be approved Candidates, remember that the exam slots at the testing centers fill up fast, especially at the end of the testing window. It is prudent to pay the exam fee as soon as the application has been approved so you can then schedule the exam date with Prometric.

If you know of someone who may meet the qualifications, please encourage them to contact ABIH. We offer free consultations to do gap analysis and closure strategies to help non-qualified candidates become qualified.



Exam Results – Spring 2011

During spring 2011, 87 (of 239) people passed the ABIH Examination. This included 81 new CIHs!



Please take a moment to contact and congratulate the new CIHs that you might know. This is a great professional milestone, one that you know is difficult to achieve.

For a complete listing of new Diplomates, see:

<http://www.abih.org/certified/examinees/examresultsbyyear.html>

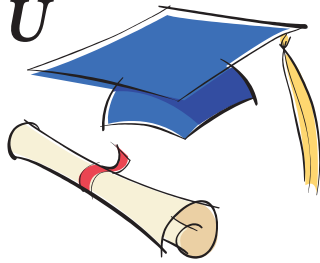
The CIH exam remains one of the most discriminating occupational hygiene tests in the world. The overall pass rate remains about 40% but does increase to ~60% upon repeats of the exam.

Key Dates – 2011



Key Dates

August 1	Fall 2011 Examinations — last day to submit an application and all of the supporting documents (i.e., references, transcripts, and IH coursework documentation).
September 1	CM Worksheets — First day that worksheets will be accepted for the 2007–2011 CM cycle.
October 1	Annual Fees — Invoices for the 2012 fees will be sent approximately October 1 and will be due by December 1. (Note: New due date this year, plan accordingly.)
October 1	Fall Exam begins — The exam period runs until November 30th.
December 31	2007-2011 CM Cycle Diplomates — Last day to earn CM points. This includes the new requirement of at least 0.33 ethics CM points during the 5 year cycle.

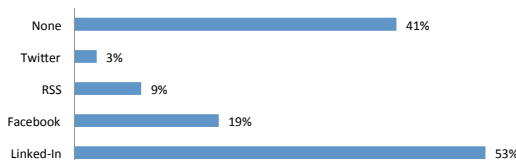


The Diplomate Pulse! – Social Media Survey

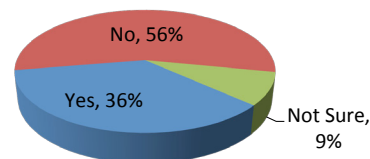
In the March Newsletter, ABIH asked Diplomates about their use of social media in a professional capacity. Results of that survey are listed below.

ABIH is currently exploring how we might better use these types of methods to increase communication effectiveness by ABIH and within the Diplomate community. Due to our limited resources, we want to focus our efforts in a way that will yield the most benefit to the greatest number of Diplomates.

Which Social Media tools do you currently use for professional purposes? (n=70)



Should ABIH communicate critical information using Social Media tools?



Got 30 more seconds? Here's a new question.

Would you recognize unethical behavior if you saw it?



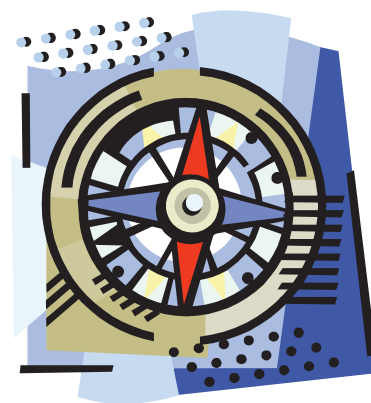
<https://spreadsheets.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dDFqbDJOQnpWQzJLcUpydHRna3d4TXc6MQ>

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

Earn Category 7 CM Points by Mentoring

Category 7 is an often overlooked section when CIHs are accruing CM points. It consists of many miscellaneous activities that don't seem to logically fit in the other CM Categories (1-6). One of those ways is mentoring.

Mentoring is a great way to help others who are just starting out in the IH profession and it's a relatively easy way to earn CM points. You can earn 1 CM point per year for each Mentee as long as you mentor at least 6 hours per year. There is no cap on the number of people that can be mentored but there is a cap of 5 points per CM cycle for all mentoring activities combined.



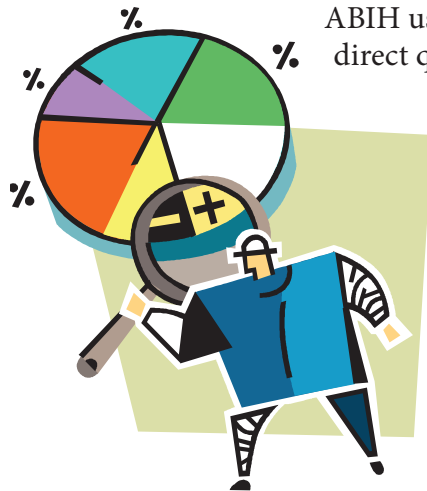
There are some restrictions:

- The mentoring has to be a structured program with an overall coordinator who evaluates the program
- There cannot be a formal organizational reporting relationship between the Mentor/Mentee.
- The mentoring must be pre-approved by ABIH before the points can be listed on the CM worksheet.

Additional detail is available: <http://www.abih.org/members/cat7.html#mentor>

Earn CM Points by Submitting Questions for the Exam

CIHs can submit up to 25 examination items to receive up to 5 CM points each year (1 point/5 acceptable items) and help the exam continue to be a fair assessment of relevant knowledge and skills. Some tips on how to write good items are included below.



ABIH uses multiple-choice items providing a stem in the direct question format followed by four response options.

Some of the best questions come when written from an IH's professional experience, focusing on the knowledge and skills critical to successful job performance. It is helpful to have current, standard, widely recognized texts and the ABIH Domains, Tasks, Knowledge and Skills alongside you as you write. (All submissions require documentation of the correct option and documentation for incorrect distractors is recommended.)

The level of the questions should be appropriate to the Board's minimum education and experience qualifications for the Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH):

- Bachelor's degree with 60 semester hours in science, math, and engineering
- Courses in IH fundamentals, measurements, controls and toxicology
- Four years broad based professional IH experience

Some key points to remember when writing the question (stem):

The stem should clearly ask a question using no more or less words than is necessary. The stem should be meaningful in and of itself and present a definite problem. The stem should include as much of the item as possible and be free of irrelevant material. Avoid negatively stated stems that reverse the logic of answering multiple-choice questions, such that there are several correct response options and one (the key) that is incorrect practice.

Some key points to remember when writing the response options (correct and distractors):

Each question must have only one correct option and all distractors (incorrect response options) must be plausible. The correct response should be one that a highly competent professional could formulate mentally after reading or hearing the question (except for items requiring calculations). It must be clearly worded and reflect widely accepted professional practice. It should be unique in comparison to the other answer options – no question should list more than one correct response. The distractors should be response options that a highly competent professional would rule out immediately but that a minimally competent or incompetent professional would have to think about. The distractors should be plausible but definitely incorrect.

A signed security agreement must be submitted with your items.

Before writing items, contact Ron Drafta at rdrafta@abih.org for the most current information and forms.

If writing items for the first time, you may want to submit a few items first to get feedback instead of submitting all 25 items at once.

Has Your CM Cycle End Date Changed?

Earlier this year, ABIH introduced an additional CM cycle schedule of July 1st to June 30th. Approximately half of the current Diplomates were moved to the new CM cycle schedule which means that their next CM cycle will end in 54 months, 6 months earlier than the regular 60 month cycle (i.e., June 30th instead of December 31st).

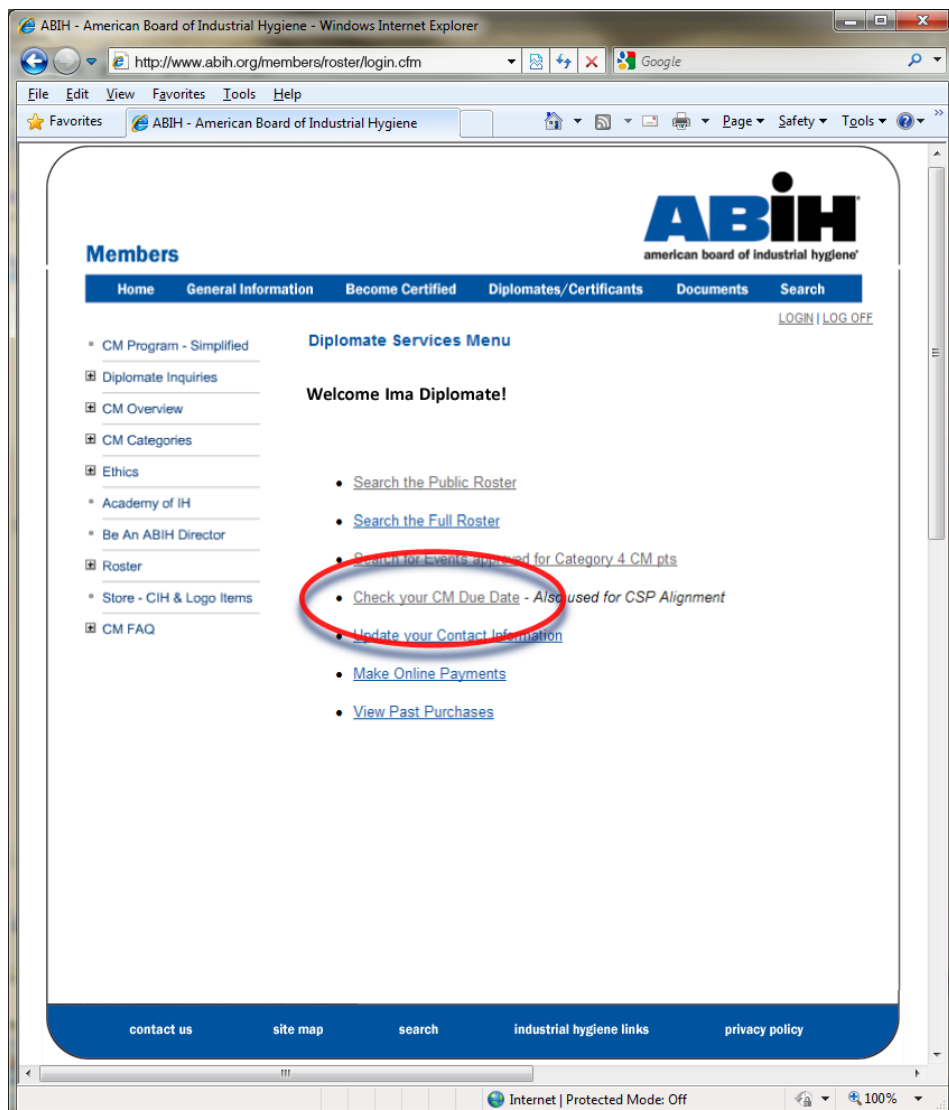
The 54 month cycle is a one-time cycle. All Diplomates will be moved to the normal 60 month CM cycle when they successfully complete the next re-certification.

Everyone on the one-time 54 month cycle has been notified.

Here's how to check your status and determine if you're on the new CM cycle

1. **Go to the Diplomates/ Certificants portion of the ABIH web.**
<http://www.abih.org/members/roster/login.cfm>
2. **Log In.** You'll need your ABIH ID Number. Contact us at abih@abih.org if you need the number. (Hint – It's listed on your Wallet Card and on your annual fees invoice.)
3. Click the **“Check your CM Due Date”** link.

This would also be a great time to check all your ABIH contact information.





Director Activities

ABIH Directors are actively engaged with the IH community and routinely represent ABIH on matters of strategic interest. Directors are available to help Local Sections through their active participation and interest.

In March, 2011, Mark Finn, PhD, CIH, presented an overview on achieving and maintaining ABIH certification to the **University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health Student Association**. The qualification requirements have changed over the years and the event provided an opportunity for the students to better understand their situation as well as how to best prepare for an exam that itself has also changed over the years.

If you'd like a Director to participate in a Local Section event, contact the assigned Director: <http://www.abih.org/general/lsassignments.cfm>

PCIH, Baltimore, MD, November 3–9, 2011

Don't forget to register for the Professional Conference on Industrial Hygiene (PCIH). Registration opens in July and you can achieve substantial cost savings by registering early. Sponsored by The Academy of Industrial Hygiene, the PCIH provides a forum to discuss current trends, to learn from experts, and to develop practical applications to tackle the issues you face daily. This year's event promises to be quite different in that many learning opportunities are being scheduled:

- November 3-4: Risk Assessment Symposium
- November 5-6: PDCs
- November 7-8: PCIH Program
- November 9: ½ day PDCs (New this year!)

For additional information, visit <http://www.pcih2011.org>

Board Actions

- **Not Certified** – ABIH publicizes the names of individuals who have claimed to be certified by ABIH but are not. At this time, there are no new names to report.
- **Expired Certifications** – Diplomates in the 2006-2010 cycle who have lost their certification by failing to complete the CM process are posted on the ABIH web site: <http://www.abih.org/members/listing.html>
- **Code of Ethics Disciplinary Issues** – ABIH publicizes the names of individuals who have been sanctioned for ethics violations. At this time, there are no new names to report. For past violations, see the ABIH web site: <http://www.abih.org/general/disactions.html>
- **Lost Diplomates** – Diplomates will change addresses and contact information but then neglect to notify ABIH. At this time, ABIH has been unable to locate the following Diplomate. If you know how to contact this person, please notify ABIH.

Emmanuel Amayo

ABIH Staff & Office Hours

The ABIH Staff will be pleased to work with you on any questions you may have about this Newsletter or other topics related to ABIH and its certification programs. Feel free to contact any one of the Staff listed on 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 days when the office is closed:

	HOLIDAY
May 30	U.S. Memorial Day
July 4-5	U.S. Independence Day
Sept 5	U.S. Labor Day
Nov 24-25	U.S. Thanksgiving
Dec 26 – 30	Christmas

If you have any comments about this Newsletter, please contact Tracy Parsons at tparsons@abih.org or 517-321-2638 x15.

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



6015 W. St. Joseph Hwy., Suite 102, Lansing, MI 48917

Phone: 517.321.2638 Fax: 517.321.4624 email: abih@abih.org Web: www.abih.org

[Back to Menu](#) 9