Sign up Now Open for Two CIH Webinars

Starting in November 2012, ABIH will be offering two webinars: 1) an overview of the CM program, and 2) an overview of the new Diplomate-Calculated CM Credit calculation method. Both will be presented several times over the next few months.

The 60-minute CM Overview webinar (formerly the New CIH Orientation) touches on the key aspects of successfully participating in the Certification Maintenance (CM) program. Although the target audience is new CIHs, many seasoned CIHs have found the material to be a good refresher of the basic rules, best practices and common mistakes. The program’s material is largely drawn from ‘The CM Primer,’ a summary document that we now forward to all new CIHs and is also available in the ABIH web site Document Library.

The 45-minute CM Credit Calculations webinar is focused on the method now used for determining CM credit for educational events—the Diplomate-Calculated method. In the 2012 June Advisor, we reported that about 35% of the Diplomates had not yet used the method. So ABIH is offering this webinar to help those Diplomates as well as anyone else who still may have questions. We want all Diplomates to be confidently using the new method.

Both webinars are optional and open to all CIHs. If interested, register here: https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/51222.
Fall Examinee Survey

As we all know, getting feedback from your customers is a great way to improve your services and stretch your resources. ABIH has initiated a brief survey, which will be sent out electronically to get input and suggestions from the Fall Examinees. Questions posed to the Examinees will allow ABIH to collect more specific demographic data about new customers to better target limited marketing resources to attract new CIHs. Other questions will provide ABIH feedback about Examinees’ motivation for taking the Exam and the types of support provided by their employers. Finally, ABIH hopes to delineate key success factors used by those passing the Exam for future Examinees to use. Look for a summary of the responses received in the next issue of the Advisor.

ABIH & Social Media

One of the goals of the ABIH is to create awareness of the important role that CIHs play in today’s society. In conjunction with Cochrane and Associates, ABIH has begun a new communication effort in the public, private and government sectors. To more quickly and efficiently reach our intended audiences, we are now utilizing Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook to share important information with CIHs, encourage IH professional discussions and to build awareness with non-professionals and the public. These social media tools will also be a powerful means to help educate industry about the importance of hiring CIHs.

We encourage IH professionals and other interested parties to participate via the links below:

- Linked In: http://www.linkedin.com/ - Search for American Board of Industrial Hygiene
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/ABIH_News
- Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/AmericanBoardofIndustrialHygiene
Examination Applications Wanted!

Encouraging others to pursue the CIH is a great way to further and preserve our profession. Our Diplomates continue to promote the benefits of being a CIH to colleagues. 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 spring 2013 examination, a completed application and support documentation must be submitted (e.g., references, transcripts, and IH coursework documentation) by February 1. The testing window for spring is April and May. For 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 and then the exam can be scheduled with Prometric.

Don’t Miss These Announcements

| 2013 Annual Fees | Annual fees of $125 are now being collected for 2013. Fees must be paid by December 1, 2012 in order to avoid a $50 late penalty. The 2013 fees were increased by $10, which represents the first increase since 2010. Special Note: New CIHs who passed the November 2012 exam in have until December 31st before the late penalty is enforced. |

| Holiday Office Hours | The end of each year is often a busy time for Diplomates who are preparing and submitting CM worksheets. ABIH staff will generally be available to help you during normal business hours Monday through Friday except for the following holiday periods when the office will be closed: • Thanksgiving – Closed – November 22-23 • Christmas – Closed – December 24-28 • New Years – Closed – December 31-January 1 |
Earlier this year, ABIH released a short movie, describing the **value proposition for pursuing the CIH credential - increased professional credibility, personal satisfaction and a competitive edge for job placement and advancement**. The June 2012 Pulse question asked: **Has this been true for your career?**

It was encouraging to see that almost 80% agreed or strongly agreed. It speaks well of the CIH credential. While ABIH is primarily responsible to promote and defend our credential, we also believe it has marquee value because of the people who attain it. Diplomates who are successful in their technical and professional careers reflect positively on the perception of CIHs and ABIH. To help further gather this type of information, ABIH will begin launching a new effort to hear YOUR success stories. Stay tuned for more in early 2013.

The 2nd chart showing percent agreement as a function of years of certification is a bit more intriguing. Although it’s easy to over-interpret limited datasets, it appears that the years of certification do not significantly influence the perception of the value proposition.
Giving Up Your CIH Credential? Not So Fast!

Nearly every Diplomate will eventually face the same question – **should I keep my CIH or not?** The question usually surfaces due to a retirement, a change in career focus, or even a personal/health/family situation. Regardless of the reason, many Diplomates will often assume that they won’t have enough CM points to recertify so they let their certification expire. When ABIH is contacted, here’s our counsel to Diplomates on the other options for managing their certification.

**Point Mining:** ABIH is often able to help the Diplomate find overlooked CM credit opportunities for activities that occurred in the past as well as in the future, i.e., if enough time remains in the CM cycle.

**Retirement:** Some Diplomates assume that one has to be actively working as an IH in order to successfully participate in the CM program. Not true! There are minimum requirements for educational activities but “active practice” is not a minimum requirement. And those educational requirements can easily be met with online courses, some even available at no charge.

**Hardship Help:** If the Diplomate meets the eligibility criteria, a CM cycle extension or a leave of absence can be effective. The cycle extension adds 6 months to the cycle while the leave of absence reduces the minimum requirements for CM points during the cycle. (See: [http://www.abih.org/maintain-certification/hardship-circumstances](http://www.abih.org/maintain-certification/hardship-circumstances))

**Voluntary Surrender:** At first glance, this approach isn’t that much different than simply letting certification expire. Either one means that you’re no longer a CIH. However, the key feature of this approach is that it allows you to reactivate at any time in the future simply by submitting an acceptable CM worksheet and fees. (See: [http://www.abih.org/maintain-certification/voluntary-surrender](http://www.abih.org/maintain-certification/voluntary-surrender))

**Natural Expiration:** Letting the certification_expire naturally on the certificate expiration date is fine if you know that you’ll never need the CIH credential again. However, it also means you will have very limited options for reactivation and you won’t be listed in the public roster as a former CIH.

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**Got 30 more seconds? Here’s a new question.**

**Should ABIH do more to promote the value of the CIH credential?**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dF9KX0lFVULNV285aDB2SVhWWXpoM1E6MQ](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dF9KX0lFVULNV285aDB2SVhWWXpoM1E6MQ)

Submissions are anonymous. Final results will be published in the next ABIH Newsletter.
Determining Contact Hours for Conferences

Since ABIH converted to the Diplomate-Calculated method in January 2012, calculating CM credit for conferences has been one of the more frequently asked questions. Unlike courses, which often have a required amount of contact time, conference attendance is “pick and choose”, giving the Diplomate greater control over which sessions to attend. This flexibility creates some unique aspects to determining the contact hours for a conference.

Claimed contact hours should be based on actual time spent in the technical portions/sessions of a conference. This can range from 1 hour up to the maximum for the conference. Sponsors will sometimes report the maximum contact hours (e.g., 2012 AIHce was 36 hours); however, to claim the maximum, the Diplomate would need to fully participate in every technical session from start to finish.

Does ABIH require each Diplomate to keep precise session-by-session attendance records? The answer is “no”. While that is the most accurate way, it’s often not convenient or easily done. A simpler way is to estimate the attendance based on average hours attended per day at the conference.

Conference participation is based on the honor system and ABIH expects that Diplomates will be honest and ethical in their reporting. This was the case with the previous ABIH-Calculated method and it’s the same for the new Diplomate-Calculated method. A Diplomate will never be asked to prove they were in an individual session, even during a CM worksheet audit.

Key Dates – 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Dates</th>
<th>Key Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diplomates</td>
<td>Cycle End Date of Dec 31, ’12</td>
<td>Sept 1 – Feb 1, ’13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Diplomates</td>
<td>Oct – Dec 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Diplomates Passing Nov 2012 Exam</td>
<td>By Dec 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinees</td>
<td>Fall ’12 Exam</td>
<td>Oct 1 – Nov 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring ’13 Exam</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ap 1 – May 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Actions & Reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Who</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New CIHs</td>
<td>Individuals who have recently passed the exam</td>
<td><a href="http://www.abih.org/about-abih/new-cihs">http://www.abih.org/about-abih/new-cihs</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Certified</td>
<td>Individuals who claim to be certified but are not</td>
<td>None at this time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decertified</td>
<td>Individuals who did not complete the CM process</td>
<td><a href="http://www.abih.org/about-abih/decertifications">http://www.abih.org/about-abih/decertifications</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics Issues</td>
<td>Individuals sanctioned for ethics violations</td>
<td>None at this time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Lost Diplomates  | Individuals who we cannot locate. Please help us find them.                | Robert Fabrizio, CIH  
Daniel Hogan, CIH  
Brian Patrick, CIH  
Eileen Pearlman, CIH  
Julie Strawn, CIH  |
The New CM Credit Calculation Method
– More FAQ

The new Diplomate-Calculated CM credit calculation method is now in full use. The transition started in late 2011 and culminated with the January 2012 release of the supporting resource materials on the ABIH web site: the Overview and the Detailed Guidance (click here to go there now). Since then, ABIH has been encouraging Diplomates to try the new method and ask questions now, not at the end of the CM cycle.

To further facilitate this transition, ABIH will be publishing some of the more frequently asked questions in this and future issues of The ABIH Advisor.

My AIHA Education Transcript shows that I earned 36 points for the 2012 AIHce in Indianapolis. Can I really claim 36 points for a 4-day conference?

No. The 2012 conference was eligible for 36 hours, not points. The AIHA transcript mixes the units of hours and points in a single “CM” column. Any entry prior to 2012 will be in points; any entry in 2012 and thereafter will be in hours.

I have ABIH approval information for an event I attended. Do I put that in the ABIH-Calculated section (of Category 4) on the CM worksheet?

Diplomates have a choice. If you have the previous ABIH approval information for an event that you personally attended, you can but are not required to put that in the ABIH-Calculated section of Category 4. Instead, we also allow you to put the information in the second section of Category 4 – the Diplomate-Calculated section. Often, the Diplomate-Calculated method will yield more CM credit because time caps were in place when many of the ABIH approvals were previously conducted (prior to 2010).

Without ABIH review and an ABIH approval number from a course Provider, how can I believe the CM credit information I see in their advertising?

If you see a course with CEU values, then you can believe it because these Providers have used IACET’s process to evaluate their offering. 1 CEU = 10 contact hours. If the course Provider doesn’t have any CEUs listed, you’ll need to evaluate whether the advertising makes sense. Offering a class at 1 CM point that only lasts a half-day doesn’t make sense. This also would be an example of a course Provider that “didn’t get the memo” from ABIH that our systems had changed. Please bring these to the attention of ABIH.

I want to take a class but I’m not sure that ABIH will accept it for CM credit. How do I get clarification? I can’t wait until I submit my worksheet because then it will be too late?

Most of the time, educational events will be obvious without issue. In those cases where the subject matter is not clearly aligned to the CM Areas of IH, Safety or IH Ethics, feel free to contact ABIH. You will be asked to provide the rationale for

Continued on page 9
claiming the CM credit. Before contacting ABIH, Diplomates will also want to use the Detailed Guidance document (on the web site), which contains many examples of what is and is not acceptable for credit

I took a class this year and found the same class in the ABIH online Events database from 2010. Can I use those 2010 point values for my 2012 class?

No. The approval information for the 2010 class has expired. Also, it’s possible that the course content or length has changed so the 2010 approvals would not be accurate. The ABIH Events database can be a useful indicator of a previous ABIH position on a particular course but it should not be used interchangeably.

I reviewed the delayed broadcast of a Webinar but the event Provider didn’t provide a completion certificate. What can I use as proof so that I can claim the CM credit?

Proof-of-participation is required whether you’re using the Diplomate-Calculated or ABIH-Calculated method. If you were to review the material by yourself, you would not be able to claim the CM credit because, as you pointed out, there is no record of completion or participation. If you were to review the material with several other CIHs, you could generate an attendance roster showing the topics, times and participants. In that scenario, you would be able to claim the CM credit.

I attended several events in previous years but I never asked for ABIH review and approval? Can I now claim these events for CM credit?

Yes if the subject matter aligns to the CM Areas of IH, Safety or IH Ethics and is collectively at least 1 hour or greater, then the event can be claimed for CM credit. There are a couple of exceptions. For ethics subject matter, the time can be less than 1 hour. Also, general management events completed prior to 2010 can be claimed in the Management CM area.

I’ve got an ABIH approval number for a previous course I attended. Do I need to list it on the CM worksheet?

ABIH CM Approval Numbers are no longer required on the CM worksheets for any event.

I took a class on __________ (fill in the blank). Can it be claimed for IH CM credit?

In the Detailed Guidance document (on the web site), there are many examples of what is and is not acceptable for IH CM credit. As a general rule of thumb, if the subject matter has an occupational or community health aspect, it will be accepted for CM credit. If your subject matter is not addressed in the guidance examples or you’re just concerned, please contact ABIH prior to claiming the CM credit, especially if you will need those hours to meet the minimum requirements.
ABIH Staff & Office Hours

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

ABIH hours of operation are 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:30 (EST), Monday-Friday with the exception of the following U.S. holidays when the office is closed: New Year’s Day (January 1), Memorial Day, Independence Day (July 4th), Labor Day, Thanksgiving holidays and Christmas holidays.

If you have any comments about this Newsletter or its content, please contact Tracy Parsons at tparsons@abih.org.

The ABIH Newsletter is published three times per year. Current and back copies are available at http://www.abih.org/about-abih/newsletters