



September 2009 e-Newsletter

If you have any comments or questions about the ABIH E-Newsletter, please contact Tracy Parsons, CIH at tparsons@abih.org.

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Spring 2009 Examination Results - Welcome New CIH's!

During spring 2009, 87 (of 220) people passed the ABIH Comprehensive Certification Examination. Congratulations to all of the new CIHs!

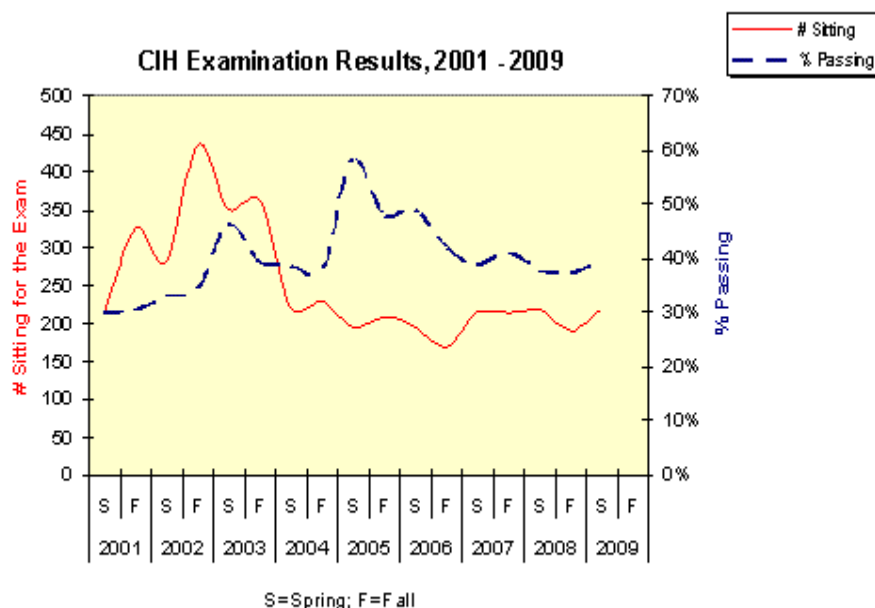
Names of the new CIHs are listed on the ABIH web site. Please take a moment to contact and congratulate those you might know. This is a great professional milestone, one that you know is difficult to achieve.

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

This is also a great time to encourage others to pursue the CIH, the premier occupational

hygiene certification in the world. Applications for the spring 2010 examination are being accepted now.

The CIH examination remains one of the most rigorous health and safety exams with an average passing rate of ~40% since 2001 (the year that the CIH exam was changed from a 2 day (Core & Comp) to a 1 day (Comp) examination. **The eventual pass rate for those who repeat the examination is >60%.** So while the exam remains an excellent discriminator, it can be passed with adequate preparation and experience.



Expired Certifications from the 2004-2008 CM Cycle

CIHs/CAIHs that voluntarily terminated their certification or did not successfully complete the 2004-2008 CM Cycle can be found at Expired Certifications:
<http://www.abih.org/members/listing.html>

Reminder - New Ethics Requirement Starts January 1, 2010

This is an update to the communication from the May 2009 ABIH Newsletter. These are clarification points based on questions that ABIH has received in the last 4 months.

Who does this affect? - This requirement starts with those Diplomates due to recertify in the 2006-10 Certification Maintenance (CM) cycle and all CM cycles thereafter.

What exactly is changing? - CIH/CAIHs must accrue at least 2 hours (0.33 CM points) in ethics training during each 5 year cycle. The 2 hours can be one session or accumulated through multiple sessions. Ethics training will count toward the minimum 10 CM points, IH Rubrics, required for the 5 year cycle.

What are acceptable ethics topics? - Any ethics activity that aligns with the ABIH Code of Ethics or the Joint Industrial Hygiene Associations' Member Ethical Principles is acceptable. Other ethics material is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

<http://www.abih.org/downloads/ABIHCodeofEthics.pdf>

<http://www.aiha.org/academy/Documents/MemberEthicalPrinciples52107.pdf>

Is there a minimum time requirement for an ethics class?

- Any ethics activity that is >1 hour and meets the ethics review criteria will be awarded a unique CM Point Approval number. The activity can occur anytime during the 5 year CM cycle.
- If an organization has several ethics activities that are individually <1 hour but collectively >1 hour, the activities can be 'bundled' and assigned a unique CM Point Approval number. The bundle needs to be completed within the approved calendar year.

What about ethics events embedded in a conference? - An ethics event included in a larger, more comprehensive event (e.g. a multi-day conference) is acceptable for ethics CM credit as long as the ethics portion is >1 hour and meets the ethics review criteria. The CIH/CAIH will need proof of participation in the ethics-specific activity. The ABIH Attendance Verification Form is one means or the Activity Provider may chose to use another method.

<http://www.abih.org/documents/documents/attendanceverificationform.pdf>

What about my company's annual ethics training? - A company's ethics training often is acceptable as long as it meets the review criteria. However, the same ethics activity cannot be repeated more than once during a 5 year CM cycle. If an ethics activity undergoes a significant change like new content, case studies, etc, it will be treated as a new ethics activity and awarded a new CM number.

See the online Ethics FAQ for additional detail including examples of approved ethics classes. <http://www.abih.org/documents/EthicsRequirements-Webversion.pdf>

CM Program Changes - The New '1 Hour' Rule

Starting in January 2010, CIHs and CAIHs will be able to earn Category 4 educational CM points for a 1-hour activity instead of the 3-hours (minimum) previously required to earn CM points. The change was made to give Diplomates more options to participate in continuing education events and accrue CM points for doing so. CM points are awarded at a rate of 0.167 points/hour. There is no CM point cap for Courses other than IH Fundamentals and non-EHS Management courses which are capped at 5 CM points/course (and 5 CM points per CM Cycle). (Note - After January 1, 2010, non-EHS Management Courses will no longer be awarded CM points). Conferences are capped a 1 CM point per day as is the current rule. ABIH is currently phasing in the new 1 hour rule so that we can be fully operational on January 1, 2010.

Additional details about the 1 hour rule are located in the CM Point Request process rules and specifications on the ABIH web site.

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

CM Point Request Form - Updated and Online

An updated CM Point Request Form is now available in a writable Adobe pdf and Microsoft Word formats. The updated form now contains many fields and picks lists to simplify the process of completing the form on your computer. We now prefer that CM Point Requests be submitted via email to cm@abih.org, our new functional mailbox for managing CM requests. Traditional faxes and postal mail will also continue to be accepted. Detailed rules and specifications for awarding CM points are also now included in the form. <http://www.abih.org/documents/index.html#RequestForm>

Old CM Point Request forms will be honored until January 1, 2011.

Changes to CM Point Requests for Distance Learning

ABIH has eliminated the "required test" as a condition of awarding CM point for Distance Learning (DL) events. DL activities will now be reviewed for CM points via the same criteria used to judge all other activities, i.e., subject matter and contact time.

Although the "test requirement" for DL is being discontinued as a condition of *awarding* CM points, Diplomates will still be required to *prove participation* in a DL event meeting all conditions of the Certification Maintenance program and our Code of Ethics. Diplomates should work with the Activity Sponsor to ensure that appropriate documentation is available, e.g. certificate of completion, attendance rosters, digital workstation tracking, or homework materials.

2005-2009 CM Worksheets Now Being Accepted

Those Diplomates due to recertify for the 2005-2009 CM cycle can submit their worksheet anytime between now and February 1, 2010. Submissions after February 1, 2010 must be accompanied by a \$100 late fee.

Five Most Common Mistakes on the CM Worksheet & Audit

Here are the 5 most common mistakes on CM Worksheets and CM Audits. These mistakes often result in the Diplomate being unable to use the CM points as claimed which can impact the overall re-certification effort.

- **Missing CM Approval Numbers for Category 4 - Education.** Diplomates will often list an activity but neglect to verify that it has a CM Approval Number from ABIH. CM Approval numbers can be obtained any time during the 5 year cycle if the Diplomate retains sufficient documentation of the activity subject matter and contact time. Still, it's better to request CM Approvals as the CM Cycle progresses so that points can be claimed with confidence. (Note that Category 4 CM Approval numbers are not required for the AIHce, PDC, their associated PDCs, Academic courses and Blanket Approved courses).
- **Incorrect use of Category 2 - Technical/Professional Committee Service.** This category of CM credit is reserved for IH technical and IH-related professional committees. However, some Committee work, like AIHA Local Section Committee work does not receive CM points. If you're unsure whether your committee activity will be approved, ask first.
- **Claiming CM points for a course taken more than one time** - Often, a Diplomate will take a course many times during a 5 year CM cycle (e.g. HAZWOPER Refresher). However, ABIH rules specify that a course can only be used for CM points one time during a 5 year cycle.
- **Listing unapproved activities in Category 7 - Other Activities.** Category 7 is reserved for those activities that logically do not fit in Categories 1-6. But this CM area is restricted to the approved activities as listed in the ABIH defining document. If your activity is not identified in the document, please contact ABIH for review. <http://www.abih.org/documents/documents/Category7.pdf>
- **Lack of Participant verification** - Diplomates are required to maintain evidence of their participation in the various CM activities. If selected for an audit, the Diplomate will be asked to provide the evidence (as detailed in the CM Handbook). Evidence is often left behind when people switch jobs and were expecting to rely on previous company records (e.g. expense reports). It's better to keep a file and accumulate the evidence as you progress through your 5 year CM cycle.
<http://www.abih.org/documents/documents/CMProgramHandbook2008.pdf>

ABIH Fee Increases & How You Can Help Contain Costs

ABIH is increasing the annual Diplomat dues from \$100 to \$115, effective for the calendar year 2010. This is the first increase since 2007 and reflects the ABIH history of raising dues about every 3 years to account for inflation and other increased costs as a service provider.

However, beginning with the 2011 calendar year, dues will be adjusted each year based on the annual Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA). ABIH is making this change so that we can utilize a more common benchmark that helps ABIH plan and manage cost flows each year.

ABIH is not content to simply raise fees without controlling costs. We are evaluating ways to contain costs, looking at improvements in our processes, systems and service providers.

You can also help lower ABIH's costs. Did you know that each year, ABIH incurs more than \$12,000 in postage mailing costs? Some of the costs can be avoided simply by ensuring that the email address in your ABIH profile is current. If we don't have an email address, we must use the postal system which is more costly (due to time and postage) and is slower for the Diplomates.

You can view and update your online profile in the Diplomates section of the ABIH web site. If you've forgotten your login ID or password, please contact us via phone (517-321-2638 or on Skype at ABIH-support).

ABIH Financial Audit

ABIH's 2008 audited financial statement, prepared by Lewis M. Aronow, CPA, is available at [Audit](#).

Winners of ABIH Booth Drawings at Toronto AIHCe

Thanks to everyone who stopped by the booth to met with the ABIH Staff and Board of Directors and fill out the 1 minute survey on how well ABIH is meeting your needs. Feedback about ABIH performance is always welcome at any time. Please don't wait for a conference to tell us how we can better serve your needs. ***Winners of the Booth Drawings for ABIH logo items:***

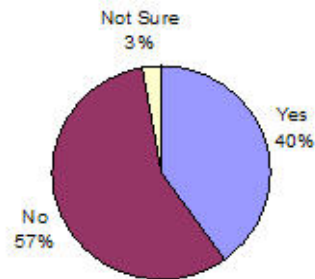
- Roland Hamilton

- Ken Talley, CIH

The Diplomat Pulse! - Take the 30 Second Survey

In May, ABIH asked 2 questions about "Ethics Awareness". Here are the results of that survey.

Prior to the May ABIH Newsletter, were you aware of the new Ethics Training Requirement? (n=265)



Do you believe the new Ethics requirement will positively impact the ethical practices of the IH profession?



Got 30 more seconds? Please answer two questions on Certification Maintenance. Submissions are anonymous. Final results will be published in the next ABIH Newsletter.

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dFVpQ2NGMkMtRWxsWkxmN1o4NE9nbGc6MA>

OSHA Alliance - Drug Free Work Week, Oct 19-25, 2009

As part of our OSHA Alliance, ABIH is communicating OSHA's Drug-Free Work Week 2009 - a public awareness campaign aimed at preventing accidents, improving productivity, reducing costs, and encouraging people with alcohol and drug problems to seek help. More information about this important program as well as supporting materials (e.g. posters, education pamphlets, letters of endorsement, etc) can be found at the Alliance web site.

<http://www.dol.gov/asp/programs/drugs/workingpartners/dfww-introduction.asp#content>

ABIH Staff & Holiday Office Hours

The ABIH Staff will be pleased to work with you on any questions you may have about this e-Newsletter or other topics related to ABIH and its certification programs. Feel free to contact any one of the Staff listed below or contact us 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 holiday periods when we will be closed for business:

Dates	Holiday
November 26 & 27, 2009	U.S. Thanksgiving
December 23, 2009 - January 4, 2010	Christmas and New Years

NOTE - The December date is especially important if you plan on paying your annual dues via check before the end of the calendar year.

The ABIH phone number is 517-321-2638 with our extensions listed below.

Lynn C. O'Donnell , CIH	Executive Director	Ext. 16
Ron Drafta , CIH, CSP, SPHR	Examination	Ext. 11
Tracy Parsons , CIH	Certification Maintenance, Marketing, Accreditations	Ext. 15
Barbara A. (Bee) Snow	Processing - New Applications, CM Requests, CM Worksheets	Ext. 3
Pamela J. Trim	Dues, Office Admin, Reapplications, Fees, Database, Web Support	Ext. 4

Also contact ABIH via Skype at ABIH Support

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