

Professional Recognition and the Role of Certification: IOHA National Accreditation Recognition Activities

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Challenges for Recognition

- Hard to quantify or demonstrate
 - Impact on workers health
 - Impact on business
 - Demonstrating prevention
- Is our professional name right?
 - What is an appropriate descriptor for the scope of what we do?
- We are still a profession that is small in numbers

The Value Proposition

- We must learn to speak the language of business not just Occupational Hygiene
- We must think in terms of:
 - how we enable a process or technology
 - how we can increase productivity
 - how our efforts can add to corporate reputation and the ability to attract talent
 - how we contribute to the sustainability efforts of an enterprise.

The Need

- Occupational Hygiene is a discipline with a global scope
- Increasing International exchange creates need for:
 - Defining content and scope of profession
 - Common procedures for establishing and maintaining competence

1995 IOHA policy on International Certification: Objectives

- The development of appropriate national and international standards and practices to facilitate comparable levels of education and competence of professional occupational hygienists.
- The avoidance of unnecessary restrictions from and within national certification schemes relating to the training and certification of hygienists and their ability to practice.
- The sharing of technical information in relation to the training and certification of hygienists.
- The development and wide application of principles of quality assurance to the education, training and competence of professional occupational hygienists.

Common Elements of Schemes in Existence

- Three areas where minimum requirements have to be met;
 - education
 - experience
 - examination
- Other common elements include
 - requirement for maintaining competence through various activities
 - standards of ethical professional conduct for their certificate holders

Benefits of Certification

- Distinguishes the PROFESSION
- Enhances protection of the community and workers
- Provides external credibility and recognition
- Sets appropriate and high standards of practice
- Provides a process for knowledge verification
- Provides a foundation for ethical practices

Benefits of Certification

- Stimulates growth of the profession
- Provides a consistent and transparent process
- Provides assurance of quality of services
- Helps in protecting the discipline

1999 IOHA Actions

- Model Certification program developed
 - Fundamental guidance necessary to design a certification system
- Development of a standing committee to evaluate programs

IOHA Recognized Certification Schemes

NAR Criteria

1. Overall OH definition and goals of profession congruent with IOHA's
2. Organisation has an appropriate Code of Ethics, and a mechanism for administering it.
3. Organisation has a provision for "cross-pollination" i.e. input from those not part of the discipline group, to enhance broadness and currency of outlook

NAR Criteria (cont'd)

4. Minimum education and experience of candidate for consideration by Board – Bachelor's degree plus 4 years of suitable experience (rated to 30 hrs/week)
5. Professional competence of candidate determined in a sufficiently rigorous fashion – e.g. what are the qualifications of the examiners and do they evaluate to world-class standards

NAR Criteria (cont'd)

6. Evaluation procedures used by the Board are consistent and verifiable – e.g. objectivity/ standardisation/ documentation of evaluation process
7. A formal mechanism for maintenance of professional status requires ongoing/continuing professional experience/development

Where are we now: Feb 2008

The following associations have received IOHA 'National Accreditation Recognition' of their accreditation/ certification scheme

- **American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH)** – Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) in 2005
- **Faculty of British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)** – Members (MFOH) Diploma of Professional Competence in Occupational Hygiene in 2005
- **South Africa Institute of Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH)** - Professional Occupational Hygienist in 2006
- **Dutch Occupational Hygiene Society (NVvA)** - Certified Occupational Hygienists (RAHs) in 2006
- **Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene (AIOH)** - Certified Occupational Hygienist (COH) in 2006
- **Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygiene (CRBOH)** – Registered Occupational Hygienist (ROH) in 2007.

Three IOHA members are currently seeking IOHA recognition f