

National Accreditation Recognition (NAR) - Issues with International Application of Model Program Criteria

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IOHA Board

- Occupational Hygiene Associations = 26 members
- Different Languages = 12
- Accreditation/Certification Schemes = 9 (only 5 in English)
- Accreditation Schemes recognised by IOHA (NAR) = 6

NAR History (1)

IOHA National Accreditation Recognition (NAR) Committee was formed as the result of several workshops/meetings

1995 Blackpool, UK

1999 London, UK

2001 'Start-up Certification Committee'

NAR History (2) - Objective

- A common international standard for professional occupational hygienists.
- Mutual recognition of an IOHA member association's (national) accreditation scheme.
- Reciprocity of the national schemes

NAR History (3) – ‘Recognition’

- Recognised that IOHA itself, could not offer an acceptable international Occupational Hygiene accreditation scheme
- The best that could be achieved was for IOHA to ‘officially recognise’ those specific IOHA member associations that had a national accreditation/certification scheme that was acceptable to the IOHA Board.

NAR History (4) – ‘First Challenges’ 1995-2000

1. Who in IOHA already had accreditation/certification schemes? -USA (biggest), UK, Canada, Italy, Swiss, Dutch, South Africa, Norwegians
2. What should the criteria be for acceptance by IOHA of a national accreditation/certification scheme?
3. Who should make the assessment of a national accreditation/certification scheme using these criteria?
4. Charter for NAR Committee – ‘MISSION STATEMENT’: To promote global respect for and recognition of Occupational Hygiene Certification Programmes which meet or exceed the “IOHA Model Certification Programme”

NAR History (5) – ‘Next Challenge’ 2001-2005

- IOHA chose to recognise occupational hygiene certification systems, rather than set up an ‘IOHA certification scheme’.
- IOHA Board approved the criteria and procedure for ‘recognition of national accreditation 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 2)

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

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)** in 2005
- **Faculty of British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)** in 2005
- **South Africa Institute of Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH)** in 2006
- **Dutch Occupational Hygiene Society (NVvA)** in 2006
- **Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene (AIOH)** - in 2006
- **Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygiene (CRBOH)** in 2007.

A number of other IOHA members (3) are seeking IOHA recognition for their accreditation scheme.

Next Challenges 2008 & beyond

Challenge No. 1.

Does NAR accreditation make sense in a non-western culture?

The NAR criteria were based on European or North American schemes. Does it work for non-western or eastern cultures?

The Final Questions?

What do people need to know and be competent in, to be a “qualified” professional Occupational Hygienist in your country?

How is it determined, and by who?