

CERTIFIED INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST (CIH) CERTIFICATION

WHO ISSUES THE CERTIFICATION?

The [Board for Global EHS Credentialing, Inc.](#) (BGC), previously called the American Board of Industrial Hygiene.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

This certification seeks to protect the health and safety of workers and the public by identifying and investigating chemical, physical, biological, or ergonomic hazards and suggesting plans to eliminate or minimize them.

WHAT IS THE CAREER LEVEL OF THE CERTIFICATION AND WHO IS IT GEARED TO?

The [CIH](#) is a mid- to advanced-level certification geared to individuals who want to make valuable contributions to the prevention of exposure-related illnesses and death in workplaces and the community.

WHAT ARE THE EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE PREREQUISITES FOR THE CERTIFICATION?

The following are the requirements to apply for and take the certification exam:

- » At least a bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry, physics, or engineering from a U.S. college or university that is accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized accreditation agency, or a degree from an appropriately-accredited foreign institution that is academically equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree. Candidates with a bachelor's degree in other disciplines are considered if the applicant earned at least 60 semester hours in science, science-based technology, engineering, or mathematics.
- » At least 12 college or university credits/180 academic contact hours of industrial hygiene (IH) coursework, or 240 continuing education contact hours.
- » At least two contact hours of ethics training, which counts as part of the IH coursework requirement.
- » At least four years of professional-level experience in occupational health and safety that include at least two occupational health stressors: chemical, physical, biological, or ergonomics, and current practice at the professional level.
- » At least two professional references, which must include a current supervisor and a CIH practitioner who is familiar with the applicant's work experience.

WHAT IS THE COST AND STRUCTURE OF THE CERTIFICATION'S EXAM(S)?

The two-part, five-hour, computer-based exam consists of 180 multiple-choice questions (150 questions plus 30 pilot questions). The test specifications identify three areas of responsibility that define the role of the CIH practitioner, nine tasks performed in each area of responsibility, and knowledge and skills the CIH practitioner should possess to perform these tasks. There is a \$150 application/reapplication fee, and a \$350 examination fee. Applicants who do not pass the exam within two years must pay a reapplication fee and provide updated documentation of their work experience and an updated supervisory reference.

WHAT IS THE GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

International.

workcred
an affiliate of ANSI



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
GEORGE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC POLICY

IS THE CERTIFICATION ACCREDITED?

Since 2009, the CIH program has met the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accreditation program requirements and those set forth in ISO/IEC 17024:2012 *Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*. And since 2013, the CIH program has been accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) against the *NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs*.

HOW LONG IS THE CERTIFICATION VALID?

It is valid for five years.

IS THERE A PROCESS FOR RENEWING THE CERTIFICATION, OR RECERTIFICATION?

Yes, BGC has a certification maintenance program where active and fully certified individuals are required to either pass the CIH exam or self-report their professional development activities every five years to renew the certification. Professional development activities must fall within the following categories: active practice, professional committee service, publications, education, teaching/presenting, and other approved activities. In addition, there is a \$150 annual renewal fee that must be paid to maintain the certification.

CAN THE CERTIFICATION BE REVOKED?

The certification can be revoked if the CIH practitioner fails to meet the ongoing requirements in the certification maintenance program or does not adhere to BGC's code of ethics.

IS THE CERTIFICATION LINKED TO LICENSURE?

No.

HOW DOES THE CERTIFICATION RELATE TO OTHER BGC CERTIFICATIONS OR THOSE OF OTHER CERTIFICATION BODIES?

The CIH certification is the highest regarded and most difficult certification to obtain among environmental health and safety credentials. The CIH is considered complementary to the Certified Safety Professional (CSP) certification offered by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals and the Certified Hazardous Material Manager (CHMM) certification offered by the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management.

From 2001-2006, the Certified Associate Industrial Hygienist (CAIH) program was offered and geared to the technician level. The certification process for the CAIH was similar as that for the CIH except that the qualifications required less science education; were in narrow scope (specialty) roles; or were spending less time in an industrial hygiene role (due to multi-disciplinary roles). Because of low demand, the CAIH examination was discontinued in 2006, but the CAIH designation is still recognized and supported by the BGC through its certification maintenance program.

WHAT ARE SOME ORGANIZATIONS OR INDUSTRIES THAT RECOGNIZE OR USE THE CERTIFICATION?

Examples include: industrial/manufacturing, engineering, government, healthcare, schools, public health, consulting, insurance, and other science-related fields.

ARE THERE ANY COMPANIES, CORPORATIONS, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE PUBLICLY DECLARED THEY PREFER OR REQUIRE THE CERTIFICATION?

Yes, the CIH is frequently required in all kinds of job listings, including for the U.S. federal government.

WHAT OCCUPATIONS USE THE CERTIFICATION?

Examples of such occupations include: occupational health and safety specialists; occupational health and safety technicians; senior safety managers; environmental health and safety managers; and environmental engineers.

DOES BGC OFFER TRAINING MATERIALS TO HELP INDIVIDUALS PREPARE FOR THE CERTIFICATION EXAM?

While BGC does not evaluate, endorse, work with, or track any organizations providing exam preparation materials, it does provide links on its website to some materials, including the job analysis/exam content outline, rubrics/exam subject areas, equation sheet, calculator information, sample exam questions, and exam FAQs.