



6015 W. St. Joseph, Suite 102 Lansing, Michigan 48917 **P:** (517) 321-2638 **F:** (517) 321-4624 **E:** abih@abih.org

FAQ for New Ethics Requirements

Updated: 16 July, 2009

What's changing?

- **CIH/CAIHs:** Starting with the 2006-10 Certification Maintenance (CM) cycle, CIH/CAIHs must accrue at least 2 hours (0.33 CM points) in ethics training during each 5 year cycle. Ethics training is part of the IH rubric area and will count toward the 10 CM points (minimum) per 5 year cycle.
- **Certification Applicants:** Starting January 1, 2010, certification applicants must complete at least 2 hours of ethics training. This will be part of the IH coursework requirement.

Why is this change being made?

Since 2008, AIHA, ACGIH, ABIH and the AIH's Joint IH Ethics Education Committee (JIHEEC) have been leading efforts to raise the level of awareness for ethics concerns. To reinforce the importance of ethics, it was agreed that ABIH would administer and enforce an ethics requirement for the IH profession. In November 2008, the ABIH Board of Directors passed a motion to implement the new ethics requirements for all new applicants and future CM cycles.

What do we mean by "ethics"?

Generally, any subject matter will be acceptable if it pertains to the content of the ABIH [Code of Ethics](#) or the Joint Industrial Hygiene Associations' [Member Ethical Principles](#). Other subject matter may be acceptable – please contact ABIH.

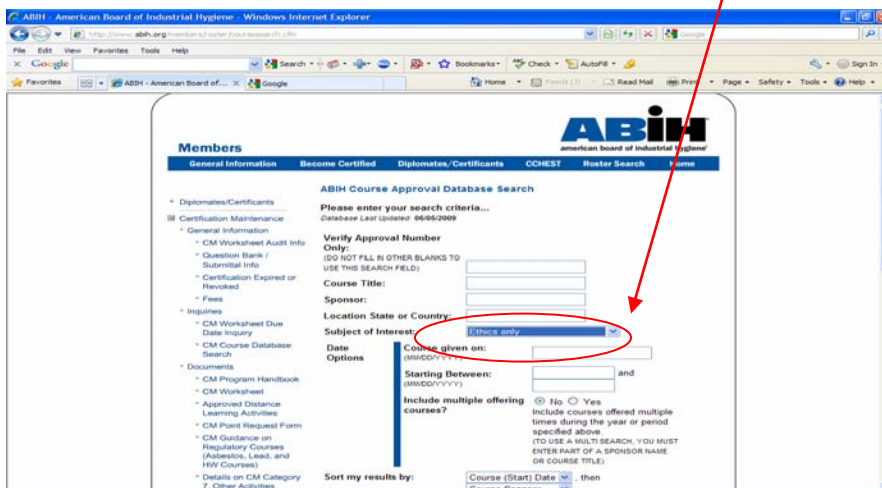
In its broadest sense, ethical questions can take many forms, e.g., business conflicts, workplace relationships, technical judgments or any subject matter that compromises the values of an organization. For ABIH purposes, appropriate ethics subjects could include topics like: Integrity/Professional conduct; confidentiality of sensitive information (e.g. HIPPA, Human subject protection during research projects, employee medical records), conflict of interest; intellectual property rights/plagiarism.

How can I meet this new ethics requirement?

There are numerous sources for ethics training. Some examples include AIHA Local Section meetings, TeleWebs (e.g. AIHA, ACGIH in conjunction with the JIHEEC), professional conferences (e.g. AIHce PDCs, roundtables, etc), other professional societies, and professional course providers. Even an employer's ethics classes may be acceptable depending upon the content and contact time. Course sponsors or individual CIH/CAIHs must submit a request for CM points to ABIH. The ethics

training can be provided via classroom or Distance Learning. Please note that ABIH does not provide or endorse training or training material on any topic, including ethics.

Examples of Ethics courses which have been approved can be found in the [ABIH CM Activity Database](#). [Choose Subject of Interest > Ethics Only].



I thought ABIH awarded CM points based on a minimum training time of 3 hours?

Ethics CM points are currently being awarded at a rate of 0.17 CM points/hour of activity. An ethics activity that is ≥ 1 hour will be awarded a unique CM Point Approval number. If an organization has several ethics activities that are ≤ 1 hour individually but collectively ≥ 1 hour, the ethics activities can be 'bundled' and assigned a unique CM Point Approval number. (In this situation, the CIH/CAIH would need to complete all the activities in a bundle in order to claim the CM points).

Why not simply cover "ethics" on the CIH examination?

Since the examination impacts only a few hundred people per year, it would take too long for ethics awareness to be fully integrated into the CIH/CAIH community. Also, it was felt that ethics questions would be too basic. Ethical dilemmas are often not clear cut cases involving scientific precision and mathematical accuracy. In fact, today's ethical issues are often dictated by the context of the situation and become "right vs. right" choices.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit the web sites for [ABIH](#) and [JIHEEC](#)
- See the ABIH online course [database](#) for CM-approved ethics courses.
- See [The Synergist](#) for several ethics-related articles
- Contact ABIH