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ABIH, AIHA, AIH and ACGIH[®] Revise the Current Jointly Shared Code of Ethics

LANSING, MI (May 18, 2007) — After careful consideration, much deliberation and solid legal advice, the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) decided to develop a new, enforceable Code of Ethics for all ABIH-certified professionals, applicants and examinees. The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), AIHA's Academy of Industrial Hygiene (AIH), and ACGIH[®] have created a set of principles that will complement the enforceable Code of Ethics for AIHA, AIH and ACGIH, which they will share.

Though the Member Ethical Principles document was developed in cooperation with ABIH and is based on the same concepts as its newly approved and enforceable Code of Ethics available at <http://www.abih.org/members/documents.html#ethicscode>, the joint principles are not enforceable; rather, the document represents shared member Ethical Principles. These principles were available for member input and were recently approved by both the AIHA and ACGIH Boards of Directors.

The four societies have jointly shared a Code of Ethics since the mid-1980s. In 1995, the four societies worked together to update the Code of Ethics. In 1996, the Joint Industrial Hygiene Ethics Education Committee (JIHEEC) was formed with representatives from each of the societies. The mission of JIHEEC is one of education, not enforcement. JIHEEC has served the profession by bringing attention to ethical dilemmas facing industrial hygiene (IH), while also serving as a sounding board for ethical challenges facing the profession.

During the past few years, the organizations have struggled, individually and collectively, with the best way to enforce the Code of Ethics. The four organizations have formed internal and joint task forces to address these myriad challenges within and between the societies. In the past few years, AIHA, AIH and ACGIH have moved from enforcement to education, and ABIH has strived to enhance the mechanisms by which it enforces the Code of Ethics for certified professionals.

AIHA, AIH and ACGIH are nonprofit voluntary professional membership associations dedicated to the advancement of the field of industrial hygiene. The IH professional associations support quality professional standards and practices and expect members to meet such standards. In support of these important purposes, the IH professional associations promote ethical professional practices and strongly encourage members to

understand ethical responsibilities. As a matter of professional competence and public confidence, members are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the applicable ethics standards, including those of ABIH. The IH professional associations have adopted the Member Ethical Principles to guide the members, support the profession, and advance health and safety.

For more information and to view the new Member Ethical Principles, please visit www.aiha.org or www.acgih.org.

ABIH is the certifying organization for Certified Industrial Hygienists (CIHs). Earning the CIH requires that candidates meet rigorous education and experience requirements, pass an examination and recertify every five years by fulfilling continuing education requirements. More than 6,500 industrial hygienists currently hold the CIH designation.