



American Academy of Health Physics
American Board of Health Physics

Corner

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Accreditation Status

During the January 1997 meeting of the Academy Executive Committee, outgoing Professional Development Committee (PDC) Chairman Joe Ring presented the Committee's recommendation to pursue Academy membership in the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB). The Executive Committee authorized the PDC to proceed with the application, and current PDC Chairman Tom Essig has provided this status report.

The CESB defines basic criteria and guidelines for the establishment and operation of specialty certification programs for engineers and related professionals. It also serves as a recognizing body for organizations that certify individuals, and it aids in resolving problems and conflicts encountered by its members. Membership in the CESB would provide, among other things, independent, third-party accreditation and auditing of the ABHP examination/certification program.

A partial list of other certifying bodies with which the Academy membership might be familiar follows:

American Academy of Environmental Engineers (AAEE),
Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP),
National Academy of Forensic Engineers [®],
Institute of Professional Environmental Practice,
The Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering,
The American Board of Industrial Hygiene, and
The Institute of Hazardous Materials Management.

CESB membership costs \$5,000 per year. The Academy can discontinue its membership at any time by withholding payment of the invoice—which is sent at the beginning of each calendar year.

Our application for CESB membership was completed and signed by Nancy Johnson on 24 June 1997. An acknowledgement letter dated 11 July 1997 was received

from the CESB. In its letter dated 17 December 1997, the CESB Executive Director informed the Academy that we had become a Member Board of the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards. The CESB letter also forwarded the 1998 Dues Statement which informs us that we must remit \$5,000.

Still Ongoing at Time of Publication

The Academy planned to send a representative to attend the CESB Annual Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, on 3 February 1998. It was anticipated that efforts would begin shortly after this meeting to respond to requests for information on the HP certification program and associated procedures/guidelines as may be requested by the CESB during the review of AAHP/ABHP materials. Following this review, an accreditation decision will be made by the CESB. The Professional Development Committee has reported that this decision is anticipated by about July 1998.

Those readers interested in knowing more about this process or in assisting with its completion are encouraged to contact one of the PDC Members:

Thomas H. Essig, 1999,
Janet A. Johnson, 1999,
Henry F. Kahnhauser, 1998,
Matthew P. Moeller, 2000,
Bruce R. Thomadsen, 1998, or
Jerry A. Thomas, 2000.

Standard of Care

Members are cautioned that the ICRP guidance recommending an effective dose limit of 20 mSv per year averaged over five years is directly incorporated into the current American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists *Threshold Limit Value* handbook. Employers who incorporate this handbook by reference in their industrial hygiene programs should fully understand that they are adopting an ionizing radiation limit that has yet to appear in U.S. regulations. Academy members who may act as expert witnesses should also recognize the potential arguments associated with the "standard of care" in litigation.

Time to Go On-Line?



The Academy is interested in member feedback regarding whether/when to move the "CHP Corner" and other routine member communications to email formats. Volunteers would also be needed to conduct a survey of membership access to email accounts as additional input to Academy strategic planning. Anyone interested is asked to contact one of the AAHP officers.