

Free Guide

CHMM: Certified Hazardous Materials Manager



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What is a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager certification?

A Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM) is a specialist in managing hazardous materials and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. It is issued by the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM) in the United States.

CHMM-certified employees are responsible for managing hazard materials through their lifecycle. This includes their:

- Storage
- Transportation
- Disposal

CHMM candidates typically have a strong background in environmental science, engineering, or a related field.

Who needs a CHMM certification?

Organizations that handle hazardous materials – such as chemicals, biological hazards, toxic substances, or explosive materials – may seek CHMM-certified employees. Such organizations commonly include:

- Industrial facilities
- Environmental consulting firms
- Emergency response agencies
- Waste management companies
- Government agencies
- Transportation and logistics companies
- Energy and utilities companies
- Healthcare facilities
- Educational institutions

While not universally mandatory, a CHMM certification may be required by various industries and organizations for certain positions.

How to become a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager

To be eligible for a CHMM certification, candidates must possess a four-year degree in applied sciences – or a related field such as chemistry or biology – from an accredited college or university. They must also have four years of work experience in a role related to hazardous materials management. Such roles include those involving:

- Hazardous materials handling
- Emergency response planning
- Contaminant sampling
- Site investigation and remediation

Eligible candidates must submit their information and an application to the CHMM, pay the application fee, then take and pass the CHMM exam. The total amount of fees will depend on the individual – and whether, for example, they must retake the exam. Generally, however, the entire CHMM certification process costs around \$2,000-2,500.

Renewal requirements for CHMM certifications

A CHMM certification is valid for five years. During this time, those seeking renewal must earn a total of 200 “Certification Maintenance Points (CMPs)” – 100 of which are earned from work experience. The other 100 are earned through various IHMM-approved methods of professional development and continuous improvement, such as attended or teaching college courses; attending seminars, webinars, and workshops; or delivering presentations at professional events.

Benefits of CHMM certification

A CHMM offers several benefits to individuals and organizations. They include the following.



Regulatory compliance expertise

CHMM certification equips professionals with in-depth knowledge of environmental regulations, ensuring organizations adhere to legal requirements, reducing the risk of penalties, and demonstrating commitment to environmental stewardship.



Risk mitigation skills

CHMMs possess the expertise to identify and manage hazardous materials, minimizing potential threats to human health and the environment. This capability enhances workplace safety, reduces liabilities, and safeguards an organization's reputation.



Strategic cost savings

Certified Hazardous Materials Managers can streamline waste management processes, implement cost-effective environmental practices, and optimize resource use. This results in operational efficiencies, cost savings, and a competitive edge in environmentally conscious markets.

Challenges in CHMM certification

Achieving CHMM certification may pose several challenges to organizations and employees. They include the following.



Resource intensiveness

Pursuing CHMM certification demands substantial time and financial resources. Balancing the certification process with daily operations can strain organizational resources and may require careful planning to minimize disruptions.



Complexity of regulations

Staying abreast of evolving environmental regulations is a constant challenge. CHMM candidates must navigate complex and dynamic regulatory landscapes, requiring ongoing training and a commitment to staying informed to ensure compliance.



Employee workload

Employees pursuing CHMM certification often face increased workloads due to the additional demands of studying and preparing for the certification exams. Managing this workload effectively while maintaining job performance can be a significant challenge for individuals and organizations alike.

Tips and strategies for preparing for CHMM certification

Here are a few tips for preparing for a CHMM certification:

- Develop a focused study plan, covering all CHMM exam topics.
- Use practice exams, online courses, and case studies, to reinforce concepts.
- Join study groups or forums to share insights and clarify doubts.
- Regularly review materials and stay informed about changes in regulations.
- Simulate exam conditions with timed practice tests, which are available on the IHMM website.

Resources for CHMM certification

For more information and guidance on CHMM certification, you can refer to the following resources.

Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM). The [IHMM's website](#) should be the predominant resource for those seeking CHMM certification. It contains practice exams, study guides, information regarding the certification and recertification process, FAQs, and more.

Hazardous Materials Society (HMS). The HMS is a [professional association for IHMM certifications](#). It schedules and holds conferences, networking events, education courses, and more that may be valuable to those seeking or holding CHMM certification.

Skills management for CHMM certification

AG5 stores all certifications in the cloud, providing all authorized personnel with access to the right version of approved certifications. This helps you easily keep track of all data and documentation related to a CHMM certification across your organization.

Using [AG5's skills management software](#), you can monitor the status of any type of certification that is relevant to your workforce, leveraging intuitive dashboards that provide you with a clear understanding of exactly what is needed to keep your employees skilled and safe.

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FAQs about CHMM certification

What is the scope of a CHMM certification?

A CHMM certification covers the management – storage, transportation, and disposal – of the entire lifecycle of hazardous materials.

Is a CHMM certification mandatory?

A CHMM certification is not universally mandatory, but may be required by certain organizations for certain roles.

How long does it take to obtain a CHMM certification?

This will vary depending on the candidate. The exam takes three hours and results are delivered within three weeks. However, all candidates must possess a four-year degree as well as four years of relevant work experience.

What are the cost considerations for a CHMM certification?

The total cost of a CHMM certification is typically between \$2,000-2,500.

What is the validity period of a CHMM certification?

A CHMM certification is valid for five years.

Can a CHMM certification be integrated with other management systems?

Yes, CHMM certification can integrate with other management systems. For example, a CHMM certification aligns with ISO 14001 for environmental management and OHSAS 18001 and ISO 45001 for occupational health and safety.

How can you learn more about CHMM certification?

Visit the [IHMM's website](#).

Resources

[Institute of Hazardous Materials Management \(IHMM\)](#)

(Resources checked 14.12.2023, and used throughout this guide)

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