

*Free Guide*

# CIH: Certified Industrial Hygienist



Skills management software  
for frontline workers

[www.ag5.com](http://www.ag5.com) | [info@ag5.com](mailto:info@ag5.com) | [+31 20 463 0942](tel:+31204630942)

# What is a Certified Industrial Hygienist?

A CIH is a certification issued by the Board for Global EHS Credentialing. Certified individuals have proven they can anticipate, recognize, evaluate and control hazards that may affect employees' health in the workplace. These hazards include those that are chemical, physical, ergonomic, or biological in nature, and relate to the following areas:

- Air Sampling & Instrumentation
- Analytical Chemistry
- Basic Science
- Biohazards
- Biostatistics & Epidemiology
- Community Exposure
- Engineering Controls/Ventilation
- Ergonomics
- Health Risk Analysis & Hazard Communication
- Industrial Hygiene/OEHS Program Management
- Noise
- Non-Engineering Controls
- Radiation – Ionizing and Non-ionizing
- Thermal Stressors
- Toxicology
- Work Environments & Industrial Processes

## Who needs a CIH certification?

Organizations with CIH-certified employees demonstrate a commitment to safe and compliant working environments, and overall risk mitigation in the workplace. That said, CIH certifications are not usually mandatory for industrial hygiene-related roles.

## **How to become a Certified Industrial Hygienist**

Those interested in earning a CIH certification must meet several requirements. They include:

- Completing 60 hours of university-level education
- Completing up to 240 hours of industrial hygiene-related courses
- Actively working in the field in the 12 months prior to applying
- Passing the CIH exam

For the full list of requirements – as well as in-depth descriptions of how to meet them – visit the Board for Global EHS Credentialing’s website, which is linked below.

## **Renewal requirements for CIH certifications**

CIH certifications are valid for five years. During that time, certification-holders must earn points through field-related professional development activities that go toward recertification. They must also pay annual fees to keep their CIH certification up to date.

# The benefits of CIH certification

A CIH certification offers several benefits to organizations. They include the following.



## Expertise assurance

A CIH certification ensures that employees hold advanced knowledge in industrial hygiene, as well as have the ability to effectively address workplace health and safety challenges effectively.



## Regulatory compliance

CIH-certified employees must stay updated on industry regulations, helping organizations navigate complex compliance requirements and avoid legal issues related to occupational health and safety.



## Risk mitigation

Organizations with CIH-certified individuals can proactively identify and mitigate potential health hazards, reducing the risk of workplace incidents.

# Challenges in earning a CIH certification

Earning a CIH certification may pose several challenges to individuals and organizations. They include the following.



## Resource intensiveness

Earning a CIH certification demands significant time, effort, and financial investment, posing a challenge for professionals and organizations balancing training needs with operational demands.



## Continuous education

Maintaining CIH certification requires ongoing education and staying abreast of industry changes, which can be challenging for on both an individual and organizational level.



## Limited pool of certified professionals

There are a relatively low number of CIH-certified individuals in the talent pool. This may present challenges for organizations seeking to recruit qualified experts.

# Tips and strategies for preparing for a CIH certification

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

- Study the [sample questions for the CIH exam](#)
- Familiarize yourself with the [CIH exam blueprint](#)
- Study the [CIH exam equation sheets](#)

## Resources for CIH certification

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

**Board for Global EHS Credentialing.** As the issuing body for CIH certifications, the [Board for Global EHS Credentialing's website will serve as the primary resource for CIH candidates](#). There, they will find a step-by-step guide for CIH certification, eligibility checklists, and a [CIH candidate handbook](#) that contains a wealth of valuable information for Certified Industrial Hygienists.

**American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.** The Board for Global EHS Credentialing suggests CIH candidates read [publications from the ACGIH](#).

**American Industrial Hygiene Association.** The [AIHA's publications](#) are also recommended reading for those interested in CIH certification.

# Skills management for Certified Industrial Hygienists

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 CIH 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.

[Book a demo](#)

## FAQs about CIH

### What is the scope of a CIH certification?

A CIH certification focuses on chemical, physical, ergonomic, or biological hazards in the workplace.

## **Is a CIH certification mandatory?**

No, CIH certification is not mandatory.

## **How long does it take to obtain a CIH certification?**

Typically, several months, depending on the applicant's level of preparation.

## **What are the cost considerations for a CIH certification?**

Cost considerations include exam fees, application fees, and application renewal fees.

## **What is the validity period of a CIH certification?**

CIH certifications are valid for five years.

## **Can a CIH certification be integrated with other management systems?**

Yes, a CIH certification can be integrated with other management systems, such as ISO 14001 (Environmental Management) and OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety).

## **How can you learn more about a CIH certification?**

Visit the [Board for Global EHS Credentialing](#)'s website.

## **Sources**

- [Board for Global EHS Credentialing](#)
- [American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists](#)
- [American Industrial Hygiene Association](#)

## Author



### [Rick van Echtelt](#)

Rick van Echtelt is the Co-Founder and CEO of AG5, where he leverages over two decades of experience in entrepreneurship and developing skills management software.

[Read author profile](#)

## Revisions

Original version | January 26, 2024

Written by: [Rick van Echtelt](#)

[Please read our editorial process for more information](#)

