



September 25, 2006

Board of Directors  
American Board of Industrial Hygiene  
6015 West St. Joseph, Suite 102  
Lansing, MI 48917-3980

Dear Board of Directors:

***Re: Objection to CIH Certification Restrictions***

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The Alberta Local Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) is one of the strongest local sections with the largest membership base across AIHA. We are deeply concerned about the future of the profession, and have had some discussion regarding recent changes to the American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) certification process.

We are pleased to learn that the ABIH would like to see a higher percentage of candidates successful in passing the Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) exams, however, we do not agree with ABIH's approach of placing additional restrictions on who is qualified to write the exams.

With respect to helping individuals prepare for certification exams, we offer affordable memberships, professional development courses, networking and mentoring opportunities. As a grass-roots organization, we realize that not all of our members have the financial capacity to meet ABIH's new requirements, especially since industrial hygiene-specific academic programs are not widely available to our local membership. We have members who are CIHs who with basic science degrees, informal self-study, personal desire and self-discipline have successfully gained the educational background necessary to pass the certification exams. As these members have demonstrated, work experience and a personal commitment to passing the CIH exam are the most critical factors, and a specified amount of formal industrial hygiene coursework is not a necessity in achieving excellence. Some of these members have expressed that had the new (restrictive) educational requirements been in place then, they would have likely chosen other careers.

Today, we have seasoned CIH members mentoring young members who we believe have the potential to become model CIHs in the future. We fear that these young scientists may not meet ABIH's new education requirements and may ultimately pursue other career options as a result. Beyond passing the rigorous certification exam (along with a basic science degree and relevant work experience), we do not see sufficient value in having other restrictions in the way of our members being eligible to write the certification exam.



**The Alberta Local Section of AIHA believes that recently-introduced certification restrictions are potentially damaging to the industrial hygiene profession as this may prevent bright young scientists from becoming CIHs. We request that the ABIH reconsider and simply recommend the new “industrial hygiene education” formal requirement from the CIH exam eligibility criteria. We believe that this is in the best interests of the profession and in the best interests of the public who we ultimately serve.**

We look forward to your consideration of what we believe is a very important matter. We actively support the industrial hygiene profession and wish to work with you in helping to ensure that industrial hygiene is a career of choice in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shivi Thusoo'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Shivi Thusoo MBA, CIH  
President, Alberta Local Section  
American Industrial Hygiene Association

Cc: Board of Directors, American Industrial Hygiene Association (National)  
AIHA-Atlantic Provinces Local Section  
AIHA-British Columbia/Yukon Local Section  
AIHA-Manitoba Local Section  
Board of Directors, Academy of Industrial Hygiene