

## **OVERVIEW OF CERTIFICATIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY PROFESSIONAL**

For both experienced professionals and professionals new to the field, there seems to be a bewildering number of professional certifications available in the field of environmental, health and safety (EHS). As with any other product or commodity, making wise choices is important in putting not only the effort in achieving the certifications, but also the monetary expense of obtaining one of these certifications. As with any reward or goal, the easier the certification is to obtain often is an indicator that it has little or no actual value in the real world in moving one's career forward, as opposed to obtaining a harder/rigorous certification.

Some certifications are required by employers and in having them, give the person the ability command a position and salary greater than someone with the more experience or overall skills.

This session will be an overview of the common EHS certifications available to professionals, and discuss some of the pro and cons of these certifications. The facilitator of this session is Christopher Chapman, CIH who has spent over 30 years in the EHS consulting industry and has had the opportunity to see the value of some of these certifications first hand in both hiring and also as they are referenced and required in contracts both in private and public sector contracts.

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Christopher J. Chapman, CIH, received his Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology (1985) and Biology (1988) from Virginia Commonwealth University, and in 1996 he received his Masters of Science degree in Industrial Hygiene through the Biomedical Engineering program at VCU/MCV.

Chris was certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene in Comprehensive Practice in 1996. He also holds a number of licenses/certifications for asbestos, lead based paint, and radon. Chris worked as a project manager for industrial hygiene services from 1988 to 1993 with REC, Inc., and from 1993 until 2010 with Froehling & Robertson Inc., of Richmond, Virginia, leaving as Technical Director of Environmental Services. He is currently Director of Industrial Hygiene for ECS Mid-Atlantic.

Mr. Chapman has served on the licensing board for Asbestos, Lead, Home Inspectors under Virginia Department of Professional Occupation Regulation, the IICRC S540 Consensus Committee, as well as the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry Conference committee. He is also an OSHA authorized instructor for both general and construction industry and regularly acts as a technical advisor and expert witness on cases involving industrial hygiene, worker's compensation, and indoor air quality.