

British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)

FACULTY OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE

SUMMARY OF ACCREDITATION PROCESS

Membership Grades

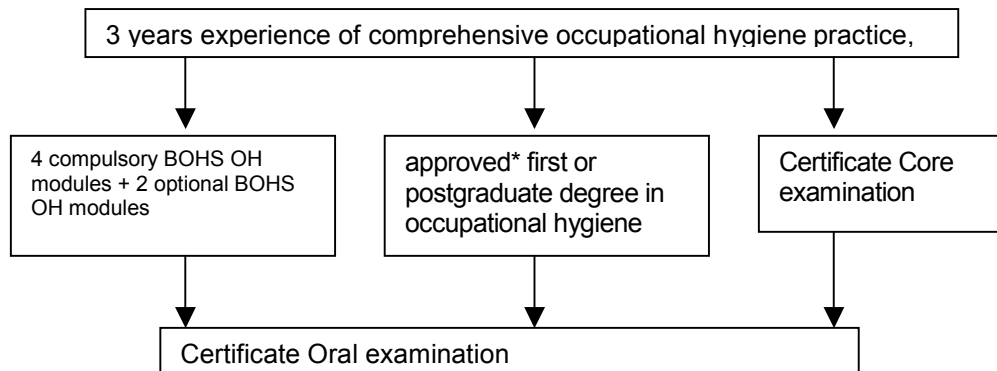
There are three grades of membership in the Faculty: Licentiate (LFOH), Member (including Specialist Member) (MFOH, or MFOH(S)) and Fellow (FFOH). All grades are subject to a compulsory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme and a mandatory Code of Ethics, which is reinforced by procedures to implement the Code in the event of a complaint.

Applicants for Licentiate and Member grade must hold the BOHS Certificate of Operational Competence in Occupational Hygiene and the BOHS Diploma of Professional Competence in Occupational Hygiene, respectively; applicants for Specialist Member grade must pass the Specialist Oral examination and; applicants for Fellow grade are required to have been in good standing in Member grade for at least five years and must be supported by referees who are able to confirm that they have made a significant contribution to the profession.

Examinations

Certificate of Operational Competence in Occupational Hygiene

There are three routes to this qualification:



* Degree courses can become “approved” by following a BOHS procedure which involves detailed assessment of course material, tutorial staff etc. and an undertaking by the course director concerned that its external examiner will be approved by the Faculty before appointment.

The examination is in two parts:

Part 1: the Certificate Core is a written examination – from which some candidates are exempt (see above). There are two written papers, each lasting three hours, which are a mix of 100 multi-choice questions and an essay (from a choice of four). The questions are based

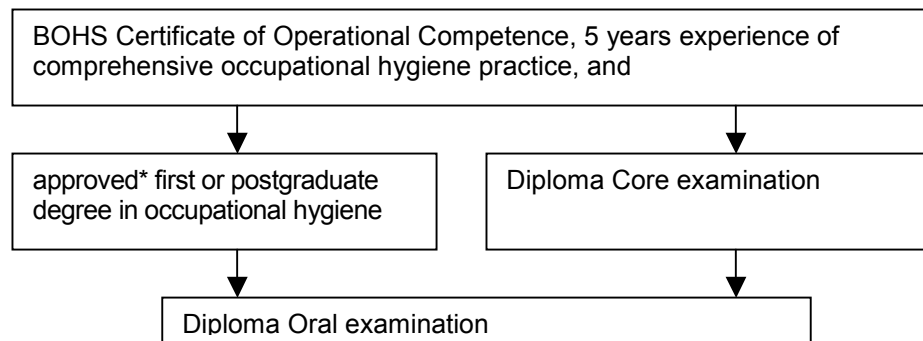
on the syllabi from all the BOHS occupational hygiene modules. To obtain a pass it is necessary to obtain at least 50% in both papers (70% or greater for a credit).

and

Part 2: the Certificate Oral, from which there is no exemption. The Oral is of approximately one hour duration and covers the syllabi for all the BOHS occupational hygiene modules. It is designed to test the candidate's ability to plan and take measurements, to select the appropriate sampling equipment, to demonstrate the correct use of such equipment, to take relevant on-site observations and to calculate results. Questioning will normally, but not solely, be based on scenarios reflecting workplace situations. Candidates will normally be examined by a panel of three examiners, who will have held the BOHS Diploma of Professional Competence in Occupational Hygiene for at least five years.

Diploma of Professional Competence in Occupational Hygiene

There are two routes to this qualification:



* Degree courses can become “approved” by following a BOHS procedure which involves detailed assessment of course material, tutorial staff etc. and an undertaking by the course director concerned that its external examiner will be approved by the Faculty before appointment.

The Diploma Core examination consists of two three-hour essay-type papers, each comprising six questions. From each paper one question is compulsory and three others should be answered from a choice of five. The compulsory question in Paper 1 relates to either control of airborne hazards or statistics; the optional subjects are harmful/fibrogenic dusts, toxic metals, gases, solvents/organic vapours and carcinogens/microbiological hazards. The compulsory question in Paper 2 relates to legislation/general principles; the optional subjects are thermal environment, noise/vibration, lighting/NIR, ventilation and ionising radiation. In order to achieve a pass at this examination, it is necessary to achieve an average mark from the two Papers of 50%.

The Diploma Oral examination, is of approximately one hour duration and is designed to test the candidate's mature approach to the understanding and solving of occupational hygiene problems. Questions are built around scenarios, the answers to which require deep and broad experience including strategy and data interpretation, practical control measures and application of legislation/good practice. Candidates will normally be examined by a panel of three examiners, who will have held the BOHS Diploma of Professional Competence in Occupational Hygiene for at least five years.

Specialist Member

Applications may be considered from those who are not holders of the BOHS Diploma of Professional Competence in Occupational Hygiene, but are engaged in specialist aspects of occupational hygiene. Candidates will hold an honours or postgraduate degree or equivalent qualification in a scientific or technological subject relevant to occupational hygiene, and have at least five years' experience in the

specialist subject offered. Examples of “suitable subjects” are asbestos, health physics, noise and vibration, ergonomics, microbiology, engineering, toxicology, environmental science, chemistry, occupational health, occupational safety, and epidemiology. Applications for a specialist subject not listed can be made to the Chief Examiner who will consult Faculty Board as to its suitability.

The applicant is required to provide the names of three referees, at least two of whom should be Members or Fellows of the Faculty, to whom the Faculty can apply for references regarding the candidate’s suitability. If the references are satisfactory, the candidate is invited to attend an oral examination. No later than six weeks before the date of the oral, the candidate is required to provide copies of three examples of the range of work undertaken in the specialist area, together with a typed synopsis of their experience (approx 1000 words).

The oral examination will last approximately one hour and comprises:
examination of the specialist area, including questioning on the work submitted. This is primarily aimed at ensuring that the candidate has sufficient specialist knowledge to warrant admission under this grade, and
examination about the general principles of occupational hygiene including:
standards, compliance testing, impact of legislation;
understanding OH principles at the professional level, i.e. prevention –v- protection, assessments and the role of measurement, monitoring strategies;
management of health hazards, e.g. engineering controls, health surveillance, auditing;
the content and purpose of occupational hygiene reports.

An in-depth knowledge of technical areas of occupational hygiene practice would not be expected. Candidates will normally be examined by a panel of three examiners, who will have held the BOHS Diploma of Professional Competence in Occupational Hygiene for at least five years.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Faculty members are required to collect 20 CPD points, averaged over a two-year cycle of which a minimum of 5 points/year should be external CPD and a minimum of 2 points/year should be internal CPD; and they should aim for a balance of topics from all the CPD categories.

Each year’s worksheet must be submitted by 31 January the following year, either as hard copy of on-line (via the Society’s website) and must have been counter-signed by an occupational hygiene appraiser (ideally a line manager or senior colleague, but not necessarily restricted to a practising fellow professional).

Around 10% of participants are audited annually. Participants, selected a random and with equal representation from between the membership grades, will be required to forward their documentation proofs for validation by a Faculty representative. After review, participants will be informed of the decision, which will be (1) all acceptable and Faculty membership can continue; (2) mostly acceptable and Faculty membership can continue; or (3) mostly unacceptable and further information is required. If that is either still unacceptable or not forthcoming, Faculty membership may be withdrawn either temporarily or permanently. Those so affected have the right to appeal.

No expelled participant will be re-admitted to Faculty membership until they have shown two consecutive years of CPD.

Pamela Blythe
12 September 2008

Further information is available from exams@bohs.org