

IAQA Position Statement on Certification

Approved May 4, 2010

IAQA members include a very diverse group of consultants, contractors and others with an interest in IAQ. It should therefore come as no surprise that members of IAQA are certified, registered or licensed by dozens of different organizations and entities. These include state and municipal governments; non-profit organizations like ABIH, ACAC, ASHI, AEE, ASHRAE, BCSP, IICRC, NADCA, NAFA, NEHA, RIA, USGBC and more; as well as by educational institutions and private training providers.

IAQA ceased being a certification body in 2006. That is when IAQA transferred its certification programs to the American IAQ Council (now the American Council for Accredited Certification - ACAC). The transfer of certification programs took place under an agreement whereby ACAC transferred its membership and chapter programs to IAQA.

Prior to this transfer, IAQA certification programs included the "Certified Mold Remediator - CMR" and the "Certified Indoor Environmentalist - CIE". When these programs were transferred to ACAC, they underwent substantial change, allowing them to become accredited by the Council for Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB). IAQA has no influence over or participation in the administration or operation of these or any other certification programs.

Within the sphere of IAQ consulting and contracting, as well as in their mold sub-specialties, there are several certification bodies. IAQA does not exclusively endorse or approve any particular certification program. IAQA believes its members should strive to achieve the experience, education, and credentials necessary to conduct their business activities in a competent and ethical manner. For some members, that may include certifications from multiple organizations.

IAQA believes the following are important attributes for a certification body:

- The certification organization and its programs should be accredited by a non-profit, third-party organization such as ANSI, CESB or NCCA.
- The certification organization should be operated in compliance with applicable ANSI, CESB and/or NCCA standards and guidelines for personnel certification programs.
- The certification organization should be structured such that its volunteer leadership is selected by their peers through a process that is democratic, transparent and consistently applied.
- The certification organization should use state-of-the-art psychometric methods in the development and maintenance of its certification examination programs.
- The certification organization should allow individuals who meet reasonable experience and/or education eligibility requirements to "challenge" its certification examinations without having to take a specific training course.
- Certification should be offered by non-profit organizations that are independent of training entities, product or service vendors, or other parties with similarly vested interests.

END OF POSITION STATEMENT

For more information, contact:

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Certifying Organizations named in IAQA Position Statement*

ABIH – American Board of Industrial Hygiene – www.abih.org
ACAC – American Council for Accredited Certification – www.acac.org
AEE – Association of Energy Engineers – www.aeecenter.org
ASHI – American Society of Home Inspectors – www.ashi.org
ASHRAE – American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers – www.ashrae.org
BCSP – Board of Certified Safety Professionals – www.bcsp.org
IICRC – Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification – www.iicrc.org
NADCA – National Air Duct Cleaners Association – www.nadca.com
NAFA – National Air Filtration Association – www.nafahq.org
NEHA – National Environmental Health Association – www.neha.org
RIA – Restoration Industry Association – www.restorationindustry.org
USGBC – US Green Building Council – www.usgbc.org

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Accreditation Organizations for Personnel Certification Programs named in IAQA Position Statement

ANSI – American National Standards Institute – www.ansi.org
CESB - Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards – www.cesb.org
NCCA – National Commission for Certifying Agencies – www.credentialingexcellence.org

Standards & Guidelines for the Accreditation of Personnel Certification Programs

ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024, *Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*, American National Standards Institute –
<http://webstore.ansi.org/RecordDetail.aspx?sku=ANSI%2fISO%2fIEC+17024%3a2003>

Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs, National Commission for Certifying Agencies –
<http://www.credentialingexcellence.org/portals/0/STANDARDS%20-%20Updated%20January%202010.pdf>

Guidelines for Engineering and Related Specialty Certification Programs, Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards --
http://www.cesb.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=34