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The Expanding Role of Occupational Hygienists in a Changing World of Work

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Across the globe, companies are facing new expectations - not just to protect the health of workers, but to prove that they are doing so in meaningful, measurable ways. A growing focus on corporate responsibility and sustainability is reshaping how organizations report on their impact not just on the environment, but on people. For occupational hygienists, this represents a major shift and a powerful opportunity.

Two global initiatives are accelerating this shift:

1.Taskforce on Inequality and Social-related Financial Disclosures (TISFD)

Focuses on how companies manage social risks and inequalities. This includes topics like labour conditions, health and safety, community impacts, and fair treatment. The work of this Taskforce will call for organizations to disclose how they identify and manage these issues and the results that they are achieving.

2.International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Human Capital Project

Led by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) this effort looks at how companies report on workforce-related risks and opportunities as part of broader sustainability efforts. It explores areas such as worker stability, skills development, compensation, safety, diversity, and well-being. The ISSB is evaluating where clearer standards or guidance may be needed to help companies disclose meaningful

information in these areas.

While these acronyms may be unfamiliar, the core idea is simple: organizations will be asked to move beyond compliance, policies and programs and begin to show how those efforts are working, through standardized reporting and measurable outcomes. They also elevate the role of occupational hygienists—positioning us not just as compliance professionals, but as strategic partners in workforce well-being.

Many companies are already making strong efforts around inclusion, mental health, equity, and worker well-being. So, it's reasonable to ask: Why do these reporting frameworks matter?

These frameworks do not replace the good work being done, in fact, they validate and strengthen it. Much like the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) elevated climate as a financial risk, TISFD and the IFRS Human Capital Project are making workforce health and well-being, equity, and inclusion part of long-term business strategy. It means organizations will need to:

- Measure and demonstrate the impact of their programs
- Integrate human capital risks and opportunities into enterprise risk and sustainability planning, and
- Report transparently using metrics that are consistent and auditable across sectors.

This shift is not just about doing more it's also about showing how what we're already doing is making a difference.

Occupational hygienists have long led the charge in protecting worker health. Most in the profession already understand that hazards do not stop in the workplace and that mental health, housing, income stability, and environmental conditions impact and shape a person's well-being.

These frameworks simply give more visibility and value to this work. To meet these expectations, occupational hygienists can contribute by helping their organizations and the organizations that they serve to:

- View workers holistically, including stress, mental health, and social conditions (Schulte et al., 2023)
- Assess risks outside the traditional workplace, especially with remote work, gig employment, and mobile operations (Morgan Lewis, 2025)
- Adapt to emerging issues like climate-related exposures, including extreme heat and wildfire smoke (AIHA, 2017)
- Collaborate with Human Resources, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and Sustainability teams to align occupational health with broader social and business goals (TISFD, 2024), and
- Develop metrics and indicators that not only show the programs that exist—but how well they work.

This type of structured reporting offers real benefits including:

- Helping organizations identify gaps and opportunities that they may have missed
- Giving credibility to efforts that are already underway, and

- Showing investors, communities, and workers that companies are not just talking about worker well-being, they are accountable for it.

For occupational hygienists, it's a chance to have our work recognized at the highest levels of corporate strategy and governance.

The occupational hygiene profession is already grounded in science, systems thinking, and a deep commitment to worker health. The global shift toward transparency and accountability does not ask us to change our values—it simply offers a stronger platform to demonstrate them.

Many occupational hygienists are already championing these broader health and well-being perspectives. Now, these frameworks provide us with the tools to show how essential our work is to business success and social impact. The future of work is changing—and occupational hygienists are prepared to lead it.

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Prioritising Exposure Controls

How Banding Strategies Help Manage Chemical Risk

By Alex Mercer and Angela Wheeler

This article was originally published in the February 2025 issue of The Synergist®, the magazine of AIHA®. Submission provided to IOHA by Ed Rutkowski, Director, Periodicals, AIHA.

Traditional exposure assessments are appropriate in situations where chemical hazards are reliably measurable through validated quantitative methodologies, budgets support a battery of tests, and formal exposure limits exist with which to create the benchmark of acceptable exposures. In non-ideal situations, however, exposure assessments can be costly and require the expertise of an IH professional to interpret data. Utilizing banding logic prior to exposure assessment helps prioritize hazards, ensuring that limited resources are allocated to appropriate areas.

Starting in 2022, AIHA's Principles of Good Practice (PGP) project has aimed to bridge the gap created by these non-ideal situations. The document "Principles of Good Practice for the Industrial Hygienist/Occupational Hygienist" identifies control banding as an "enhanced practice" that can make the exposure assessment and management process more efficient and effective. We propose an integration of the traditional exposure assessment paradigm with the decision logic of banding strategies; this proposed integration serves two purposes. First, it allows for immediate

strategies to protect workers sooner; and second, it provides context to the chemical hazard conversation, allowing for better-informed decision-making related to exposure assessment prioritization.

The context of IH involves the collection of information from various sources, including samples if possible, to quantitatively determine the level of exposure risk and, thus, which controls are most appropriate to reduce risk and protect workers. Application of the decision logic of banding strategies helps prioritize resource allocation and provides the IH professional with additional tools with which to navigate complex situations .

ORDER FROM CHAOS

Hazard and control banding strategies are based on the principle of grouping like with like. This strategy is commonplace when dealing with disordered situations. For example, imagine a table filled with puzzle pieces—a mess of random shapes and colors. By grouping the edge pieces together, we allow the image to take shape. Through sorting, order and logic emerge from seemingly chaotic groupings. This simple strategy forms the basis of banding concepts. (For a more thorough summary of banding strategies, read "Battle of the Bands" in the December 2023 Synergist at aiha.info/syn23l2bands.)

In the case of hazard banding, chemical hazards are grouped together based on their intrinsic hazardous properties, such as toxicity, corrosiveness, flammability, and reactivity. This information is based on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. GHS classifications have become available for tens of thousands substances in recent years through company safety data sheets and public databases, such as the EU ECHA website (echa.eu) or the Australian GHS Hazardous Chemical Information System (bit.ly/auhcis). GHS hazard statements, also known as H-statements, align with the hazardous properties associated with the product. These H-statements act like puzzle pieces, allowing products with similar chemical hazards to be grouped together and categorized into hazard bands.

Control banding relies on groupings of exposure controls according to their

effectiveness for specific exposure situations. Most banding schemes link hazard and control banding to identify appropriate controls to mitigate the exposure risk of a substance. One banding scheme that works this way is the Chemical Hazard Assessment and Prioritization tool (CHAP, bit.ly/tmuchap), which allows users to use simplified inputs to generate a hazard band and corresponding control band focused on healthbased risk reduction. CHAP offers several free downloads in both paper and electronic versions under a Creative Commons license. For more information, visit bit.ly/chapdownloads.

Similar tools such as COSHH Essentials, Einfaches Maßnahmenkonzept Gefahrstoffe (EMKG) from Germany's BAuA agency, CB Nanotool 2.0, and the NIOSH Occupational Exposure Banding Tier I tool also help users with the hazard banding and chemical risk assessment process by providing corresponding

Table 1. Hazard Band Descriptions and Potential Health Effects

Hazard Band	Description	Potential Adverse Health Effects
A	Low hazard (not very toxic)	Irritation (mild, skin or eyes)
B	Moderate hazard (toxic)	Harmful on single exposure
C	High hazard (very toxic, can cause serious health problems)	Irritation (severe, skin or eyes), Corrosive, Toxic)
D	Very high hazard (very toxic and dangerous, can cause serious health problems or death)	Very toxic on single exposure, effects on fetus, serious disease or death, or respiratory sensitization
E	Extremely high hazard	Carcinogens

control bands or appropriate exposure ranges. This article uses CHAP for demonstration because it is freely available from Toronto Metropolitan University.

HOW TO HAZARD BAND USING GHS H-STATEMENTS

Hazard bands begin with A (lowest hazard) and progress to E (highest hazard). Table 1 outlines the hazard band and potential health effects for each. If a chemical product has multiple hazardous

properties, the product is placed in the highest band for which any component qualifies. For example, a chemical that is both an eye irritant (Band C) and a carcinogen (Band E) will be placed in Band E.

Safety hazards such as flammability are not comprehensively assessed in CHAP. Only H-statements relevant for health outcomes are utilized for CHAP. These statements are associated with potentially adverse health effects, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Hazard Band/Levels and Select Hazard Codes and Statements

Hazard Band/ Level	Hazard Statements from GHS and the European Union
A	H303: May be harmful if swallowed. H304: May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways. H305: May be harmful if swallowed and enters airways H316: Causes mild skin irritation H333: May be harmful if inhaled.
B	H302: Harmful if swallowed. H315: Causes skin irritation. H319: Causes serious eye irritation. H320: Causes eye irritation. H332: Harmful if inhaled. H335: May cause respiratory irritation. H336: May cause drowsiness or dizziness. H371: May cause damage to organs.
C	H301: Toxic if swallowed. H317: May cause an allergic skin reaction. H318: Causes serious eye damage. H331: Toxic if inhaled. H361: Suspected of damaging fertility or the unborn child. H362: May cause harm to breast-fed children. H370: Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure. H373: May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure.
D	H300: Fatal if swallowed. H314: Causes severe skin burns and eye damage. H330: Fatal if inhaled. H334: May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled. H341: Suspected of causing genetic defects. H351: Suspected of causing cancer. H360: May damage fertility or the unborn child. H372: Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure.
E	H340: May cause genetic defects. H350: May cause cancer.

Source: bit.ly/chappriorities (PDF).

CONTROL BANDING

After completing the risk assessment in the CHAP spreadsheet (see Table 3), a corresponding control band is recommended based on the risk assessment, as shown in Table 4.

Table 3

Risk Level		Control Band	Suggested Controls
1	Low	1	General/Natural Ventilation
2	Moderate	2	Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV)/Engineering Controls
3	High	3	Containment
4	Very High	4	Eliminate or Substitute; Specialized OHS Advice, Exposure Control Plan

Control Band 1

This band applies to Risk Level 1, which represents low risk. Generally, Control Band 1 represents the base level of control measures. Products in this category, such as an environmentally friendly citrus degreaser that contains less than 10 percent ethoxylated alcohols, have low health hazard potential and volatility. For these products, a general ventilation system is typically sufficient to dilute and remove contaminated air and deliver clean replacement air. This ventilation system could be natural or dilution ventilation from doors, windows, fans, or an HVAC system.

Baseline administrative controls include restricted access to the work area; workplace cleaning, housekeeping, and personal decontamination practices; and worker training and supervision. Personal protective equipment for Control Band 1 would typically consist of coveralls, general purpose gloves, and safety glasses to protect a worker's skin and eyes. Respiratory protective equipment is not usually needed for normal operations in this band.

Control Band 2

This band applies to Risk Level 2 and calls

for a higher level of control as chemical products become dusty, volatile, corrosive, sensitizing to skin, or toxic to organs. Examples of these products include a scale remover like lactic acid or an ethylene glycol antifreeze. For anything

more than a consumer product exposure scenario, local exhaust ventilation (LEV) becomes important, which removes contaminated air from the source, before it is allowed

to dissipate into the surrounding areas.

Administrative controls also require a higher level of diligence and may involve restricted site access, ventilation equipment maintenance, examination and testing, workplace cleaning, housekeeping and personal decontamination practices, and worker training and supervision. The level of PPE for this control approach becomes chemical- and process-specific: chemical protective coveralls or apron and gloves, goggles, and potentially a respirator if the ventilation is unable to reduce air concentration below an acceptable level, such as the occupational exposure limit.

Control Band 3

This band applies to Risk Level 3. Chemicals in this category, such as liquid mercury or a solvent like dichloromethane (DCM), are toxic and associated with more hazardous health effects. The controls for these hazards engage the higher levels of the hierarchy of controls: elimination, substitution, and engineering controls. From our example, the mercury in older thermometers, fluorescent lamps, dental amalgam, or liquid mirrors is a classic candidate for elimination or substitution: less hazardous products can

be used for the same purposes, thus requiring less stringent controls. Where elimination or substitution is not possible—for example, when chemicals are essential to operations, like DCM for paint stripping—engineering controls such as process/product containment are recommended to minimize exposure and reduce risk. Examples of these controls include fume hoods and storage tanks or reaction vessels with dedicated piping and valves.

Administrative controls in this band are the same as for lower bands; however, for Control Band 3, the containment system is included in equipment maintenance, examination, and testing. The level of PPE depends on the extent to which the product is contained. Activities that involve breaking containment or situations where containment is not possible—for example, using DCM to strip surface coatings from alloy wheels—require extensive PPE, such as a chemical protective suit, gloves, goggles, and a respirator with an appropriate cartridge or supplied air, in addition to local exhaust ventilation and automation of the stripping task to further reduce risk and the potential for exposure.

Control Band 4

This band applies to Risk Level 4 and represents the highest level of control. Chemicals in Risk Level 4 are confirmed carcinogens, mutagens, or respiratory sensitizers and are often present in such large quantities that products can easily become airborne and cause serious health effects. At this risk level, expert advice from a qualified industrial hygienist, such as a CIH or ROH, is necessary. The risk assessment required to adequately

control chemicals in this band must go beyond the basic; it must be site- and process-specific, with integrated solutions for each task to help reduce exposure to health hazards.

Applicable control measures from all levels of the hierarchy of controls need to be implemented for this band: ventilation, engineering controls, work practices, and PPE. In addition to worker health monitoring, exposure monitoring and equipment assessments to validate the effectiveness of controls are essential at this level. This stringent approach and additional oversight ensure the risk of exposure to highly hazardous chemicals is adequately monitored and controlled.

MANAGING CHEMICAL RISK

Overall, hazard and control banding allow initial assignment of appropriate controls, require minimal input, and can be conducted by those with little expertise in toxicology. The outputs for an airborne chemical hazard range from confirmation that general ventilation and PPE are sufficient to identification of a highly hazardous substance and recommendation to seek a professional. As with any exposure control strategy, control measures will need to be regularly maintained and validated for effectiveness. If exposure measurements indicate residual risk or lower risk, controls will warrant adjustment.

Banding tools can be seen as simplistic and overly conservative in control recommendations; however, they reduce the complexity of chemical risk management and provide a way to quickly manage chemical risk by connecting hazards with appropriate and applicable

control measures. Integrating the decision logic of banding strategies with the traditional exposure assessment paradigm helps prioritize controls, ensuring that limited resources are allocated in appropriate areas.

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COSHH Essentials Guidance Sheets

Developed in the 1990s by the United Kingdom's Health and Safety Executive, COSHH Essentials is intended to be used by employers—especially those with small, resource-constrained businesses—to facilitate compliance with the U.K. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulation. Usage of COSHH Essentials has expanded well beyond the U.K. COSHH Essentials offers valuable industry-specific guidance sheets on appropriate controls at bit.ly/coshhadvice.

RESOURCES

AIHA: “Principles of Good Practice for the Industrial Hygienist/Occupational Hygienist,” aiha.info/eapgp (October 2024).

BAuA: EMKG – Workplace and Chemicals, bit.ly/emkg.

PubChem: “GHS Classification Summary (Rev.8, 2019),” bit.ly/ghssummary.

Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology: “Hazard Banding in Compliance with the New Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for Use in Control Banding Tools,” bit.ly/rtparnone (October 2015).

The Synergist: “Battle of the Bands: Alternative Strategies for Risk Management in the Workplace,” aiha.info/syn23l2bands (December 2023).

SynergistNOW: “Banding Strategies for Protecting Workers,” aiha.info/synnow0522banding (May 2022).

SynergistNOW: “Control Banding Approaches for Welding: A Practical Method to Protect Workers' Health,” aiha.info/synnow0922banding (September 2022).

Toronto Metropolitan University: CHAP – Chemical Hazard Assessment and Prioritization, bit.ly/tmuchap.

U.K. Health and Safety Executive: COSHH Essentials Direct Advice Sheets, bit.ly/coshhadvice.

EDUCATING THROUGH COMICS:

THE OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE CHRONICLES BRINGS A NEW TWIST TO OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE AWARENESS

Submission by Naadiya Mundy, MSocSc, ROH. Director/Occupational Hygienist at NEXAM Pty Ltd. Past President SAIOH. Email: naadiya@nexam.co.za, and Mary Cameron, BSc, CertOH, LFOH CoC-Control. Senior Occupational Hygienist at Hygiene Partners (part of the Health Partners group). BOHS Board Member. Email: Mary.Cameron@healthpartners.uk.com

In occupational hygiene, one of the greatest challenges is making complex scientific concepts accessible and engaging, especially for those unfamiliar with the field. Recognizing this gap, we set out to create a solution that was both innovative and impactful—an occupational hygiene comic.

Our goal was threefold: first, to educate workers, students, and professionals in an engaging, memorable way; second, to introduce occupational hygiene to those outside the field, showing them that this is a critical and rewarding career path; and third, to use this initiative as a means of supporting those in need.

By integrating humor, storytelling, and real-world scenarios, our comic simplifies technical concepts while making occupational hygiene more relatable. This approach not only strengthens learning for those already in the profession but also sparks curiosity among individuals who may never have considered occupational hygiene as a career. We want to highlight the essential role hygienists play in protecting workers and encourage more people to explore this field.

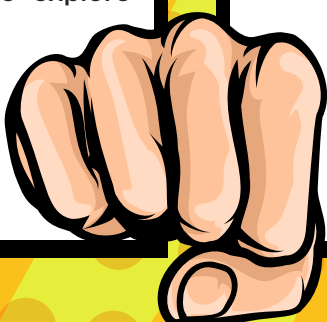
Beyond education and awareness, we created this comic to support aspiring hygienists in a

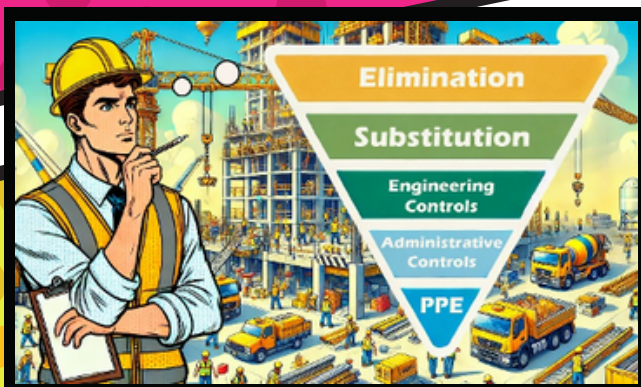
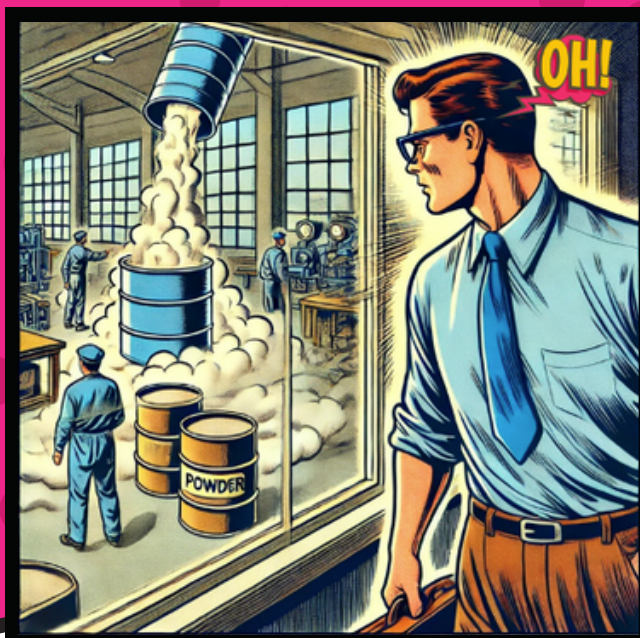
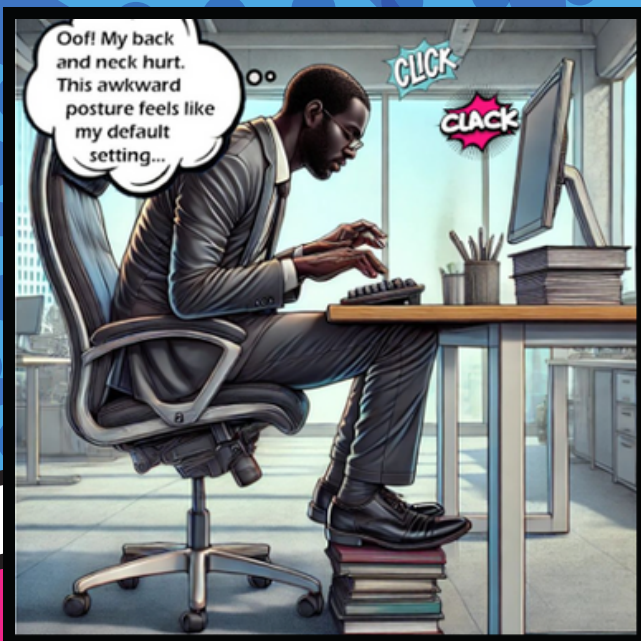
tangible way. We've set up a fund page to raise money for bursaries, helping individuals who lack financial resources attend BOHS and OHTA courses. By making occupational hygiene education more accessible, we hope to equip the next generation of professionals with the knowledge and skills they need to make a difference.

On a personal level, this project has also become an outlet for our creativity. Occupational hygiene is often a highly technical and data-driven field, but storytelling allows us to bring out a different side of ourselves. The process of designing and writing these comics not only fuels our passion for the profession but also provides us with a much-needed way to unwind and destress.

Ultimately, this project is about creating a lasting impact—making occupational hygiene more visible, inspiring new talent, supporting those in need, and allowing us to bring a fresh and creative perspective to a field we care deeply about.

Yours in Occupational Hygiene,
Naadiya & Mary





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OHTA Leading the Way in Occupational Hygiene Training and Certification

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In 2009, the Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA) was formed with a mission to deliver professional training to enhance the practice of occupational hygiene globally. This is accomplished through freely available training materials and Approved Training Providers that deliver the courses, powered by the latest technology to reach all corners of the world.

In 2024, OHTA was transformed through the commitment of global subject matter experts, volunteers, and stakeholders. Outcomes include: a new website; updated course manuals for the OHTA201 Basic Principles Course and seven of the OHTA500-Series Intermediate level courses; online multiple-choice exams, leading to the new ICertOHTA international qualification; and

translations of both the course manuals and exams into multiple languages. A specialist course for the mining industry was released in 2024 and a specialist course for the pharmaceutical industry is forthcoming in 2025. The most important outcome of 2024 is the 126 students who were awarded the ICertOHTA qualification.

Among these achievements, the IOHA National Accreditation and Recognition Committee – which accredits national associations' credentialing schemes based on a set of required criteria – updated its procedures to include OHTA training and the resulting ICertOHTA as an acceptable educational component for one pathway to certification by national associations.

But the good news doesn't stop there! In 2024, OHTA announced a new program to encourage training and qualifications in emerging economies. Thanks to OHTA Sponsorships and other donations, OHTA will adjust the exam fee of 100 GBP (or 125 USD) to support students in developing economies that cannot afford to pay. This program is targeted to support the OHTA training courses provided by IOHA National Associations and other non-profits that offer students low or no-cost training. OHTA works with the training provider on a case-by-case basis to find an equitable solution so that students can sit for the OHTA exam.

A COMBINED FORCE FOR GOOD: A NEW PATHWAY TO THE CIH CREDENTIAL FOR ICertOHTA AWARDEES

In September 2024, OHTA partnered with AIHA (aiha.org), Workplace Health Without Borders-US Chapter (whwb-us.org), and the Board of Global EHS Credentialing (gobgc.org) to help ICertOHTA awardees in emerging economies take the next step and achieve the prestigious CIH credential. To enter the new CIH pathway, candidates must have achieved the ICertOHTA qualification and must meet the eligibility requirements set forth by BGC including:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited university with coursework in a STEM field of study.
- Specific training in IH/OH coursework from a university or a continuing education provider.
- 5 years of professional-level, comprehensive IH/OH practice

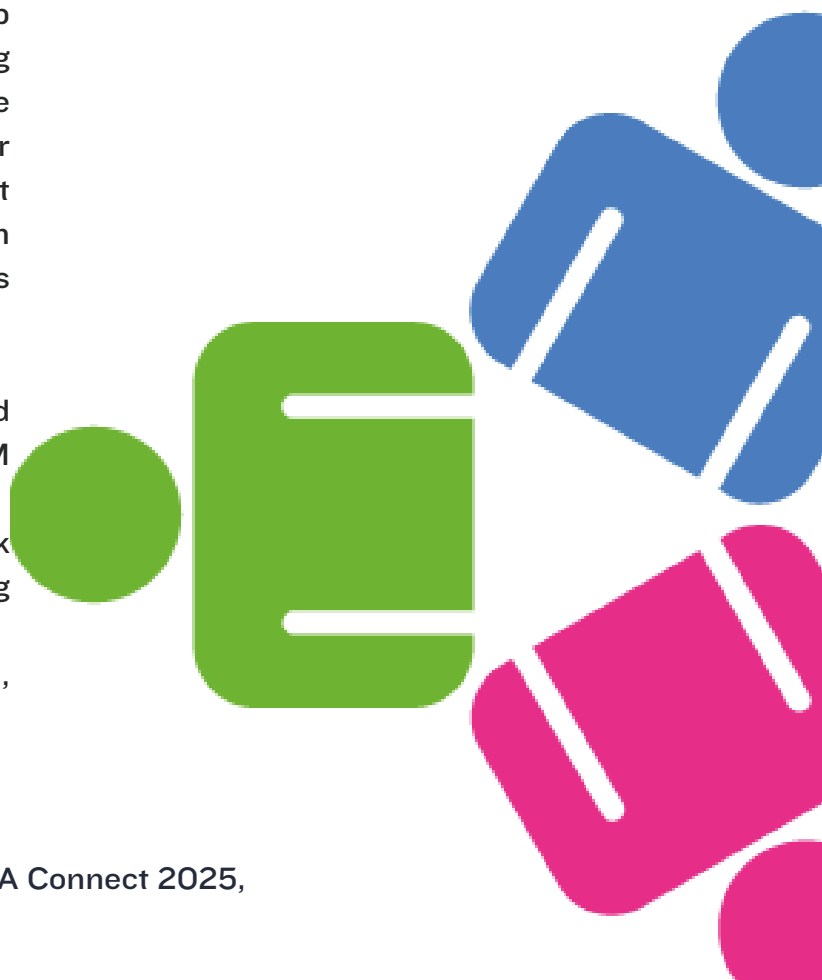
See the complete checklist [here](#).

For OHTA highlights on the upcoming AIHA Connect 2025, visit: Global Link Newsletter - April 2025

Once the eligibility of the CIH candidate has been verified by OHTA, WHWB-US will continue to work with the candidate throughout the CIH application process and exam preparation. The candidate will benefit from taking a seminar offered by WHWB-US that outlines a broad overview of the process and how to successfully sit for the exam.

This is followed by a CIH prep class covering all elements of the exam. ICertOHTA Awardees receive a reduced fee for the AIHA online CIH prep class described [here](#). Additional grants for course fees may also be available. A mentor is also assigned to help the candidate prepare for the exam.

OHTA encourages past OHTA students to apply for the [ICertOHTA](#) and join the pathway to national certification as well as CIH.





(Réseau d'Échange des Francophones et de Leadership en Santé-Sécurité au travail) // (Francophone Exchange and Leadership Network in Occupational Health and Safety))

IOHA is pleased to announce the launch of a new NGO and website, REFLEX. REFLEX is a new network for the French speaking population, 343 million people around the world. The project is led by IOHA past-president (2020) M. René Leblanc, from Canada. René mentioned that it is the adoption of a safe and healthy working environment as fundamental right at work by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2022 that gave him the idea. Last year, after the ICOH meeting in Marrakech, Morocco it became clear that there was a place for REFLEX.

The concept behind REFLEX is that there are so many resources, documentation, and expertise that were developed by many Francophone countries while some countries remain in need of this expertise. The adoption by the ILO of this fundamental principle and right is reflected in Conventions 155 (Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981) and 187 (Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006). These two conventions are considered fundamental and require all ILO members to respect, promote, and realize their principles. Only 40% of all ILO member states including Francophone countries have ratified these conventions. There is so much to do.

REFLEX is a carrefour where anyone on the planet can go and get the best references for major topics relevant to Occupational Hygiene, Safety, Wellbeing and Environmental Health. There is no reason to reinvent the wheel! The website provides you with links to all the best resources on various topics. That's the passive part!

REFLEX will also be a reference site for French training and webinars; as well as for collaborations and interprofessional relations.

Rene said: "At ICOH conference as well as around the World, we see how much it is important to increase interprofessional collaboration between physicians and hygienists. We need to work hand-in-hand as we aim at the same goal, to protect workers health. I hope that REFLEX will be able to increase collaboration as well as obtaining grants and donations so we can finance training, activities and research in various countries."

REFLEX will be launched officially on April 10th, 2025 during a web activity. More to come, stay informed.



Discover the Future of Occupational Hygiene at EXPO2025 in Osaka, Japan

The International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) is excited to announce its participation in the Safety, Health, and Well-being (SHW) Days at EXPO2025 in Osaka, Japan, from July 16 – 19, 2025.

As a partner of the Global Initiative for Safety, Health & Well-being (GISHW), IOHA will be hosting and participating in several key events designed to advance the field of occupational hygiene. A roadmap for the future of SHW globally will be developed based on outputs from activities and interactions in Osaka!

Key IOHA Events at EXPO2025

**JUL
16**
AM
Session

World Assembly Workshop in partnership with ICOH: Climate Change and the Future of Work

Topics: Health and safety impacts, skills for climate change mitigation and adaptation, just transition, circular economy, green skills and competencies in new technologies, and related risks alongside a new multi-stakeholder framework.

**JUL
16**
PM
Session

World Assembly Workshop in partnership with INSHPO: The Future of OSH Partnerships and Relationships with Other Professionals

Topics: Collaborations among OSH bodies and associations, partnerships with sustainability professionals, ESG analysts, data scientists, HR professionals, finance and insurance stakeholders, and more.

**JUL
17
&
18**

International Symposium Policy Track:

Advancing Occupational Hygiene Priorities Globally

International Symposium Practice Track:

Advancing Social Sustainability through Occupational Hygiene

IOHA will also play a significant role as Rapporteur in the workshop The Evolution of Human-Centric Workplaces: How to Advance Workplace Wellbeing.

IOHA will also have an exhibition booth and host a session on July 19th in the morning. Please stay tuned for more information!



Special IOHA Discounts

To make this event more accessible there are discounts for registered students and IOHA members:

- 60% discount for officially registered student members.
- 30% discount for all other IOHA members.
-

To get the IOHA member discount, please use the IOHA Organization Code: **H7RMF**.

For more details and to register, please visit the [GISHW website](#).



Are you looking to Expand Your Global Network?

Join professionals from IOHA member organizations and GISHW partners worldwide! Collaborate on emerging issues, exchange ideas, and build meaningful connections.

Kick things off in style at the Welcome Reception on July 16th!



Curious About Global Trends in Occupational Health & Safety?

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Partnerships Corner

Prepared by Nancy Wilk, IOHA President, ACGIH IOHA Board Representative nancy.wilk@wsp.com

The theme of “partnerships” continued to be a defining term for IOHA in the first quarter (Q1) of 2025. Thank you to those partnering on behalf of so many organizations focused on advocating for improved worker protection and occupational disease prevention, advancing occupational health and hygiene, and continuing to build the global network of occupational hygienists. Well done. Please take time to read about IOHA’s strategic partnership investments in Q1 2025.

Global OSH (GOSH) Coalition

The Global Occupational Safety and Health (GOSH) Coalition was formed shortly after the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) Conference in Marrakesh in May 2024.

The impetus was the reality that OSH does not receive the global attention warranted, given the magnitude of its impact on global health as indicated by the nearly three million deaths and 374 million injuries that occur worldwide each year. Since June 2024, the GOSH Coalition, now a group of 19 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international associations, has met virtually to elevate OSH globally.

These meetings are facilitated and hosted by Marianne Levitsky, MES, CIH, ROH, FAIHA, founder of Workplace Health Without Borders. In early 2025, the GOSH Coalition met with Joaquim Pintado Nunes, International Labour Organization

(ILO) Branch Chief of the Occupational Safety and Health and the Working Environment to discuss opportunities and ways to collaborate and advance our mutual commitments and aims.

This included advancing the ILO’s global strategy on OSH 2024 to 2030 as well as impacting the ratification by member states of ILO Conventions 155 (Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981) and 187 (Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006), both fundamental conventions to ensuring safe and healthy working environments for all.

The GOSH Coalition has also identified and taken action to call for greater worker protections globally, amendment of select Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve better protection and care for workers who are most at risk and with the aim of preventing occupational illness and injury, and reactivation of the Joint ILO/World Health Organization (WHO) OSH Committee to ensure that OSH remains a global priority.

The GOSH Coalition also recently virtually met with Colm Jordan, Global Head of Advocacy and Education, Indorama Ventures to receive excellent coaching on lobbying and advocacy on behalf of workers globally, to communicate strategically and effectively the messaging required to elevate OSH globally, and rally forums and support for actions related to greater worker protections globally and

prevention of occupational illness and injury worldwide. Well done and thank you, to the GOSH Coalition!

If you are interested in learning more about the GOSH Coalition or if your organization would like to join please email either President@IOHA.com or workplacehealthwithoutborders@gmail.com or complete this form: <https://forms.gle/PuSutejvRUxKxCaeA>

And a shout out to Mary O'Reilly for assistance in providing some of this content. Thank you!

Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)

IOHA President Nancy Wilk was invited by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) to participate in the review of “draft principles of good OSH and wellbeing” as part of a larger invitation to unilateral bodies and NGOs to provide feedback and input.

A virtual round table was hosted by IOSH on February 21, 2025 and there is more to come as the cited principles are being refined and established. Thank you IOSH, for your work and providing opportunity to meaningfully collaborate!

American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Women in Industrial Hygiene (WIH)

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Women in Industrial Hygiene (WIH) Committee coordinated and hosted a virtual panel session in honour of International Women's Day 2025 and Women's History Month.

On March 18, 2025, the WIH Committee

brought together a panel of advocates and Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) executives from the National Safety Council (Lorraine Martin, CEO of NSC), the American Society of Safety Professionals (Jennifer McNelly, CEO of ASSP), the American Industrial Hygiene Association (Lawrence Sloan, CEO of AIHA), and IOHA (Nancy Wilk, IOHA President) to explore the challenges and triumphs facing women in industrial hygiene (IH) and OEHS.

The panel was introduced by WIH Committee members Krista Thompson, ROH, CRSP and moderated by Christina Roll, MS, CIH, CSP. Discussion included critical issues such as diversity, equity and inclusion, mental health, and well-being and included personal stories and experiences along with suggested strategies to seize opportunities and overcome challenges of today and tomorrow.

The webinar had participation from across the globe. You can access the webinar here: [Women in IH Panel 2025 - YouTube](#). Thank you AIHA WIH Committee and panel members!

Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) and Women in Mining (WIM) Canada

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) and Women in Mining (WIM) Canada hosted a session on March 4, 2025 on “Gender Diversity in Health and Safety Practices in Mining”. Nancy Wilk, as IOHA President and WSP Mining Consultant, delivered an opening keynote on “Supporting Women in Mining – Diversity and Inclusion”.

The session included a panel discussion moderated by Sonia Gupta (Director, Sustainability at Dundee Precious Metals Inc., WIM Canada Board Member) and panel members that are established leaders in the mining sector; from Wyloo, Vale Base Metals, Major Drilling, and Cementation Americas.

The panel openly shared from their organizational strategies and personal experiences to best support WIM and stay the course with our commitments to best support and care for women working in the mining sector and mining supply chains.

Thank you PDAC, WIM Canada and panel members!

United Nations (UN) Economic Social (ECOSOC) Partnerships Forum

On February 5, 2025, Nancy Wilk, IOHA President attended the 2025 UN ECOSOC Partnerships Forum in New York City (NYC) on behalf of IOHA and the Global Occupational Safety and Health (GOSH) Coalition.

During that time, Nancy submitted a written statement to the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum calling for greater worker protections globally and proposing changes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the current version of the SDGs gives insufficient attention to work-related health.

Improvements in occupational safety and health (OSH) are crucial if we are to achieve the health, wellbeing and economic outcomes envisioned by the goals. The statement urged adoption of changes to SDGs 3, 8 and 13 including

additions or more precise language in existing targets and associated indicators, basic occupational health services for all workers including informal workers, provisions for young workers, and integrating climate resilience into labour and OSH requirements. Why? We need to better protect and care for workers who are most at risk with the aim of preventing occupational illness and injury.

By way of follow up, on February 28, 2025, GOSH Coalition members Nancy Wilk, Marianne Levitsky, Andrea Hiddinga, Claudina Nogueira, and Alec Farquhar met virtually with the President and Chair of the 2025 ECOSOC Partnerships Forum, Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations in NYC, Ambassador Bob Rae.

Based on these discussions, the GOSH Coalition is currently identifying next steps to best advance the call for greater worker protections and influence the content of the next version of the UN SDGs to greater reflect the needs of workers globally.

IOHA is keen to continue to partner in this important advocacy to ensure healthy and safe working environments globally. Thank you GOSH Coalition and ECOSOC!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Asbestos 2025 Conference

Date: 14-15 May 2025

Place: Birmingham, United Kingdom

2025 sees BOHS's eighth annual asbestos conference, this event brings together researchers, academics, practitioners & regulators, through talks & technical sessions dealing with scientific topics covering key areas regarding the assessment, control & management of asbestos.

[More Information](#)

OH2025: The Workplace Health Protection Conference

Date: 16-19 June 2025

Place: Newcastle, United Kingdom

Following on from the IOHA 2024 conference in Dublin 'OH2025 The Workplace Health Protection Conference' will be bigger and more innovative than ever. The three day conference runs from 17th-19th June with Professional Development Courses taking place on Monday 16th.

[More Information.](#)

ANOH 2025: Empowering Occupational Hygiene: Integrating Innovations for a Healthier Tomorrow

Date: 8/26-27/2025

Place: Sheraton Grand Taipei Hotel, Taipei, Taiwan

We are delighted to welcome you to the 8th ANOH Conference, jointly organized by the Taiwan Occupational Hygiene Association (TOHA), the Center for Occupational Accident Prevention and Rehabilitation (COAPRE), and the Asian Network of Occupational Hygiene (ANOH). This conference brings together experts, researchers, and professionals to exchange knowledge, explore emerging trends, and drive innovation in occupational hygiene.

Join us for keynote speeches, plenary sessions, technical presentations, workshops, and networking opportunities as we work towards a healthier and safer future for all workers.

We invite you to submit your abstracts and be part of this impactful event. [Please visit the website.](#)

LEV 2025 Health Air in the Workplace

Date: 07-08 October 2025

Place: Birmingham, United Kingdom

Whichever way you are involved, you will recognise that meeting your legal duties competence in the practical application of LEV and raising awareness of its important role in worker health protection is crucial. So much so, it deserves its own conference!

This year the LEV conference will be a two-day face-to-face event. Both days are open to all LEV and OH professionals as well as any other interested parties. The theme is "Collaboration", as we are hoping to extend our reach further and wider to all involved parties.

[More Information.](#)