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Recertification of Environmental Risk Assessors (IBERA Diplomates)

1. Background

The International Board of Environmental Risk Assessors (IBERA) certifies individuals working in the field of environmental risk assessment who have demonstrated expert knowledge and commitment to continued professional development and the use of up-to-date scientific methods and principles to strengthen the understanding of risks of chemicals. Certified individuals are recognized for a period of five (5) years and receive the status of Diplomates of IBERA.

The philosophy of the recertification is that certified individuals demonstrate a continued excellence in environmental risk assessment and maintenance of expertise and scientific knowledge. Successful achievement of these goals will result in an individual maintaining recognition as Diplomat of IBERA.

2. Recertification Requirement

Following its constitution, an IBERA Diplomat should meet the following requirements:

- a. **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY:** be professionally active in the field of Environmental Risk Assessment.

AND

- b. **CONTINUING EDUCATION:** demonstrate to remain up to date with developments in the field of Environmental Risk Assessment by being regularly involved in professional education, by either receiving, providing or organizing education.

To maintain certification, an IBERA Diplomat must successfully complete a recertification process every five years, in which it is demonstrated that these requirements still are met. Requests must be submitted by the candidate and will be judged by the IBERA Council using the categories described below. Candidates will be reminded once a year and a last time 6 months before expiration of their current certification term. A template will be made available on the IBERA website to facilitate easy recording of required activities and to facilitate an efficient completion and evaluation of the application for recertification.

Failure to complete the recertification process within established deadlines or not fulfilling the criteria will result in termination of the IBERA Diplomat status at the end of the certification term. To regain Diplomat certification, the applicants will need to repeat the full certification process, including passing a certification exam.

Recertification will commence on the beginning of the next calendar year following the year of application. The date of recertification will as much as possible be finetuned with the IBERA certification process to allow recertification within the five-year period.

3. Categories

Information for a number of categories, described below, will be used by the IBERA Council to evaluate the recertification. Each applicant is required to have:

- A total of 40 credits over the 5-year period (approx. 8 credits per year)

These credits can be earned by activities in the following categories:

(1) Professional Activity in environmental risk assessment

Professional activity is defined as performing, directing or advancing activities in environmental risk assessment. Professional Activity also include those related to improving or advancing the science of environmental risk assessment. It may also include the specialized conduct of ERA (Table 1).

The most common way to demonstrate professional activity is via employment or self-employment in environmental risk assessment during the period of recertification.

The following information should be included in the employment history:

- Name of employer(s)
- Job or Project¹ title(s)
- Job or Project description(s) including responsibilities and duties
- Dates of position(s)

Table 1 can be used to list employer(s) and brief description(s) of the job(s) (or project(s) when performed with same employer). This will also be the place to indicate any changes in positions or jobs within the 5-year period preceding the application for recertification.

Examples of activities not considered as Professional Activity:

- Routine risk assessment (particularly where little refinement required)
- Routine study monitoring
- Project management

Other activities that can be listed to demonstrate proficiency in this category can include:

- List of publications, contribution to the preparation of guidance documents, risk assessment workshops, etc.
- Lectures on environmental risk assessment themes at universities, scientific meetings, symposia or expert groups, etc.
- Contribution to the development of the field of environmental risk assessment in the development of tools, models, methods, etc.

Table 2a provides a list of activities considered under this category.

All these activities may overlap with activities listed under the category (2).

¹ Instead of 'job' (which would mean switching to a different employer), the term 'project' could be used to indicate substantial tasks done while working with the same employer, but perhaps for different clients

(2) Continuing Education

Continuing education encompasses defined activities that maintain current knowledge and aim at expanding and advancing the knowledge and skill set, but also activities that contribute to the development of the field of environmental risk assessment.

A system of quantitative requirements (credits) comprising:

- a) Maintaining knowledge / keeping up-to-date with scientific development
- b) Demonstration of scientific review of emerging methods and science in the field of environmental risk assessment (e.g., requested peer-reviews).

These activities serve to maintain current knowledge and aim at expanding and advancing the knowledge and skill set. The documentation should emphasize new knowledge and may be a combination of diverse activities such as attending courses or scientific conferences in environmental risk assessment or related topics.

Examples of daily duties that may require justification but should be considered as Continuing Education:

- Using or developing/reviewing/revising:
 - o Current and new risk assessment guidance
 - o New test guideline updates
 - o Regulatory requirements
 - o Course material (e.g., for university courses)
- Meetings with authorities on complex risk assessments (e.g., contributing to the formulation of programs, regulatory defence)
- Active involvement in working groups / committees on risk assessment related topics
- Preparation of expert statements in novel areas of risk assessment
- Novel higher tier study design and monitoring
- New related job roles within sector or institution (e.g., ecotox to efate roles)
- New related job roles across different sectors or institutions (e.g., pesticides to pharma)
- Internal (within institution) training
- Short course attendance
- Scientific conference attendance

Please note this list is not exhaustive but is only intended to provide types of activities that qualify toward certification.

While the Tables 2a and 2b list many common activities, they do not provide an exhaustive or all-inclusive list of activities. Activities not specified may be considered as acceptable if sufficient justification is provided. The IBERA Council will determine the appropriate Unit and Credit/Unit for any activities not listed in the Tables 2a and 2b.

Table 1: Professional activity during the period of recertification. A template of this table will be made available on the IBERA website. Please copy this table when more than three projects have to be mentioned.

Examples	Title/Topic	Venue/publication	Date	Credit
Abstracts/posters/presentations				
Job / Project ¹ title(s) Dates, Project description				
Manuscript/report/review				

Table 2a: Professional activity / Keeping up-to-date with scientific development. Activities in this category can be continuously recorded in the template made available for recertification available on the IBERA website.

Activity	Role	Supporting documentation	Unit	Credit²/Unit	Note	
Active contribution to novel developments in the field, e.g. developing or updating existing guidelines or course material, contributions to novel regulatory requirements)*	Author/participant		Per ERA	1-3	Please specify time investment	
New job-related roles within or across sectors or institutions*					Please specify	
Others (please specify)*						
Invited peer-review of a submitted journal article	Reviewer	Acknowledgment from editorial office	Per journal article	0.5		
Invited review of grant proposal or report	Reviewer	Acknowledgment from funding organization	Per grant proposal or report	0.5		Limited to 2 points
First or sole authorship of an original research or review paper or book chapter in a peer-reviewed journal or book.	Author	Abstract in online bibliographic system	Per publication	4		
Contribution (other than first) of an original research or review paper or book chapter in a peer-reviewed journal or book.	Author	Abstract in online bibliographic system	Per publication	2		

² One credit corresponds with an approximate time investment of 28 hours.

Serving as Editor-in-chief or Editor of a peer-reviewed journal or a book	Editor	Link to website of the journal	Per year	1		
Serving on the editorial board of a peer-reviewed journal	Member	Link to website of the journal	Per year	0.5		
Professional reports and other activities	Author	Contribution	Per report or activity	0.5		
Serving on scientific committee, steering committee or comparable at meetings/conferences/seminars in the area of environmental risk assessment and related areas	Member	Acknowledgment from conference organization or chair, meeting program or link to website	Per meeting	1		
Contribution to scientific research through the supervision of students, contribution to supervisory or steering committees of research projects or programs etc.	Supervisor / advisor / committee member/	Contribution	Per student or research project or program meeting	1		Maximum 2 per year
Service on national or international environmental risk assessment-related committees/ workgroups/ taskforces including, but not limited to, those sponsored by government agencies, non-profit organizations, professional societies, etc.	Member	Acknowledgment	Per year	1		Maximum 2 per committee per year

* IBERA council will evaluate additional activities on a case-by-case basis using information provided, and decide on credits to be awarded.

Table 2b: Continuing Education in the field of environmental toxicology and risk assessment; not exhaustive. Activities in this category can be continuously recorded in the template made available for recertification available on the IBERA website.

Activity	Role	Supporting documentation	Unit	Credit² / Unit	Note
Attending environmental risk assessment and related professional meetings / conferences / seminars (e.g., SETAC, Fresenius, ECETOC, EUROTOX, Society of Risk Analysis, country-specific organizations, etc.), whether local, state, regional, national, or international in nature.	Participant	Program and certificate of participation	Per day	1.0	Maximum of 5 credits for a 3-5 day meeting
Contribution to the development of the IBERA certification program, e.g., by participation in the exam writing panel or standard setting panel for IBERA exams	Contributor	acknowledgement on the IBERA web site or internal share point	Per activity, e.g., writing set of questions, meetings with panel, sitting pilot exam	3/yr	
Attending a course, workshop, webinar, SETAC café, meeting of SETAC Interest Group, etc. related to or having a section or module on environmental risk assessment (offered by academic institutions, professional organisations, regulatory agencies, the candidate's company, etc).	Participant	Programme and/or Certificate of participation	Per course (½ day)	1.0	
Poster Presentation of environmental risk assessment related topics at scientific meetings / conferences / workshops, whether local, state, regional, national or international in nature.	Poster presenter	e-mail of acceptance and attendance	Per presentation	2	

Poster Presentation of environmental risk assessment related topics at scientific meetings / conferences / workshops, whether local, state, regional, national or international in nature.	Contributing author	e-mail of acceptance	Per presentation	0.5	
Oral Presentation of environmental risk assessment related topics at scientific meetings/ conferences/ workshops, whether local, state, regional, national or international in nature.	Oral presenter	e-mail of acceptance and attendance	Per presentation	2	
Oral Presentation of environmental risk assessment related topics at scientific meetings/ conferences/ workshops, whether local, state, regional, national or international in nature.	Contributing author	e-mail of acceptance	Per presentation	1.0	
Presentation of environmental risk assessment or related lectures at a course	Lecturer	Course program	Per hour of presentation	1	
Participate/volunteer to educate on environmental risk assessment topics and related areas (e.g., schools, non-toxicology-related organizations, disseminating to public or media)	Lecturer/ Volunteer	Acknowledgment or other means of proof	Per half day	0.25	Maximum 1 per year
Other (please specify)					

* IBERA council will evaluate additional activities on a case-by-case basis using information provided, and decide on credits to be awarded.