

# **Recertification of Environmental Risk Assessors (IBERA Diplomates)**

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## ***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 a Diplome of IBERA.

## ***2. Recertification Requirement***

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

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

AND

- b. CONTINUING EDUCATION: demonstrate that they 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 Diplome 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 evaluated 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.

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

Each applicant is required to have activities in the following two major categories. Please note the categories include examples. Activities not specified may be considered as acceptable if sufficient justification is provided.

#### **(1) Professional Activity in environmental risk assessment**

Professional activity is defined as performing, directing or advancing activities in environmental risk assessment. Professional Activity also includes those activities related to improving or advancing the science of environmental risk assessment. It may also include the specialized conduct of ERA, or the sharing of the ERA skill set.

To organize your activities, think about answering: What have you done to perform ERA, and to advance the body of knowledge and the practice of ERA?

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 Project<sup>1</sup> title(s)
- Job or Project description(s) including responsibilities and duties
- Dates of position(s)

#### Examples of activities not considered as Professional Activity:

- Routine risk assessment - particularly where little refinement is required. For example, an assessment to approve a chemical use or discharge based on tables of acceptable environmental concentrations where no new science is generated or used. However, developing an approach for novel chemicals or pathways, or continuously incorporating new science or adjusting the ERA approach to the latest developments would count as professional activity
- Routine study monitoring (however, adaptive feedback and modification of monitoring based on interpretation of the results would count as professional activity)
- Project management

Other activities that can be listed to demonstrate proficiency in this category 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. where new knowledge is included
- Contribution to the development of the field of environmental risk assessment in the development of tools, models, methods, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

To organize your activities, think about answering: What have you done to improve and share your skill set?

The activities in this category serve to maintain current knowledge and aim at expanding and advancing the knowledge and skill set. The documentation should emphasize new knowledge gained and may be a combination of diverse activities such as attending courses or scientific conferences in environmental risk assessment or related topics. It may, however, also include learning new skill sets by taking on new roles professionally.

Examples of daily duties that can be considered as Continuing Education:

- Routing teaching courses or components relevant to ERA (note that updating a course falls under Professional Activities)
- 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
- Internal (within institution) training
- Short course attendance
- Scientific conference attendance

In the Table below, examples are given of activities that may be used to meet the requirements for the categories of Professional Activity and Continuing Education. Since activities may fit both categories, the table presents examples of activities for each category but also of activities belonging to both categories.

**Table:** Examples of activities in the field of environmental risk assessment (ERA) that may be used to meet the IBERA recertification requirements. Activities shown belong to the categories of Professional Activity (PA), Continuing Education (CE) or both.

Activity	PA	CE
Actively contribute to novel developments in the field - Update courses, risk assessment guidance, test guidelines, Regulatory requirements, etc.	x	
Contribute to the development of ERA tools, models, methods, etc.	x	
Serving as Editor-in-chief or Editor of a peer-reviewed journal or a book	x	
Serving on the editorial board of a peer-reviewed journal	x	
Prepare professional reports and other activities	x	
Serve on a scientific committee, steering committee or comparable at meetings / conferences / seminars	x	

Contribute to scientific research through the supervision of students, contribution to supervisory or steering committees of research projects or programs etc.	x	
Serve on national or international environmental risk assessment-related committees, workgroups, taskforces e.g. government agencies, non-profit organizations, professional societies, etc.	x	
Provide novel higher tier study design and monitoring	x	
Provide requested peer-reviews of journal articles, grant proposals, reports, etc.	x	
First or sole authorship of an original research or review paper or book chapter in a peer-reviewed journal or book	x	
Contribution (other than first authorship) to an original research or review paper or book chapter in a peer-reviewed journal or book	x	
<b>BOTH PA AND CE</b>		
Contribute to the development of the IBERA certification program (e.g., exam writing panel or standard setting panel)	x	x
Poster and/or Oral presentation of environmental risk assessment related topics at scientific meetings / conferences / workshops, local to international	x	x
Present environmental risk assessment or related lectures at a course	x	x
Participate / volunteer to educate on environmental risk assessment topics and related areas (e.g., schools, non-toxicology-related organizations, disseminating to public or media)	x	x
Meet with authorities on complex risk assessments e.g., contribute to the formulation of programs, regulatory defense	x	x
Be actively involved in working groups / committees on environmental risk assessment related topics	x	x
Prepare expert statements in novel areas of environmental risk assessment	x	x
Begin a new related job role within sector or institution e.g., ecotox to efate roles in pesticides or pharmaceuticals	x	x
<b>MAINLY CE</b>		
Attend a course, workshop, webinar, café, meeting of Interest Group, etc. related to or having a section or module on environmental risk assessment		x
Attend 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		x
Teach routine courses in environmental risk assessment		x
Take internal (within institution) training		x
<b>Other (please specify)</b>		
These should illustrate how you keep yourself and others up to date and how you advance the field of environmental risk assessment		

#### **4. *Recertification application***

The recertification dossier does not require a detailed listing of all activities performed, but should in any case include:

- a cover letter, highlighting what the candidate considers the main achievements in relation to the criteria for recertification, and how the candidates thinks these criteria were met in the past five years.
- a short, 3-page CV listing the candidate's activities over the last five years related to the categories given in the IBERA recertification document.
- a list of courses, conferences, *etc.* attended with a brief explanation of what the candidate took away from each of these activities (*e.g.*, new knowledge, networking) and how that helped the candidate in the profession as an environmental risk assessor.
- 2-3 letters of recommendation from colleagues, co-workers and / or supervisors, confirming the candidate's professional activity as an environmental risk assessor in the past five years. Preferably, and if possible, at least one of these letters should be from someone outside your organization.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**FAQ:** must the two major recertification categories be balanced? A: No, we acknowledge there will be some overlap. Do your best to place your activities into one or the other, recognizing that Professional Activity is more about producing and sharing ERA products that advance ERA while Continuing Education is more about improving and sharing your own skill set.

**FAQ:** If I teach a basic ERA Course, where should I put that activity? A: For basic, routine, that would go in Professional Activity. If you revise your course and update it, the updating activity would go into Continuing Education.

**FAQ:** If I provide expert opinion, where should I put that activity? A: If there was no research and updating on the topic, place it in Professional Activity (delivery of routine knowledge). Any updating activity would go into Continuing Education.

**FAQ:** I have an activity that is not listed. Can I include it? How would I do so? A: For your unlisted activity, please include it under Professional Activity or Continuing Education as appropriate. The lists provided will be reviewed each year to add in more examples.