

Recertification Requirements

It is essential that biorisk management professionals remain up-to-date on the latest approaches to the safe and secure handling of biological materials. Regular recertification through ongoing experience and professional/academic development ensures that individuals maintain their knowledge and skills and stay current on developments in the field. The program also promotes opportunities for both professional and personal enrichment. The IFBA's Certifications are valid for a period of 5 years after which the certificants must undergo a recertification process. The 5 year period was developed appropriately reflecting the rate of change in the biorisk management field while being appropriately practical. Documented activities demonstrating continued competence and continued practice must be completed and submitted to the IFBA's Certification Body prior to the certificate expiration date. Failure to do so will result in expiry and revocation of the certification. The goals of the Recertification Program are to:

- Assess maintenance of knowledge and skills over time;
- Ensure continuing competence;
- Assess the ability to provide services at the specified level of competency throughout a certificant's professional career;
- Encourage continued professional development; and,
- Promote lifelong learning.

Level 1 – Professional Certification in Biorisk Management

The IFBA's Level 1 Professional Certifications are valid for a period of 5 years after which the certificants must undergo a recertification process. Recertification cycles begin the day an individual becomes certified and ends on December 31st of the 5th full year following the start of the certificants cycle. The program requires that individuals holding a Level 1 Professional Certification in Biorisk Management acquire a total of 40 points across the categories defined below and earn the minimum required points in each category. Certificants will be asked to attest to attaining the required number of points and submit supporting documentation. The IFBA will send certificants a reminder at the beginning of the calendar year in which the 5 year recertification is due. However it is recommended that certificants track their professional activities throughout the 5 year cycle and not wait until they are notified.

(Note: In cases of significant changes in the competence standard, a re-examination may be necessary for recertification. Certificants who are unable to acquire the required number of points across each category may apply to the Certification Body for recertification through a combination of re-examination and point accumulation.)

1. Maintaining Core Knowledge/Skills (a minimum of 10 points must be obtained in this category per recertification cycle)
 - a) Participation in biorisk management related meetings, seminars, symposia and conferences (1 point/day*)



Acceptable documentation – copy of the conference or meeting agenda and proof of attendance (e.g. registration receipt)

- b) Participation in biorisk management training courses and workshops (1 point/day*)
Acceptable documentation – copy of the course or workshop agenda, and, course certificate and/or proof of attendance
(Note – unless the course undergoes substantial revision, points will not be awarded for attending the same training course more than once during the recertification period)
- c) Membership in a professional biorisk and/or biosafety association (1 point/year)
Acceptable documentation – copy of membership certificate

2. Professional Development Activities (a minimum of 15 points must be obtained in this category per recertification cycle)

- a) Authorship of articles, book chapters, and peer-reviewed journal publications on biorisk management (2 points/article; 5 points/book chapter; 5 points/peer-reviewed journal publication)
Acceptable documentation – copy of the article, book chapter or publication
- b) Contributing to biorisk management guidelines & standards (5 points per guideline or standard)
Acceptable documentation – copy of the guideline or standard indicating contribution made to document
- c) Delivering a paper, presentation or poster session on aspects of biorisk management at conference or meeting (1 point/presentation/poster; 2 points/keynote presentation)
Acceptable documentation – copy of the conference program indicating paper presented
(Note – points will not be awarded for presenting the same paper more than once during the recertification period)
- d) Delivering training and education in biorisk management (2 points/day* of instruction)
Acceptable documentation – copy of training course agenda indicating courses taught
(Note – points will not be awarded for teaching the same training course more than once during the recertification period)
- e) Completing biorisk management related college or university courses (5 points/course)
Acceptable documentation – description of course content and proof of successful completion
- f) Serving on a committee or holding elected office in an biosafety or biorisk association (2 points/year of service)





Acceptable documentation – letter from association verifying service on committee or as an officer

- g) Mentoring or coaching others in respect to biorisk management (2 points/mentee/year)
Acceptable documentation – description of activities and letter from mentee verifying assistance given
- h) Development and/or authorship of electronic resources, blogs, videos, web-based training tools on biorisk management (2 points/electronic resource developed; 1 point per year of maintaining electronic resource up-to-date)
Acceptable documentation – copy of the electronic resource

3. Confirmation of Continuing Satisfactory Work & Work Experience (a minimum of 15 points must be obtained in this category per recertification cycle)

- a) Engaging in biorisk management professional practice (5 points/year when the biorisk management function represents at least 50% of the position duties; 2 points/year when the biorisk management function represents 20% -50% of position duties per year)
- b) *Acceptable documentation – letter from employer describing biorisk management related practice and responsibilities*
- c) Contributing to institutional biorisk management policies and practices (2 points per policy)
Acceptable documentation – copy of the policy indicating contribution made to document

**1 day = at least 5 hours of instruction/training/meeting*

