

## **Registered Professional Hygienist Registration & Examination Board (RPH R&EB) & RPH registration**

Registered Professional Hygienist Registration & Examination Board (RPH R&EB) is set up by the Council of the Hong Kong Institute of Occupational & Environmental Hygiene (HKIOEH) with an aim to enhance the professional development of Occupational Hygienists and to provide a path for persons who reach professional maturity in the field of occupational hygiene to obtain qualification recognised by peer professionals. Under HKIOEH, RPH R&EB operates the registration programme of Registered Professional Hygienist (RPH) and qualifying examination in a standard meeting the practice as recognised by the National Accreditation recognition (NAR) Committee of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA). RPH R&EB is responsible for setting criteria for RPH registration, determining eligibility of candidates to sit for the qualifying examination, operating the qualifying examination and running the re-registration programme of Registered Professional Hygienist. The qualifying examination consists of a written part and an oral part. An examination panel is formed by RPH R&EB to set examination questions and conduct examination for each of the written and oral examination. Through various channels including examination review reports submitted by the examination panels, feedback from RPH members and candidates, RPH R&EB regularly evaluates the methods of examination of candidates to ensure the qualifying examination is fair, valid and reliable.

### **I) Registration of professional hygienists**

Members of HKIOEH who pass both the written examination and the oral examination subsequently can be registered as Registered Professional Hygienist with a designation “RPH”.

The full registration fee and annual membership fee must be paid up before the applicant can be enrolled and accepted as Registered Professional Hygienist. In the maintenance of the professional qualification of RPH, the registrant must pay up his/her annual membership fee also in the subsequent years. The current RPH registration/ re-certification fee is HK\$ 500 for a 5-year cycle.

Non-members of HKIOEH who pass both the written examination and the oral examination subsequently can be registered as RPH also. The registration fee is HK\$1,000 for a 5-year cycle and the status of an affiliated HKIOEH membership will be granted to the person upon success of the application for the 5-year cycle.

## **II) Qualifications and Experience of candidate to sit the RPH examination**

- a. Candidate must be a member of HKIOEH or a person who has launched the application to be a member of HKIOEH.
- b. Candidate must have a bachelor degree in physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, occupational hygiene, health and safety, science-based technology or equivalent.
- c. Candidate must have adequate professional working experience in occupational hygiene and the experience must be broad in scope:-
  - 3-year experience or more is required to be eligible to sit in the written part of the examination;
  - 5-year experience or more is required to be eligible to sit in written and oral part of the examination at the same time.
- d. To be recognized as professional working experience, the experience must involve:
  - the candidate's independent actions and autonomy in planning and decision-making;
  - data-gathering, analysis and interpretation;
  - the candidate's interaction with a broad spectrum of contacts, including decision-makers;
  - the candidate's accountability for his/her own work and decisions.
- e. To be recognized as broad-scope experience, the experience must encompass:
  - work activities in anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of occupational health hazards.
  - at least two of the following four types of occupational health hazards: physical, chemical, biological and ergonomic.
- f. A post-graduate degree in occupational hygiene can be counted as one year of professional working experience.
- g. Certification of working experience should be done by the candidate's supervisor, ex-supervisor or a full member of the HKIOEH who is familiar with the working experience of the candidate. RPH R&EB will hold an interview, whenever necessary, to determine whether the candidate is qualified for the purpose or not.

#### **h. Exemption**

Candidate with the following qualification or equivalent can be exempted from the written part of the RPH examination and be allowed direct entry to the oral of the examination.

- The candidate has obtained the qualification of a scheme set for a “Certified examination” of Industrial or Occupational Hygienists as recognised by the National Accreditation recognition (NAR) Committee of IOHA, e.g. the examination scheme for the certified industrial hygienist (CIH) administered by the Board For Global EHS Credentialing® (BGC®).

#### **i. Deadline for application of the examination**

The written examination date is normally held in April - June. The oral examination will be arranged upon the success of the written examination and no less than two months after the announcement of the written result, or the acceptance of the qualification equivalent to the written examination. Application for the examination should normally reach HKIOEH by 31 December of the year when the candidate is ready for the forthcoming examination by next year.

### **III. Making the application for RPH registration**

Applicants satisfying the qualification mentioned in section II can obtain the form of “Application for Registered Professional Hygienist (RPH)” from the HKIOEH webpage and fill in the information as suggested. Together with a check or record of e-payment (please see section I above), they can send the above mentioned documents to the RPH Registration and examination board for processing

### **End**

Initial version posted: July 2014. V.3.4.

Updated by RPH R&EB in Dec 2016. V.3.5

Updated by RPH R&EB in Aug 2018. V4

Last updated by RPH R&EB in Jan 2025. V5