

Title: The Registered Industrial Hygienist (RIH) Scheme in Singapore



Er Veronica Chow
CIH, RIH(SG)
Vice Chairman
RIH Board, OEHS



Er Chong Lee Mei
CIH, RIH(SG)
Vice Chairman
RIH Board, OEHS

The Registered Industrial Hygienist (RIH) scheme in Singapore is a professional certification programme that recognizes and upholds excellence in industrial hygiene (IH) practices. Administered by the RIH Board under the auspices of the Occupational and Environmental Health Society (OEHS), this scheme was established in 2015. In 2020, the RIH(SG) certification was recognized by the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) under the NAR (National Accredited Recognition). The RIH scheme plays a crucial role in ensuring high IH standards and promoting occupational health and safety culture in industries.

To attain the prestigious RIH(SG) designation, candidates must undergo a comprehensive and rigorous process that evaluates their expertise and proficiency in IH. The certification process includes meeting specific educational prerequisites, accumulating relevant work experience, and successfully passing an examination and/or assessment. Upholding professional ethics and maintaining a strong reputation are also critical factors considered during the certification process.

Typically, educational requirements for the RIH scheme include a degree in a relevant field such as occupational hygiene, safety, health and environmental technology, physical science, or engineering, along with a specialist diploma in occupational hygiene. These requirements ensure candidates possess a strong foundation of knowledge in areas like identifying, evaluating, and controlling physical and chemical hazards. Practical experience in implementing IH programmes, conducting monitoring or risk assessments, and implementing control measures in real-world settings is also necessary.

The RIH scheme assessment evaluates candidates' understanding of key IH concepts and their ability to apply them in practical scenarios. The assessments cover a wide range of rubrics, including noise and vibration, thermal environment, workplace lighting, hyperbaric and hypobaric pressures, air sampling, toxicology, radiation, industrial ventilation, indoor air quality, ergonomics, and biosafety. Successful candidates demonstrating proficiency in these areas and maintaining sound professional standings in Singapore are granted the RIH(SG) certification.

Upon successfully completing the required assessment(s), individuals are recognized as Registered Industrial Hygienists or Registered Associate Industrial Hygienists. They may use

the RIH (SG) or RAIH (SG) designation, respectively. This certification not only validates their expertise but also enhances their professional credibility and career prospects.

RIH professionals are highly sought after by employers due to their knowledge and skills in effectively managing workplace health hazards and mitigating risks. They play a crucial role in safeguarding the health and well-being of workers through their expertise in IH practices.

Additionally, the RIH scheme fosters a culture of occupational health and safety within industries. By encouraging professionals to acquire specialized knowledge and skills in IH and related fields, the scheme helps improve overall workplace health and safety standards. RIH and RAIH professionals serve as advocates for worker health, conducting risk assessments, recommending control measures, and ensuring compliance with relevant regulations and standards.

The RIH scheme also contributes to the advancement of the IH field through continuous professional development and knowledge sharing. RIH and RAIH professionals are required to participate in ongoing training programmes and stay updated with the latest developments in the field. This ensures that they remain at the forefront of best practices and emerging trends, enabling them to provide effective guidance and solutions to industry stakeholders.

Currently, the RIH Scheme is accredited under the IOHA Recognized Certification Scheme. Several professional occupational/industrial hygiene associations from countries/regions such as the US, UK, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, and South Korea have their schemes recognized by IOHA.

In summary, the RIH scheme in Singapore is a robust certification program that recognizes and promotes excellence in IH practices. It ensures that professionals in the field have the necessary qualifications, expertise, and skills to safeguard the health and well-being of workers. By establishing and upholding high standards, the RIH scheme contributes to the overall improvement and fosters a culture of workplace health and safety in Singapore.

For more detailed information on the RIH scheme in Singapore, including application procedures, educational requirements, and examination details, interested individuals can visit the OEHS website (<http://www.oehs.org.sg>)*. The website serves as a valuable resource providing comprehensive information about the RIH scheme and its role in promoting occupational health and safety standards in Singapore.

*OEHS Website currently undergoing revamp and will be ready soon.



First Registered Industrial Hygienist (RIH) Board

(From left) Mr Wendel Harms, Ms Soh Guat Hiong, Mr Ang Boon Tian, Mr Albert Khoo, Mr Tan Kia Tang, Dr Patra Sriwattanatamma, and Er Veronica Chow