

Safety Corner

What is a Certified Safety Professional?

A safety professional is a person engaged in the prevention of accidents and events that harm people, property, or the environment. They use qualitative and quantitative analysis of simple and complex systems, operations, and activities to identify hazards. They evaluate the hazards to assess the risk and cost of losses. They make recommendations to managers, designers, employers, government agencies, and others for appropriate and cost-effective risk control measures.

The importance of safety professionals in safety assurance calls for a certification process to ensure their competence and maintain a standard of practice. The Certified Safety Professional (CSP) certification, which is offered through the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) in the US, provides such standard for what a competent safety professional is.

BCSP evolved from recommendations to establish a certification program with the purpose of examining and certifying the qualifications of safety practitioners in the US. BCSP now operates solely as a peer certification board with the purpose of certifying practitioners in the safety profession worldwide. The CSP credential assures potential employers and others who seek safety and health expertise that a safety professional has met the standards established by the profession. In the US, the CSP credential has become a yardstick of professional standing and competence not only accepted by the profession, but is also gaining acceptance by federal, state, and local governments, by employers and by the public.

BCSP establishes mutual recognition agreements with organizations in other countries. For instance, a reciprocal agreement has been in place between BCSP and the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health since 2005. Those who hold the CMIOSH designation may use an abbreviated IOSH Reciprocal Agreement Application Form when applying for the CSP credential and waive the Safety Fundamentals examination (the first of two exams).

For more details of BCSP, please visit www.bcsp.org.

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