

Safety Corner

What is BCSP's safety management specialist?

The Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) began offering the Safety Management Specialist (SMS) certification in 2017 for individuals with the necessary management skills to run and operate a business' safe operations. The ideal SMS certification holder demonstrates competency in occupational health and safety activities devoted to the prevention of harm to individuals in the workplace environment, and aims to recognize individuals with strong commitments in safety management who are looking to be selected for leadership or senior positions where safety is a key component of the work.

With nearly 1,300 active SMS certification holder, the SMS is quickly became a preeminent certification around the world for those looking for a safety, health, and environmental (SH&E) credential whose requirements are more experience-based and which focuses on management abilities. The SMS certification requires 10 years of experience in occupational health or safety, and the applicant must work part-time or full-time in occupational health or safety with a minimum of 35 percent of job tasks related to the management of safety-related programs, processes, procedures, and/or personnel.

Typically, activities of an SMS include defining and utilizing an organization's safety management systems, risk management, incident investigation, and emergency preparedness, maintaining current knowledge of SH&E concepts, and identifying the business case for safety.

Along with the experience requirements, prospective SMS holders must pass the SMS examination, which consists of about 200 multiple-choice items that must be completed in 4.5 hours. Additionally, SMS holders must remain up to date with changes in professional practice by earning and submitting recertification points every five years.

The SMS certification is particularly welcome by those holding leadership and senior positions with a strong commitment in safety management on a part-time basis looking to be recognised.

For more information about the SMS certification and BCSP, visit bcsp.org/SMS.

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