

Certified Health and Safety Management System Auditor (CHSMSA)

Backgrounder

The Auditing Association of Canada's (AAC's) Certified Health and Safety Management System Auditor (CHSMSA) designation has been developed for those auditing Health and Safety Management Systems. Audits can be first party (e.g. internal audits performed by employees or contracted auditors), external second party or external third party (e.g. registrar) audits. The designation is based on AAC's Body of Skills and Knowledge (BOSK) for Certified Health and Safety Management System Auditors and AAC's Qualification Criteria for Certified Health and Safety Management System Auditors.

The BOSK and Qualification Criteria are similar to those for the EMS Lead Auditor and EMS Auditor program, which in turn, are rooted in the competence requirements for auditors as described in Clause 7 of ISO 19011:2002: "Guidelines for quality and/or environmental management systems auditing".

The BOSK and Qualification Criteria were developed by an AAC committee, including several Health and Safety audit professionals representing a variety of Health and Safety auditing perspectives, such that the BOSK and Qualification Criteria ensure applicants have the required competency to undertake the audits. Requirements are set in the areas of education, work experience, formal training, and most importantly, demonstrated audit experience in the field of Health and Safety Management System Auditing.

A full description of the qualification criteria can be found in the AAC document, "279E AAC Application Guidance for Certified Health and Safety Management System Auditors" available from the AAC website at www.ceaa-acve.ca.

Of particular interest to applicants is the number and duration of Health and Safety Management System Audits required under the program. The Program requires a minimum of seven complete audits, comprising at least thirty-five days of H & S Management System auditing. These numbers, and the related stipulations, are drawn directly from ISO 19011. The audit criteria for the allowable audits is limited to OHSAS 18001, ANSI Z10 and (soon to be published) CSA Z1000. Other Health and Safety Management Systems may be considered, once they have been evaluated for equivalency to the aforementioned, published Health and Safety Management Systems and approved, using an established process. This is to ensure that the audit experience presented for obtaining certification is gained solely in the field of Health and Safety Management System auditing.

Questions regarding the program may be directed to the Executive Director (Registrar) at 905-845-9595 or dfraser@ceaa-acve.ca