



# ABSA INTERNATIONAL

*The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity*

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## Policy on Unauthorized use of Credentials

ABSA International (ABSA) is strongly committed to protecting the interests of those individuals who have legitimately met the educational, experience and examination requirements for credentialing as a “Certified Biological Safety Professional” [(CBSP<sup>SM</sup>)ABSA] and/or “Registered Biosafety Professional” [(RBP<sup>SM</sup>)ABSA]. Only qualified individuals who have met ABSA-defined requirements for credentialing may claim to be authorized to use the CBSP<sup>SM</sup>/RBP<sup>SM</sup> designation. It is considered unethical conduct for a person to advertise himself/herself as holding the credential of CBSP<sup>SM</sup> or RBP<sup>SM</sup> if the individual:

- is not currently credentialed by ABSA
- has allowed their credential to expire
- has voluntarily surrendered their credential
- has been de-credentialed by ABSA for cause
- has not retained satisfactory credentialing maintenance requirements as defined by ABSA

Actions Taken in Response to Cases of Unauthorized Use of ABSA Credentials: ABSA reserves the right to take any of a variety of actions as a result of verified unauthorized use of ABSA credentials. The different actions are detailed below.

- a) Suspend the Authority to Pursue or Regain ABSA Certifications: If a person uses ABSA credentials without authorization, the individual may not be allowed to apply for, pursue, or regain the certification for a period of time defined by ABSA, up to 5 years.
- b) Notify Employer: In order to ensure that safety of the public, workers, and others is protected and if the name of the employer is known, ABSA may notify the employer of a person who has used an ABSA credential without authority.
- c) Legal and Monetary Remedies: ABSA, through its attorneys, may seek legal and monetary remedies from individuals who use an ABSA designation without authority. Legal remedies may include filing complaints with a Federal court or other entity appropriate to the case, seek monetary damages for harm to the ABSA certification, or act under the patent and trademark law.

Approved: 10.2013  
Revised 9.2019