13. Maintaining Your ABSA Credentials: I have it, now how do I keep it?

Q&A

A chapter of a book is fewer points than an article (for CM points)? That seems odd. Article is 2 pts and Chapter is 1 pt – the CMB will reevaluate the points value for writing a chapter in a biosafety-related book. Update: The CMB reviewed and has agreed to increase the CM points for chapter writing to 2.0 points.

Is CSHEMA considered an Affiliated related event that would count for CM points for attending the annual CSHEMA conference?
CSHEMA is not an ABSA affiliate, and its conferences span a range of safety-related topics. The CMB will evaluate applications for biosafety-related content only.

Facilitating gets points does moderating sessions at the ABSA conference or the ARS Symposium also receive points?
Regarding the ABSA Conference moderators, (I believe) they come from the Scientific Program Committee, and moderating would be part of their duties on that committee. Additional CM points are not awarded to moderators.

So, attending the ABSA (Annual) Conference you can only claim 1x in 5 years?
No. Although it has the same name, the program is different each year. Each attended year can be claimed for points.

Can we claim points for the BSAT RO Webinar Series?
Yes. Acceptable documentation for this activity is the post-attendance email acknowledging participation or the certificate that can be generated at CDC’s Train website. Note: There is a time limit with the RO Workshops, so pay attention to the emails from FSAP.

If I sit in a Department of the Army Biosafety Council to discuss information to update federal regulations, would this count for section 3?
This would count if it’s not part of your (regular) job description and not a requirement.

Should you do this (fill out an Application for Credentialing Maintenance Points) each time you take a course, or should you only do that when you apply for your certification?
Yes, each time an activity is finished, an Application for CM points should be completed. Note: Do not wait until the end of the cycle to do so and check the ABSA website if already approved.

Do you need to submit a CM approval for a course taught at an ABSA affiliate?
No, ABSA affiliates are automatically approved. No CM approval number is necessary.
Can you submit the old CM worksheet that has 8 sections?
We recommend using the new CM worksheet as the old do not have the updated Sections and increased points values listed.

Does Biosecurity content receive similar credit as Biosafety content, whether it is a presentation, article, training, etc...?
Refer to the CBSP domain/task list on the website. Check off all that would apply to the training/course in question.

I've had trouble accessing the learning verification--has this been fixed? I keep getting to a screen that indicates issues with articulate...
We are in the process of switching the quizzes to Google forms. Hopefully this will negate accessing issues.

What if you don't have 8 (CM points)/year, can you make up points in future years to still be 40/cycle?
CM points can be earned in any amount in a year during the CM cycle. For example, 20 points in year one and 20 in year two and no more points accrued for the remainder of your cycle. At the end of the 5-year cycle you must have a total of 40 points. Note: accruing CM points early will not affect your cycle dates.

The Learning Verification quizzes are rather old. Will they be updated anytime?
We (Learning Verification Committee) have several in development and will get those up soon.

Is the (CM) cycle calendar year or when you received the credentialing?
The cycle begins January 1 of the year following the year you received your credential. This is to allow 5 full years for accumulating points. Example: credential received 7/1/2019. Cycle begins 1/1/2020.

Will we hear back after submitting a course (CM application) for points or should we just check back on the approved list? I've submitted courses but haven't received direct communication back if it was approved.
Automated messages are sent with either the reason for denial, the Board is requesting additional information, or an approval number and the CM points awarded. This may take a couple of weeks. If you would like to check the status and do not see your activity in the database, email credentialing@absa.org.
Do you need to be present at the ABSA Conference to receive (CM) points for the poster (presenting)? I am working with a colleague to put together a poster at ABSA this year, but I won’t be able to attend the conference this year.
Yes. CM points for accepted posters will still count regardless of (in-person) attendance.

Is there a link to free trainings (for CM points)?
Check your local/regional affiliates. Sometimes free webinars are posted on the ABSA listserv so keep an eye out there. Additionally, there are pre-approved (free) CDC and AALAS (free with paid subscription) webinars posted on our website.

I am on the APHL biosafety/biosecurity committee, does that count and which section?
This would count if it’s not part of your (regular) job description and not a requirement.

Do we have to pay the $25 each year (CM Maintenance fee) or do we pay it at the end of the cycle?
Each year the CM Maintenance fee needs to be paid. $25 per year, per credential. Additionally, the recredentialing fee must be paid once per 5-year cycle.

If someone earns more CM points in a cycle than required, is it possible to use the overage activities in a future submission?
No. CM points will restart from zero beginning January 1 the year after cycle end.

For the ABSA Conference, will full credit (CM points) be available to those attending virtually?
Yes, Labroots (virtual conference platform) will track attendance within their system. CM pts and PACE are available to both in person and virtual attendees.

I haven't checked the accepted (previously approved) list but is CITI biosafety training accepted?
Yes. CITI training have been previously approved for CM points.

Please reach out to credentialing@absa.org with any other questions.