



## AB184/SB132

### Credential Recognition and Title Protection

The Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM) supports AB184/SB132 which will provide legal recognition to the professions of hazardous materials management, industrial hygiene, health physics and safety. IHMM's mission is assuring the public that individuals representing themselves as being involved in these professions meet minimum qualifications, thereby protecting the public health and safety from harm. IHMM also works to support military personnel in these professions transition to the civilian workforce. Wisconsin does not currently have any type of recognized credential for these fields.

AB184/SB132 will:

- Recognize active military and veterans trained, during active duty, to manage hazardous materials with Wisconsin recognized credentials.
- Assure employers that Wisconsin recognized credentials effectively measure competencies of veterans and civilians in Environment, Occupational Health and Safety professions
- Assure Wisconsin citizens that those involved in these professions have met minimum qualifications to protect the public safety.

These changes (minus one of the credentials that was late to the effort) have been made in 19 other states without incident. This legislation should be cost neutral with no new position authority needed. Enforcement would entail making noncompliance a misdemeanor with a fine up to \$1,000.

The American Legion, Soldiers for Life, and professional organizations are committed to helping soldiers transition into civilian life and employment.

### About the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management

For over thirty years the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM), a not-for-profit organization founded in 1984, has been protecting the environment and the public's health, safety, and security through the administration of credentials recognizing professionals who have demonstrated a high level of knowledge, expertise, and excellence in the management of hazardous materials and dangerous goods transport. The Institute of Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM) is an approved accreditation body for personnel certification under ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024, *Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*. IHMM is also accredited by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB).

IHMM administers the Certified Hazardous Materials Manager, the Certified Hazardous Materials Practitioner and the Certified Dangerous Goods Professional credentials.

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Accredited by the American National Standards Institute and the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards





## Certified Hazardous Materials Manager Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

The CHMM Code of Ethics sets forth the ethical principles to be observed by Certified Hazardous Materials Managers. CHMMs shall, in their professional activities, sustain and advance the integrity and honor of the practice of hazardous materials management by adherence to this Code of Ethics. CHMMs who violate any provision of the Code of Ethics will be subject to disciplinary action by a peer review panel, which may result in suspension or revocation of the credential.

1. A CHMM shall practice in a manner consistent with all applicable laws and regulations; shall demonstrate integrity, honesty, and fairness in all activities; and shall strive for excellence in all matters of ethical conduct. The designations "Certified Hazardous Materials Manager" and "CHMM" may not be used by anyone for any purpose that is untruthful, misleading, or in violation of any law or government regulation. A CHMM must approach other individuals with the requisite professional balance of knowledge, skill, experience, and professionalism in the conduct of all professional activities, and in a manner free of bias with regard to religion, ethnicity, gender, age, national origin, or disability.
2. A CHMM's primary responsibility is to protect the public and the environment. All actions taken on behalf of a client or employer must be consistent with this primary responsibility. The interests of individual clients and employers must be secondary to protecting public health and safety, national security, and the environment.
3. A CHMM shall act with integrity in any relationship that involves an employer or client. A CHMM has an obligation to disclose fully to an affected employer or client any conflicts of interest resulting from business affiliations or personal interests, and to maintain the security and confidentiality of an employer's or client's confidential information.
4. A CHMM shall represent his or her qualifications honestly, and shall function only within his or her area and level of competence. A CHMM is expected to judge objectively his or her own level of competence, and to function within that level of personal confidence and professional expertise. When a CHMM is expected by a client or employer to function outside of his or her area or level of competence, the CHMM must seek appropriate expertise, or suggest that the client or employer find a qualified person.
5. A CHMM shall behave with professional decorum and restraint, and shall not exhibit conduct that brings discredit on the CHMM Program. The CHMM is a professional and must conduct himself or herself accordingly.
6. A CHMM shall comply with and uphold all policies, procedures, guidelines, and requirements of IHMM; shall use the designations "CHMM" and "Certified Hazardous Materials Manager" only as authorized by IHMM; shall acknowledge that the certificate and marks are the property of IHMM; and shall return the certificate and discontinue use of the designation and marks when required to do so by IHMM.

A CHMM shall accept responsibility for maintaining the credential through recertification, shall remain current in the field, and shall continuously uphold the Code of Ethics.

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**Certified Hazardous Materials Manager  
Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct**

The CHMM acknowledges that "Certified Hazardous Materials Manager" and "CHMM" are registered trademarks of the Institute of Hazardous Materials

Management, and that he or she is authorized to use these designations only so long as the certification has not expired, been suspended, revoked or voluntarily relinquished, or converted to the Inactive or "CHMM (Ret.)" status.

The CHMM acknowledges that authorized use of "Certified Hazardous Materials Manager" and "CHMM" as described in this section does not include the right to use the logo of the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management without express written permission from IHMM.

A CHMM shall voluntarily and immediately report any felony convictions or other legal or disciplinary dispositions that would constitute violations of this Code of Ethics that have not already been disclosed to IHMM, regardless of when they occur.

**I understand that violating the Code of Ethics could lead to suspension or revocation of my CHMM certification. I also understand that if my certification lapses or is revoked for any reason, I will no longer be authorized to use the CHMM designation.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Alberta Darling**  
**Wisconsin State Senator**  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

**Professional Credentials Relating to Hazardous Materials**

Testimony on Assembly Bill 184

Assembly Committee on Jobs and the Economy

May 3, 2017

Thank you Chair Neylon and members of the Assembly Committee on Jobs and the Economy for hearing this bill. AB 184 provides recognition and protection for individuals who have received certification in the handling of hazardous materials.

Expert handling of hazardous materials is critical to maintaining public safety. AB 184 penalizes individuals who falsely claim titles or credentials issued by certain organizations for the handling of hazardous materials. It's critical that we assure the public that individuals representing themselves as being involved in these professions meet minimum qualifications.

It is important to recognize that AB 184 does not create any new licenses or bureaucracy. Nor does it protect any one credentialing agency. The bill provides an enforcement tool against those who would falsely claim these credentials to the detriment of the public. Similar legislation has passed in at least 19 other states.

Beyond ensuring public safety, this bill will also help benefit some of our veterans. As part of their military training, many veterans receive the credentials outlined in this bill. They should be able to use that military training and credentialing to find a good job when they are done serving our country. This bill will ensure that veterans and their families know that their training and credentialing will be transferable when to the civilian sector they leave military service.

It is time to recognize these individuals and the important role that they play in handling hazardous materials. They help keep Wisconsin safe every day. The time and energy they put in to meeting certification to handle these types of materials should be applauded and protected. The public should have the peace of mind that individuals who say they can do this work can actually perform it in a safe and effective way.

I want like to thank my colleague, Rep. Petryk, for his leadership on this issue. Again, thank you to the committee for taking the time to hear this bill and I urge your support.



# Warren Petryk

State Representative • 93rd Assembly District

Date: May 3, 2017

To: Members of the Assembly Committee on Jobs and the Economy

From: Representative Petryk

Re: Testimony regarding Assembly Bill 184

Thank you Chairman Neylon and members of the committee for taking the time to hear about the importance of Assembly Bill 184. My sincere thanks to Vice Chair Representative Ed Brooks for his support in co-sponsoring this legislation.

Assembly Bill 184 recognizes and protects a variety of professional credentials in fields important to public safety and will help those who have earned professional credentials in these fields by recognizing them in statute. The bill provides protection for the use of those credentials, thereby safeguarding the considerable investment people have made in obtaining them. Under the bill, misrepresentation of having earned these credentials would be punishable by a misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$1000.

The credentials covered under Assembly Bill 184 are: certified dangerous goods professional; certified hazardous materials manager; certified hazardous materials practitioner; certified health physicist; certified industrial hygienist; certified safety professional; and registered radiation protection technologist.

The fiscal estimate released by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection states that the department can absorb any costs related to this legislation within the agency's budget. The fiscal estimate states that the department does not anticipate having to change any existing rules nor create any new rules to enforce this legislation. The department at this time cannot predict the additional costs of administering this bill nor can it predict how many complaints the agency might receive from consumers or competitors.

Assembly Bill 184 does not create any new licenses or bureaucracy to support its implementation but it simply provides an enforcement tool if anyone falsely represents themselves as having obtained these credentials. At this time, similar legislation has passed in at least 19 other states. Through Assembly Bill 184 we want to ensure that those representing themselves as holding these particular credentials have in fact met the minimum qualifications required by the state, and thereby, safeguarding the public.

I ask for your support today for Assembly Bill 184 as it is common sense public safety legislation.