



EBAss Examinations Now Available in German.

Peter Atkey President of the EBAss Accreditation Committee is very pleased to announce a very welcome addition to our library of on-line examinations. In 2010 EBAss launched a Pan European examination system for personnel who are working in the field of Medical Hyperbaric facilities. This scheme has been possible by EBAss working closely with the European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine (ECHM), ECHM is made up of Hyperbaric Physicians who of course have concerns over training and certification of staff who will be working at their facilities.

The EBAss/ECHM scheme starting point was production of a Resource Manual detailing subjects and levels of training required for technicians and nurses working at hyperbaric facilities; from this manual, training courses were being put together that would ensure these personnel were properly trained for the duties they would need to perform.

It soon became clear that although the training was of course very necessary there was a very real need for these trainees to be able to demonstrate their abilities to prove competence. This would be essential to prospective employers and in time to statutory bodies, commissioners and insurance companies. This led to introduction of the EBAss scheme of independently accredited examinations, the aim was for personnel throughout Europe to be examined on their abilities by an independent body. The EBAss system has examinations specific to technicians and nurses with applicable questions designed to challenge their knowledge; these examinations are to be made available in native languages of the trainees. In the past systems were available but, the examinations had to be taken in English which, of course puts another hurdle in place for anyone who does not speak English as their native tongue.

EBAss and ECHM then enlisted the support of the European College of Baromedicine (ECB) who are the main European Accrediting body in the field of diving and hyperbaric medicine. ECB accredit schools wanting to train personnel for the EBAss/ECHM system of examination, these schools have to demonstrate their abilities to conduct the training to a very high standard. Once personnel have successfully gone through the training at one of these schools and can demonstrate their abilities not only theoretically but practically as well, they are eligible to sit the EBAss independent examination applicable to their field. These examinations are conducted on-line meaning that students do not have to travel, they would normally undertake these examinations at their workplace while being overseen by an approved invigilator. Once the student has completed the examination and achieved the required pass mark of 70%, ECB will issue certification showing that the student has demonstrated a high standard of knowledge. This certification will be extremely useful to employers helping them to demonstrate their staff's competence ensuring confidence in their abilities for commissioners, patients and of course insurance companies.

There are now a total 7 examinations available under the EBAss scheme:

For Technicians and Nurses there are:

English:

European Certified Hyperbaric Chamber Operator (ECHCO).

European Certified Hyperbaric Registered Nurse (ECHRN).

Dutch:

European Certified Hyperbaric Chamber Operator (ECHCO).

Italian:

European Certified Hyperbaric Chamber Operator (ECHCO).

German:

European Certified Hyperbaric Chamber Operator (ECHCO).

European Certified Hyperbaric Registered Nurse (ECHRN).

All of these examinations draw on a common bank of questions ensuring that no matter which language the exam is taken in the levels are the same. The above examinations are aimed at staff who are working with Multiplace Hyperbaric Chambers (chambers that hold more than 1 person). Increasingly there is however a requirement for certification of staff who only use Monoplace chambers (chambers where only 1 person will be treated at a time). In recognition of this requirement EBAss have launched the following examination aimed specifically at personnel who will only work with Monoplace chambers:

European Certified Hyperbaric Chamber Operator Monoplace Chambers (ECHCOM) – English.

At this time the Monoplace examination is only available in English but, the other languages will be added over the next few months.

This is the culmination of a great deal of hard work from EBAss, ECHM and ECB personnel, the resulting scheme has been a long time coming and is very necessary, ensuring confidence in the professionalism of all personnel working in the Hyperbaric field. This is not the end though, there are more examinations planned such as a specialist module for Intensive Care Nurses and of course there will be the requirement for all examinations to be translated into the other European native languages.

If anyone is interested and would like more information please visit the EBAss website www.ebass.org