

ECHM/EBAss document

ECHM, EBAss & ECB Pathways to Certification

Under European Certification Scheme for Hyperbaric Nurses and Operators

1. Introduction

Since its launch in 2010 ECHM, EBAss and ECB have been operating the only pan European system for initial and continuous education and training of hyperbaric centre personnel. The document sets out the agreed method and processes for individuals to achieve and maintain European certification.

Certification is available at several levels as agreed by EBAss/ECB

European Certified Hyperbaric Chamber Operator (**ECHCO**)

European Certified Hyperbaric Registered Nurse (**ECHRN**)

European Certified Hyperbaric Intensive Care Nurse (**ECHICN**)

European Certified Hyperbaric Chamber Operator Monoplace (**ECHCOM**)

European Certified Hyperbaric Safety Manager (**ECHSM**)

2. Method

Following study of existing training and education programs in Europe and across the World, a global and appropriate training system was prepared. This document has been accepted by the ECHM who integrated the EBAss resource manual as an ECHM document.

3. Pathways to individual certification

The EBAss/ECB accreditation system has been produced following research of existing systems around the World. The following is the agreed procedure:

3.1 Eligibility

Personnel working in the field of hyperbarics are eligible to enter the EBAss/ECB scheme, see below for individual pathways. Nursing staff wishing to become accredited under the EBAss/ECB scheme must send evidence of their nursing qualification to accreditation@ebassexam.eu

3.2 Process

Training to the ECHM/EBAss Resource Manual must be successfully completed prior to being accepted as eligible for accreditation, successful completion will be proven by letter from the ECB approved Training Centre; Training establishments wishing to conduct theoretical training should apply to EBAss/ECB for approval to conduct theoretical training (Hyperbaric facilities who wish to conduct theoretical training should apply to EBAss/ECB for approval to conduct training at accreditation@ebassexam.eu). In addition, candidates will need to produce suitable reports of practical training provided by an approved training facility as required by ECB (Hyperbaric facilities who wish to conduct practical training should apply to EBAss/ECB for approval to conduct training at accreditation@ebassexam.eu).

The only exception to requirement for candidates to have successfully completed accredited training will be for applicants who can show that they have worked at a Hyperbaric facility as hyperbaric chamber attendant or hyperbaric nurse for a period of at least 5 years and can supply documentation proving this experience together with a letter signed by the facility's Medical Director confirming their suitability; this evidence will be assessed by the EBAss Accreditation Committee. Once this letter and evidence has been approved the candidate will be permitted to attempt the on-line examination for the appropriate grade without being required to undergo EBAss/ECB approved training scheme.

4. Examination

4.1 Practical assessments

Practical assessments or examinations will be conducted by the participating facility who will be working to the approved syllabus for training as published by the EBAss resource manual. A letter confirming successful completion from the ECB accredited training centre will be required as proof of the candidate's competence. This letter will be sent to the EBAss accreditation committee in support of the candidate's application.

4.2 Theoretical examination

Theoretical examination will be conducted on-line via the EBAss website. Identity of the candidate will be the responsibility of the director of the ECB accredited training centre. Access to the appropriate level of examination will only be granted following acceptance of all of the above evidence of training and acceptance of payment (to be completed electronically on-line). Applications shall be made to the EBAss accreditation committee (accreditation@ebassexam.eu) who will authorise the candidate for examination and will issue the appropriate access codes; candidates shall allow 30 days from submission of application to reception of access codes.

4.3 Examination timing

Examination timing will be evident before the candidate commences the theoretical examination (total time for the examination will be equivalent to 1.5 minutes per question). Prior to the examination being started the applicant will be provided with explanation of the mechanism of how to complete the examination such that there will be no doubt about what is required of the candidate. As soon as the candidate has accepted that they have read and understood the instructions the examination time will start; if the candidate has not completed all of the questions before the allowed time has elapsed the examination will be terminated and only the completed questions will be marked.

4.4 Examination marking

Examination will be marked automatically and results will be transferred to the accreditation administrator who will respond to the candidate with the result. If the candidate has passed the examination, certification will be processed and sent to the candidate at the email address supplied. In the event of failure, individual

questions will not be discussed with the candidate or any other individual. The candidate will be invited to re-sit the examination; it is recommended that this takes place not less than one month following the original failure. During this recommended month it is recommended that the candidate seek additional training to clarify any points of misunderstanding (additional training is not mandatory at this stage); the candidate should apply for a re-sit when they feel ready. An access code will be provided once the re-sit fee has been accepted.

Candidates who fail the second attempt will be allowed one further attempt one month later but if they are not successful then, the candidate will not be allowed to attempt the examination for a further twelve months during which time they will have been expected to have undergone additional training, a letter signed by their facilities Medical Director detailing additional training undertaken must be supplied with examination application.

4.5 Questionnaire

Questions are under the responsibility of EBAss and are validated by ECHM.

All the questions (apart from individual physics examples) are taken from following references:

- European Code for Good Practice for HBO (latest edition)
- Handbook on Hyperbaric Medicine (latest edition)
- EN norms 14931 and 16081 (latest edition)

4.6 Equipment required

The candidate will be required to have access to the following equipment prior to attempting the examination:

- 1 Computer (PC) loaded with Adobe Flash Player.
- 2 Stable Internet connection.
- 3 Calculator.

None of the above will be the responsibility of EBAss/ECB, the candidate will be required to ensure that the equipment used is serviceable and fit for purpose.

Any required additional information will be provided electronically by EBAss/ECB when required.

The examination is an "open book" examination therefore the candidate can have access to any additional written information required but this does not extend to additional personnel input.

Facilities Medical Director Responsibilities:

- a) It will be the responsibility of the facilities Medical Director to ensure identity of the personnel undertaking examination.

- b) It will be the responsibility of the facilities Medical Director to ensure that personnel undertaking examination are not given advice by other persons during the timed examination.
- c) It will be the responsibility of the facilities Medical Director to ensure that personnel undertaking examination are not disturbed during the timed examination.

4.7 Pass Mark

All examinations have a pass mark of 70%.

5. Duration of Certification & Renewal

5.1 Validity

Certification will be valid for 2 years from the date of qualification and reminders will be automatically generated and sent to the candidate's supplied email address prior to expiry. For a candidate to be eligible for renewal they will be required to provide the following evidence:

- a) They have conducted at least 200 hours work at a hyperbaric facility during these two years.
- b) Attended Basic Life Support (BLS) or equivalent within the previous 12 months.
- c) They have completed at least the minimum required practical operations for as defined in the EBAss/ECHM Resource Manual.

The above will be verified by letter indicating the suitability of the candidate from the Medical Director of the facility.

In addition, the candidate shall provide evidence of at least 12 hours continuing professional development during the previous 2 years. An example of how this could be achieved would be for instance by attendance at annual EBAss meetings or attendance at relevant national or international congresses.

5.2 Lapsed Certification

Individuals who allow their certification to lapse will be listed as having lost their certification. If an individual's certification is allowed to lapse but the individual applies for renewal of their certification within 12 months of the date of lapse, then a penalty renewal fee of €200.00 (non EBAss members) will be payable; if the individual is an existing EBAss member the penalty the fee will be reduced to €100.00. In this case the new certification will be backdated to commence on the original renewal date. If the individual does not renew their certification within 12 months of the date of the original renewal, then they would be required to start from scratch which will require re-sit of the appropriate EBAss examination for their level again paying the full fee in addition to satisfying all requirements under the EBAss guidance on regaining lost certification.

6. International recognition

EBAss/ECB recognises that a number of individuals will have existing qualification(s) for instance those that have achieved qualification under the National Board of

Diving & Hyperbaric Medical Technology (NBDHMT) system. Evidence of in-date certification must be provided showing the name of the individual, date of certification and expiry; authenticity will be checked with the awarding bodies before cross over would be accepted. Individuals who can provide evidence of an in-date certification for Certified Hyperbaric Technologist (CHT) will be eligible to attempt EBAss on-line examination without being required to show completion of ECB accredited training. Applicants achieving successful completion of EBAss on-line examination will be issued with European Certified Hyperbaric Chamber Operator (ECHCO). Applicants who can show evidence of in-date NBDHMT Certified Hyperbaric Registered Nurse (CHRN) will be issued with the European Certified Hyperbaric Registered Nurse (ECHRN) following successful completion of EBAss examination. Suitability of other qualifications will be assessed as appropriate by application to the EBAss Accreditation Committee.

7. Fees

Initial Certification all levels (non EBAss member): €200.00

Initial Certification all levels for existing EBAss members: €100.00

Non EBAss member re-sit of examination following failure: €100.00

EBAss member re-sit of examination following failure: €60.00

Renewal non members (all levels): €150.00

For existing EBAss members: €60.00

If a single candidate is simultaneously applying for 2 certificates, i.e., ECHCO & ECHRN then 30% discount for both certificates will be applicable.