

INFORMATION BULLETIN

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Continuing Education Policy (January 2006)

The goal of continuing education of Hearing Aid Dealers and Consultants is to improve services to the hearing impaired public by maintaining and improving the competence of licensees in the areas of hearing aid practice which are covered by the Hearing Aid Act and Regulations.

The Board will accept Continuing Education Credits (CEC) taken in the **calendar** year preceding the license renewal year. For example, to obtain a renewal license for the year starting April 1, 2007, only courses taken between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006 will be considered.

The Board may accept continuing education courses given by the following:

- a. Hearing Instrument Specialists Society of British Columbia,
- b. International Hearing Aid Society,
- c. British Columbia Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists,
- d. British Columbia Association of Audiologists in Private Practice,
- e. Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists,
- f. American Association of Audiologists

Ten (10) hours of CEC's are required annually. Proof of activities is to be submitted with license renewals. There is no maximum to the number of hours obtained at approved symposiums/conferences.

3. A maximum of 5 of the 10 hours will be allowed for manufacturer's product/software workshops and seminars (including in-office updates).

4. In addition to symposium courses and manufacturer's workshops, CEC's may be earned as follows:

i) Distance Education Courses in Hearing Instrument Sciences: approved college course of one semester equals 3 CEC's per course to a maximum of 6 CEC's per year.

ii) On-line Courses: up to 4 CEC's will be accepted for on-line courses offered through Audiology On-line, the American Speech Language and Hearing Association, the American Academy of Audiology and other on-line courses upon request which are not specific to manufacturer's products.

iii) Study/Interest Groups: a group with an educational component (not business meeting) which meets regularly and whose ultimate goal is better services for the client. Study groups must be pre-approved. One (1) CEC per meeting to a maximum of 2 CEC's/yr.

iv) Supervision of Trainees: 1 CEC per trainee (maximum 2 CEC's per year).

v) Professional Publications: maximum 4 CEC's per year for a publication in a peer-reviewed publication; maximum of 1 CEC per year for publication in a non-peer reviewed professional publication.

vi) Educational Presentations: a presentation given *for the first time* at a conference or to a special interest group (eg. CHHA) equals 1 CEC (max 1 CEC per year).

vii) NBC-HIS certification – 4 hours CEC's in the year certification completed.

viii) Board Directors: a registrant who sits on the Board of a recognized professional body in hearing healthcare may be accredited 1 CEC per board per year to a max. of 4 CEC's.

The Board's Examination Committee is prepared to approve other courses, provided information is submitted in advance, and the course is found to be satisfactory. For confirmation of approval of specific courses, requests must be sent to the Board office at least six (6) weeks prior to the date of the course. The request must include: (a) A statement of the goal(s) and objectives of the course with specific indication of which Board regulated area of dealer practice is addressed by the course; (b) Specifics as to how achievement of the course goal(s) and objectives will be measured and how the results of those measurements (e.g. proof of successful completion of the course) will be reported to the Board; and, (c) Location, date(s), sponsor of the course, course outline and the name(s) and qualifications of the course instructor(s).