



THE PROFESSIONAL ERGONOMIST

The Newsletter of the BCPE

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PHASE II CERTIFICATION FOR ERGONOMISTS AND HUMAN FACTORS PROFESSIONALS

THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION IN PROFESSIONAL ERGONOMICS has revised its certification requirements for Ergonomists and Human Factors Professionals. Starting January 1, 1994, certification criteria will be (1) a masters degree in ergonomics (human factors) or equivalent educational background, (2) four years of full-time professional practice in ergonomics with emphasis on ergonomic design, (3) submission of a work product demonstrating the application of ergonomics to a product, process, or environment, and (4) a passing score on a written certification examination. These revised requirements, referred to as Phase II of the BCPE's effort, will replace the current Phase I program which has been in effect since May 1992.

Under Phase I, experienced practitioners are being certified under a "waiver of examination" procedure. Minimum qualifications under Phase I are: MA/MS or equivalent in ergonomics or a closely related field and 7 years of demonstrable experience in the practice of ergonomics. Phase I will end December 31, 1993.

Applications are available for \$10. The application processing fee is \$200 (the \$10 application fee may be applied to the processing fee) with an annual renewal fee of \$75.

The Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics was formed as a nonprofit corporation in 1990. Current directors of the Board are: Alphonse Chapanis, Ph.D.; David Meister, Ph.D.; Melvin H. Rudov, Ph.D.; Hal W. Hendrick, Ph.D.; George A. Peters, J.D.; H. Harvey Cohen, Ph.D.; David J. Cochran, Ph.D.; Jerry R. Duncan, Ph.D.; Steven M. Casey, Ph.D. The Executive Director is Dieter W. Jahns, M.S. ❖

WHO IS GETTING CERTIFIED?

AS WE APPROACH the final months of 1993 - - and the end of the Phase I Certification Plan - - it is an appropriate time to examine the characteristics of current "certificants" and their reasons for seeking professional certification.

The BCPE will have certified between 250 and 500 individuals by year-end. About three fourths of current certificants have opted for the designation of *Certified Professional Ergonomist (CPE)*; about one fourth have selected *Certified Human Factors Professional (CHFP)* as their designation. The vast majority of these individuals are members of the *Human Factors and Ergonomics Society*. These certificants have met the Phase I "certification by waiver of exam" criteria as ascertained by a multiple "blind" review of submitted application materials. About 10 percent of the Phase I applicants have been deferred to the Phase II process involving the written exam.

BCPE Certificants are a representative subset of the profession as a whole. The results of a recent survey of certificants show that the areas of practice of this group of professionals parallel the areas of practice identified by the National Research Council in their recent review of the human factors profession (Van Cott and Huey, 1992). As shown in the table below, which provides the percentage of BCPE Certificants claiming "high" involvement in various systems, these individuals represent many areas of ergonomics application. A large percentage of BCPE Certificants, as is the case with most human factors professionals, claim high involvement in more than one system.

Rank Order of "High" System Involvement by BCPE Certificants

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|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Business/Office | 47.5% | 6. Consumer Products | 26.2% |
| 2. Industrial | 45.9% | 7. ISD/Training | 21.3% |
| 3. Military | 37.7% | 8. Regulatory/Legal | 19.7% |
| 4. IMS/Computers | 32.8% | 9. Communication | 19.7% |
| 5. Mobility/Transport | 31.1% | 10. Architectural | 9.8% |
| | | 11. Health Care | 8.2% |

BCPE Certification is open to ergonomists and human factors professionals internationally. Accordingly, human factors professionals and ergonomists from eight