



Accreditation and Credentialing for Instructors and/or Training Programs

A Panel and Discussion



National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences

*Worker Education and
Training Program*

What is accreditation?

- The process used to ensure that the education provided by institutions of higher education and training programs meet acceptable levels of quality.
- Educational associations, develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met.



What is credentialing or certification?

- Credentialing, or certification, is the process of evaluating an individual's knowledge and skills against specific professional standards.
 - Evaluation of individuals is conducted by an accredited entity.

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- It arose over a concern that education and training was becoming uneven and sometimes inadequate.

Why does a worker or trainer need certification?

- In some cases, it's mandated by local, state or national regulation.
 - 29 CFR 1910.120
- In others, it's mandated by the employer for:
 - Hiring
 - Promotion



The IAFF Example



- HazMat/WMD Certification Program
 - Is evaluated and accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (The Pro Board).
- Candidates
 - Are evaluated against the competencies set forth in NFPA® 472: Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents.
 - Receive a certificate from the IAFF and are entered into the national registry.



What are the benefits for the accredited organization?

- Credibility – having a high number of certified members indicates an organization's commitment to a high level professionalism and job performance.
- Marketability – organizations and individuals are more likely to seek education and training from accredited agencies.

What are the benefits of accreditation for training programs?

- Verifies programs meet established standards.
- Assists programs in determining if previously earned credits and/or participation in training are transferable.
- Helps training and educational institutions secure funding.
- Stimulates continual improvement in the quality of programs.

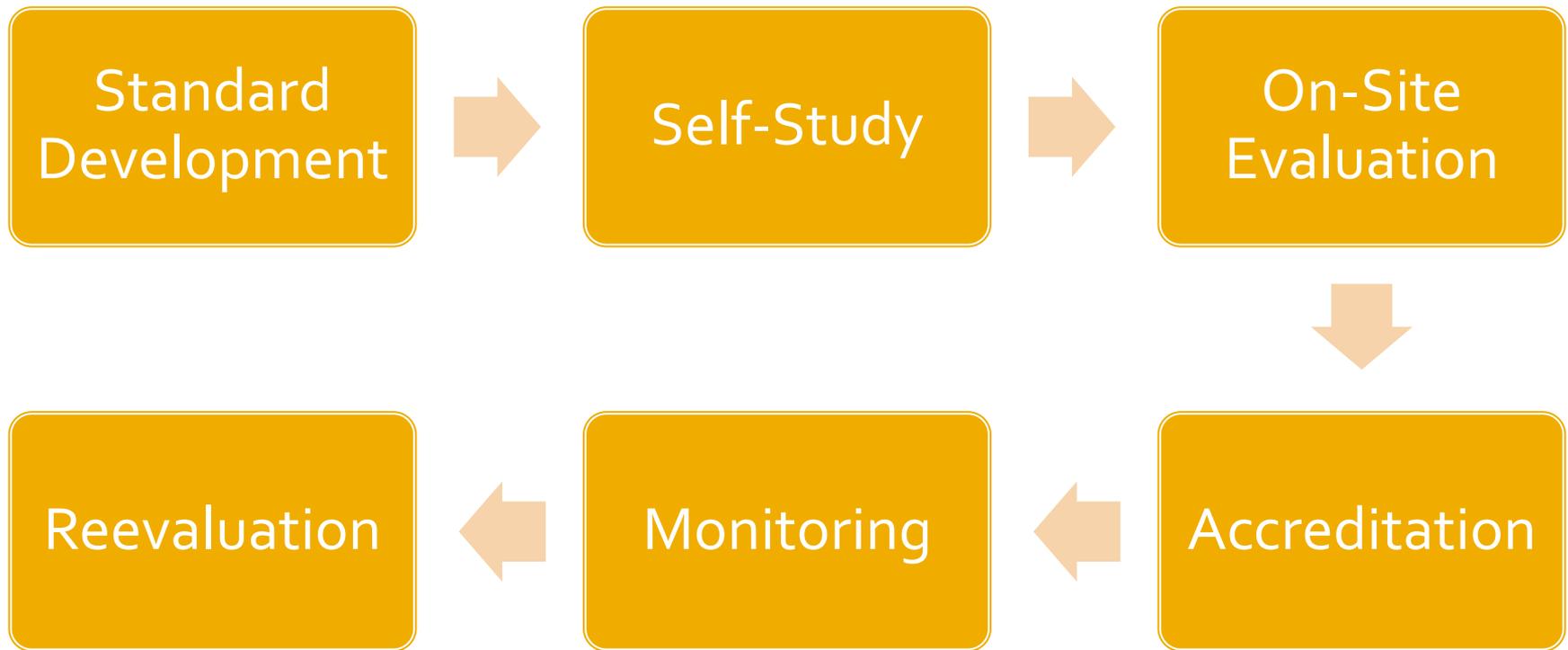
Are there other benefits for education and training program?

- Quality assurance of training materials
 - Ensures regulatory requirements are met.
 - Content validation against professional standards.
 - Adherence to the NIEHS Minimum Criteria.
- Quality control and assurance of instructors
 - Ensures instructors have the requisite knowledge and skills to facilitate.
 - Provides a metric for assessing knowledge and skills.

How does the individual worker benefit?

- Certified individuals have been measured against national standards and proven their knowledge and skills.
- Qualifications are transferable and portable.
- Certification may lead to employment and promotion opportunities.

What is the accreditation process?



Thank you!

- Any questions?