

How to Renew Computer Security Incident Handler (CSIH) Certification

CERT CSIH certification is valid for a period of three years from the award date and expires the last day of the month in which it was awarded.

Renewal requirements for this certification ensure that individuals holding the CSIH certification demonstrate ongoing commitment to professional growth and development and to staying current with changing technology.

In order to remain current with changing technology, you must actively engage in the practice of computer security incident handling, participate in professional growth activities, and expand your skills.

Renewal Requirements

All of the following must be submitted 30 days before the last day of the month in which an individual's certification is due to expire.

- [CSIH Certification Renewal Activity Log](#) along with supporting documentation showing 60 Professional development units (PDUs) to certification-info@sei.cmu.edu
- Renewal fee of \$150 via the [certification renewal payment form](#).

Renewal of certifications is subject to SEI review and approval.

Professional Development Units (PDUs)

A PDU is a measuring unit used to quantify learning and development activities. PDUs demonstrate commitment to maintaining and expanding technical skills and abilities, as well as continued awareness of emerging technologies and processes associated with incident handling activities.

Certification holders are encouraged to select activities that will expand or complement their knowledge and skills.

To ensure a balance of renewal activities, the SEI has identified four categories of renewal activities and set a maximum number of PDUs that can be applied to the renewal criteria in each category:

1. Professional activities (up to 40 PDUs per renewal period).

One (1) hour of professional activity in the field of computer security incident handling earns one (1) hour of PDU credit as approved by the SEI.

- Participating in a CSIRT or performing incident management tasks for at least 25% of full-time work activities
- Completing in-house seminars, training, or educational classes
- Attending approved association or society meetings
- Completing the SEI survey of the certified professional community

2. Continuing education (up to 23 PDUs per renewal period)

Completion of formal academic or professional education where computer security is the primary topic of instruction.

- Completing one (1) semester hour (2.5 hours per week in a 15-week course) earns 15 PDUs
- Completing one academic quarter hour (2.5 hours per week in a 10-week course) earns 10 PDUs
- Completing one (1) CEU earns 10 PDUs
- Completing a course or seminar offered by the SEI, SEI Partner, or training provider as approved by the SEI earns 1 PDU for each contact hour

3. Teaching, presentations, and development (up to 20 PDUs per renewal period)

- One (1) hour of teaching courseware directly related to computer security incident handling earns 1 PDU. Teaching credit is awarded for courses taught the first time during the renewal cycle
- One (1) hour of participation in the development of course curricula earns 1 PDU for each activity
- One (1) hour of speaking or presenting at a conference, seminar, or society meeting earns 1 PDU per activity
- One (1) hour of participation in the development of presentations for conferences, seminars, or society meetings earns 1 PDU per activity

4. Authoring activities (up to 30 PDUs per renewal period)

If you author or co-author anything that is published, please email certification-info@sei.cmu.edu with a copy or information about obtaining a copy.

- Author or co-author an article related to computer security incident handling that is published in an SEI approved journal or magazine earns 10 PDUs per activity
- Author or co-author a book or test book that pertains to computer security that is published within the renewal cycle earns 20 PDUs per activity
- Author, co-author, or contributing editor to online newsletter that pertains to computer security earns 10 PDUs per activity

The SEI does not pre-approve PDUs. It is the responsibility of the CSIH professional to ensure that activities meet renewal criteria.

Renewal Activity Log

Each CSIH will be responsible for maintaining a CSIH Certification Renewal Activity Log. This log should list PDU activities in support of the certification renewal process. It is important that the log contain specific data to accurately identify the submitted activity. The SEI may request additional clarification of data in its review of the log and listed activities.

Review of Renewal Activity Logs

If the SEI cannot confirm that a renewal criteria has been met based upon review of a submitted renewal activity log, the SEI will contact the CSIH professional to discuss any discrepancies or adjustments in the number of earned PDUs and/or deletion of entries that do not meet the renewal criteria. If a renewal activity log is rejected, the SEI will notify the CSIH professional and give them 60 days to provide additional supporting documentation, obtain additional PDUs, or correct any discrepancies in the log.

Audit of Renewal Activity Logs

The SEI reserves the right to audit 5% of submitted logs each year to ensure that the activities submitted continue to meet certification program requirements. CSIH professionals who are selected for audits will be notified by letter and may be asked to supply additional information or supporting documentation as it relates to their individual Renewal Activity Log.

Contact Us

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