CERTIFIED INTERNATIONAL POST BLAST INVESTIGATOR (CIPBI)

The CIPBI certification is to specify the minimum critical competencies for service as a Certified Post Blast Investigator (CIPBI) within the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI).

Requirements to Test

Applicants must:

1. Have a minimum of 3 years’ experience in a position with responsibility to investigate, analyze, and/or reconstruct post blast explosive crime scenes, events or devices.
   a. An IABTI Regular member who has retired from active service and is currently working as an instructor for a government, state, local, or scholastic entity may apply so long as the application is received prior to five years after their retirement date.

2. Have completed a minimum of 200 hours of post blast investigator certification committee approved training in post blast related courses.
   a. Have completed a minimum of one (1) 40 hour post blast investigations training course which includes at least one practical hands-on exercise involving the documentation, collection and preservation of a post blast crime scene, reconstruction of a post blast device, and presentation of the event.
   b. Have completed a minimum of one (1) 40 hour course of training in criminal investigations.
c. Additional elective courses must total a minimum of 120 hours. The topics that qualify in the area of post blast investigation approved training include but not limited to are:

Advanced Improvised Explosive Device and Terrorist Activities Conferences
Hazardous Devices Render Safe or Explosives Ordnance Disposal
Explosive Handling, Disposal and Effects
Arson or Fire and Explosion Investigations
Criminal Investigations
Advanced Post Blast Investigations
Interview and Interrogations
Collection & Preservation of Evidence
Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony
Device Electronics
Crime Scene Investigations
Crime Scene Documentation
Underwater Post Blast Investigations
Crime Scene Photography
Crime Scene Reconstruction
Death Investigations
Wound Dynamics
Evidence Analysis or Laboratory Analysis

The Post Blast Certification Committee, on request, will consider other topics.

3. Applicant will fill out the CIPBI application and sign ALL required signature lines. By submitting your payment, you acknowledge all requirements of the application to include the Code of Conduct and truthfulness of your application. Scan copies of all certificates, transcripts or letters and send to the International Business Office (IBO).
4. An application fee of $150.00 must be paid at the time of application.

5. Once your application has been reviewed and accepted, you will be given information on how and where to take the exam.

6. Comprehensive, Proctored Examination: A “closed book” examination that is based on the requisite skills and knowledge sets within the CIPBI guidelines. A passing score of 80% or above must be achieved to successfully pass the exam. The applicant will be allowed 3 hours to complete a 200 hour exam. The test will be created from the following publication.
   
   

7. If the applicant fails the examination, the applicant will be allowed to retest after six (6) months and within twelve (12) months. If the twelve (12) months pass without retaking the exam then the applicant must start the process over to include the application fee.

8. When the applicant completes the process and passes the written examination, the certification will be good for five (5) years.

9. In order to recertify:
   
   a. The applicant must continue to be a member of IABTI in good standing.
   
   b. During the five (5) years the applicant must attend two hundred (200) hours (total) of post blast investigations related training.

   c. Have authored or coauthored an article on some aspect of post blast investigations and submit it to the CIPBI committee for review. The committee will publish in the Detonator or request a presentation at an RTC or ITC.
Origin and Development

In 1978, the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI) began representing the international professional community of Bomb Technicians and Post Blast Investigators working in law enforcement, public safety and the military. The community of criminal post blast investigations has lacked guidelines on the necessary knowledge and skills, which the community believes, are necessary for a professional post blast investigator. This document describes these competencies and introduces the IABTI professional Certified Post Blast Investigator (CIPBI) program.

Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to specify the minimum critical competencies for service as a Certified Post Blast Investigator (CIPBI) within the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI). It is not the intent of this guide to restrict any jurisdiction from exceeding these minimum requirements or override their organizations policies, standards or governmental law or regulations. This document describes the competencies expected of an individual in order, to carry out that duty; however, they are not intended to measure a level of knowledge as compared to other professionals within this community.

Technical Committee:

Jake Bohi, Chair, Region I Director
Bob Bolland, Region 3 Director (Monitor)
Karen Alexander, IABTI IBO (Monitor)
Mary Gill, IABTI IBO (Monitor)
Bobby Klepper, IABTI, Region 4 (Monitor)
Michael Cardash, Region 7
Alfonso Ayala-Trueba Region 7

John Kelleher, Region 7
Paul Laska, Region 4
Thomas Thurman, Region 3
Danny Waltenbaugh, Region 1
Jeffery Whitbeck, Region 1
Ed Bundy, Advisor

CHAPTER 1 ADMINISTRATION

The International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators will develop a Certification program. This program, will include, administrative policies and certification procedures, fundamental requirements, program accreditation, methods of testing, references, and recertification.
CHAPTER 2 REFERENCED PUBLICATIONS


CHAPTER 3 DEFINITIONS

Post Blast Investigator – Is member of the post blast investigation team and is responsible to provide general and/or specialized capabilities to assist in the

Shall – Indicates a mandatory requirement.

Should – Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

Requisite Knowledge – Fundamental knowledge one must have in order to perform a specific task.

Requisite Skills – The essential skills one must have in order to perform a specific task.

Task – A specific job behavior or activity.

CHAPTER 4 CERTIFIED POST BLAST INVESTIGATOR QUALIFICATIONS

4.1. General

4.1.1. The investigator shall remain current with investigative methodology, explosives, explosive devices, explosive technology, and current explosive threats and threat awareness by attending workshops, professional seminars, training or academic courses, and through professional publications and journals.

4.1.2. Because explosion investigators are required to perform activities in adverse conditions, regional and national safety standards should be followed during the conduct of any investigation.

4.1.3. The investigator shall maintain appropriate liaison with other interested and related professionals.

4.2. Requisite Knowledge

4.2.1. Law Enforcement Investigations
The investigator should have knowledge on the techniques, methods, and processes to conduct a proper criminal investigation within the individual’s jurisdiction and authority, to include; criminal law and regulations associated with explosions and bombings.

4.2.2. Commercial, Military, and Improvised Explosives

The investigator shall have the knowledge to identify and recognize commercial, military, and improvised explosives, detonators, initiators, and associated components/materials.

4.2.3. Explosives Characteristics and Effects

The investigators shall have a fundamental knowledge of explosion theory and dynamics, explosive terminology, types of explosives, classification, and sensitivity of explosives, explosive performance, history of explosives, types of explosives, and characteristics of explosives, explosion effects, and firing trains.

4.2.4. Weapons of Mass Destruction

The investigator should have knowledge of Weapons of Mass Destruction, to include; the basic knowledge of the types of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), basic knowledge of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) hazards, and a knowledge of the unique issues with WMD/CBRNE scenes.

4.2.5. Identification of Improvised Explosive Device Construction and Components

The investigator should have knowledge of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and their Construction; including, the history of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), basic components of IEDs, construction of IEDs, appearance of IEDs, and fusing/firing systems of IEDs.

4.2.6. Military Ordnance

The investigator should have a knowledge to recognize and classify military ordnance, including; the construction, operational use, firing sequence of the item, and methods/source of information that are available.

4.3. Requisite Skills

4.3.1. Scene Examination

The investigator should have the skill to inspect and evaluate the post blast scene, so as to evaluate and establish the scene perimeters, scene security, establish a command post, establish documentation procedures for personnel entering and exiting the crime scene, establish entry and exit paths for scene investigators, establish staging areas for investigators, determine safety concerns, determine needed investigative assistance, determine legal authority to conduct the scene investigation, understand and apply the scientific method, determinate evidence collection/
preservation, as well as, control procedures, determine measures to prevent/reduce scene contamination, determine potential items of evidentiary value, determine the type of explosion involved, determine the seat of the explosion (if present), determine the delivery method of the device, determine initial construction and general appearance of the device, location of victims (if applicable), and possible responsible person(s).

4.3.2. Documenting the Scene

The investigator should be able to create a general diagram of the scene utilizing recognized methods, photographing or directing photographs, and taking field notes to which a final report will be made.

4.3.3. Evidence Collection/Preservation

The investigator should have the skill to find evidence at a bomb scene, collect evidence at a bomb scene, using appropriate methods, procedures, and techniques.

4.3.4 Interview/Interrogation

The investigator should have the skill to obtaining information from individuals with direct or indirect knowledge of the incident.

4.3.5 Post-Incident Investigation

The investigator should have the skill to identify when and how to obtain specialized investigative techniques to assist in the overall post blast investigation.

4.3.6 Documentation/Presentation of Investigative Results

The investigator should have the skill to properly document and present the investigative results in a factual and accurate manner.