



Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel (AHSCP)

Application for Certification with AHSCP via CHCS - Procedure

The only other IBSC recognized certification scheme for hydrographic surveyors is operated by the Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel (AHSCP), which provides Certified Professional Hydrographic Surveyor Level 1 (CPHS1) and Level 2 (CPHS2) status. The AHSCP is operated via the Australian Surveying and Spatial Science Institute (SSSI) and the Survey and Spatial New Zealand (S+SNZ) since 1994. The AHSCP Scheme was recognised by the IBSC on 24 May 2012, and re-recognised by the IBSC for a further 6 years on 05 April 2019.

Individuals certified under the Canadian Hydrographer Certification Scheme (CHCS) by the Canadian Hydrographer Certification Panel (CHCP) wishing certification under the AHSCP Scheme should be accepted on an equivalent basis and vice versa providing various administrative processes are followed, based on a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between the ACLS, SSSI and S+SNZ. See the Table below. The MRA came into force on 20 September 2018.

Table Accepted Exemptions – AHSCP – Summary

Organization	Designation	CHCS Level 1	CHCS Level 2
AHSCP	CPHS1	Equivalent	
AHSCP	CPHS2		Equivalent

An individual can be certified by AHSCP without joining the SSSI. However, if that individual does not join the SSSI they are required to apply for recertification every year and pay the yearly recertification fee. The advantage to becoming an SSSI member is that certification is retained via compliance with the SSSI Continuing Profession Development (CPD) policy, provided the yearly SSSI membership is maintained. Currently, the following AHSCP and SSSI fees in Australian dollars would apply as shown in the Table below.

Fee	Non Resident of Australia or NZ		Resident of Australia or NZ	
	SSSI Member	Non-Member	SSSI Member	Non-Member
AHSCP Assessment	242.00	242.00	242.00	242.00
SSSI Yearly	290.00	290.00	460.00	460.00
AHSCP Recertification	Nil	330.00	Nil	500.00

Clearly, it is more cost effective to be an SSSI Member (MSSSI). For the AHSCP and the SSSI the yearly fee will be pro-rated for the first year of membership. Contact SSSI Membership at SSSImembership@sssi.org.au directly with this request. The SSSI membership fee can be paid by Credit Card, which will attract an additional 1% surcharge.

If desired, an applicant can become an SSSI member prior to applying to the AHSCP, and the applicant does not have to wait for their application to be accepted by the AHSCP. Review the options

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on the SSSI website at SSSI \ Membership at <https://sssi.org.au/membership/join-sssi>, and select an appropriate membership type. Generally, a Certified Hydrographer (CH) should apply to become a Member, and a Certified Hydrographic Technician (CHTech) should apply to become an Associate.

An applicant with a CH or a CHTech designation seeking certification with the AHSCP, should complete the “CHCP – Application for Certification with AHSCP” form and follow the instructions included in the form.

For legal, insurance and professional conduct reasons the SSSI and AHSCP require a level of documentary evidence to support each application. This is not to enable an assessment but rather to maintain records to prove that a level of due diligence was conducted on each applicant prior to accepting or rejecting them. To achieve this objective the applicant’s submission documentation to the CHCP and the subsequent CHCP assessment, will be required. The applicant has to complete the relevant page of the “CHCP – Application for Certification with AHSCP” form, to allow for the release of that information, which will be forwarded to the AHSCP in whole or in part.

The application to the AHSCP will be considered by the AHSCP at its’ next full meeting, and a letter will be sent by email from the AHSCP Secretariat to the applicant, and copied to the ACLS Registrar, to advise the applicant of the outcome.

Should the applicant also wish to obtain SSSI membership, then the applicant should also check the relevant check-box on the “CHCP – Application for Certification with AHSCP” form. This will allow the AHSCP to share relevant information needed by the SSSI for its’ administrative purposes.

The membership request to the SSSI will be considered by the SSSI Membership Sub-Committee in due course, and a letter will be sent by email from the SSSI Membership Officer to the applicant, which will advise the applicant of the outcome. After a positive response from the SSSI, payment of the SSSI membership fee will complete your membership application.

The SSSI CPD Policy is the same as the CHCP CPD Policy. However, to clarify one aspect for non-residents of Australia or New Zealand as follows: The SSSI CPD Policy requires attendance at a major SSSI sponsored conference once per year. However, since the SSSI does not operate CPD events outside of Australia, then a major ACLS or similar sponsored conference would be acceptable. As with the CHCP, the AHSCP expects the individual’s CPD to be focused on hydrographic and/or offshore surveying, and reflects how their CPD aligns with the IHO S5-A and / or S5-B syllabus subject matter.

Note: If a person does not comply with the AHSCP Guidelines with respect to SSSI CPD and falls out of the certification requirement, then that person would need to be recertified.

The SSSI CPD program follows the Financial Year (01 July to 30 June) format, whilst the ACLS uses the Calendar Year format (01 January to 31 December). For the CHCP, all CPD must be entered via the Canadian GeoEd website at <https://www.geoed.ca/>, which requests similar information as required by the SSSI website.

The SSSI has accepted that SSSI members who are recertifying with the AHSCP shall provide a scanned copy from the GeoEd website of the individual’s CPD listing page(s) to verify the number of CPD points obtained. The period covered in the provided CPD listing should be at least for the period from 01 July to 30 June. The submission deadline is 31 July. This documentation shall be sent directly to rom.nsw@sssi.org.au, as the SSSI Commission’s CPD verification process is independent of the AHSCP.

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For non-members of the SSSI who are recertifying with the AHSCP, a scanned copy from the GeoEd website of the individual's CPD listing page(s) to verify the number of CPD points obtained. The period covered in the provided CPD listing should be for at least 12 months. The start date would be the initial date of your certification with the AHSCP, and then every 12 months from that time. The documentation shall be provided within 1 month of the anniversary date. This documentation shall be sent directly to the AHSCP Secretariat at jasbir.randhawa@defence.gov.au, as the AHSCP's CPD verification process is a separate process from that of the SSSI Commission's oversight.

For further information, please refer to the latest SSSI documentation regarding the SSSI CPD Policy and SSSI Code of Ethics at <https://sssi.org.au/membership/sssi-code-of-professional-practice>.