

Certified Banker

Conversion Arrangements Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) is introducing its new Banking Qualification Programme — "Certified Banker" (or "CB"). This was officially announced at the HKIB Annual Banking Conference on 20th September 2016 and will be effective from 1st January 2017.
- 1.2 The new three-level CB Banking Qualification Programme is an enhancement from the current Associate of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers qualification (AHKIB). In line with the AHKIB, CB has a modular programme structure. HKIB members will be entitled to use the respective CB designation upon completion of the corresponding stage and having accumulated the required banking or finance experience.

Awards and designations from 2017 onwards:

Awards [QF Level]	Designations	Required Experience
Postgraduate Diploma (Stream) for Certified Banker - Credit Management - Treasury Management - Operations Management [QF Level 6]	Certified Banker	3 years banking or finance related working experience
Professional Diploma for Certified Banker [QF Level 5]	Certified Banker (Stage II)	2 years banking or finance related working experience
Advanced Diploma for Certified Banker [QF Level 4]	Certified Banker (Stage I)	1 year banking or finance related working experience

2. Programme Conversion

2.1 Major changes effective from 1st January 2017 include:

- a. AHKIB will be replaced by the “Certified Banker” (CB). The new programme and name will better reflect the credentials of qualified members and also provide wider public recognition.
- b. The new programme will include subjects integrated from the Enhanced Competency Framework (ECF) introduced by Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA). ECF is an industry-wide competency framework for various streams of professional functions within the banking sector that is being fully rolled out over the next few years. Selected subjects from this framework will be included in QF Levels 4 and 5 of the CB Programme.
- c. Enrichment of the curriculum between 2017 and 2020 (please refer to the CB brochure for the programme development up to 2020).

2.2 Major changes on respective stages of programme in 2017

The programme structure of three progressive QF Levels (i.e. Advanced Diploma, Professional Diploma and Postgraduate Diploma) will remain unchanged. The new programme titles are as follows:

QF Level	Programme Title (upto 31 Dec 2016)	New Programme Title from 2017 onwards
6	Postgraduate Diploma Programme in Banking and Financial Services for AHKIB	Postgraduate Diploma Programme for Certified Banker
5	Professional Diploma Programme in Banking and Financial Services	Professional Diploma Programme for Certified Banker
4	Advanced Diploma Programme in Banking and Financial Services for ABP	Advanced Diploma Programme for Certified Banker

There are a range of subject developments that will take place:

- a. Advanced Diploma Programme: The structure of the Advanced Diploma Programme will be changed from three core subjects to one core and two elective subjects.
- b. Professional Diploma Programme: The subject “*Financial Planning and Management*” will be discontinued from 2017 onwards. The subject “*Banking Industry and Regulations in Mainland China*” will be suspended in 2017 and reintroduced in 2018.
- c. Postgraduate Diploma Programme: The Wealth Management stream, which is one of the four specialist streams in the original Postgraduate Diploma Programme, will be suspended and reintroduced in 2019.
- d. ECF Subjects: The first ECF subject to be launched in 2017 will be the Core Level of AML/CFT that will be incorporated into the CB (Stage I) programme. The other tentative ECF subject areas are:
 - Retail Wealth Management
 - Cyber Security
 - Treasury Management
 - Credit Risk Management
 - Risk Management, Compliance and Internal Controls

3. Conversion Arrangements for Existing Candidates

The impact of this development on the existing candidates of the AHKIB professional qualification is minimal. There will be a straightforward transition to the CB Program.

- 3.1 All existing candidates of the AHKIB professional qualification will be converted to the CB Programme directly.
- 3.2 Starting from 2017, candidates who complete all the required subjects in their respective programme will be awarded with the CB diploma.

- 3.3 Upon fulfilling the requirement on relevant working experience, graduates who have completed the ABP/AHKIB qualification programme by 31st December 2016 will be entitled to use the respective CB designation. The new professional designations are as follows:

Before 2017		2017 onwards	
Designation	Short Form	Designation	Short Form*
Associate of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers	AHKIB	Certified Banker	CB
N/A <i>(Graduates of Professional Diploma in Banking and Financial Services [QF Level 5]. Please refer to point 3.4 for details.)</i>		Certified Banker (Stage II)	CB (Stage II)
Accredited Banking Practitioner	ABP	Certified Banker (Stage I)	CB (Stage I)

* Short form is advised to be printed on business card.

- 3.4 CB (Stage II) is a new professional designation under the CB Programme. Graduates who have completed the Professional Diploma Programme (QF Level 5) but not the Postgraduate Diploma Programme (QF Level 6), and maintain their HKIB membership will receive notification concerning the new designation individually in the first quarter of 2017.

4. Conversion Arrangements for Designation Holders

- 4.1 All existing ABP and AHKIB designation holders will be converted to the equivalent CB designation.
- 4.2 Designation holders may obtain the respective CB scroll if they fulfill the following requirements:
- a. Valid HKIB membership; and
 - b. Sufficient Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours

- 4.3 Qualified designation holders should complete a Confirmation Form to obtain their CB scroll. There will be no administrative fee for this. The Confirmation Form will be available for download from the HKIB website by the end of 2016. Due to the large number of designation holders, the scrolls will be prepared in batches and candidates will be notified when their scrolls are ready for collection.
- 4.4 The new scroll will be issued to candidate's highest attained qualification only. For example, AHKIB designation holders will receive the CB scroll only but not the CB (Stage I) or CB (Stage II) scroll.
- 4.5 It is not necessary to return the ABP/AHKIB scrolls or pins.
- 4.6 The AHKIB and ABP designations will be replaced by the respective CB designations which will be shown on HKIB Certified Individual Register (CI Register) on the HKIB website.
- 4.7 For designation holders who are defaulting members, they should first reinstate their HKIB membership according to the prevailing policy. For details, please contact our staff at +852 2153 7879. Conversion requests from default members will not be accepted after 1st January 2021.

Further enquiries:

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