



Certified Banker

Frequently Asked Questions – Conversion Arrangements

A. Training and Examination

1. What is Certified Banker (CB)? What is the difference between CB and Associate of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (AHKIB)?

Certified Banker (CB) is the new qualification programme launched by HKIB on 1st January 2017. The CB programme is a common qualification benchmark that helps banking practitioners raise their professional standards to meet the current and future industry demands. Supported and recognised by regulators and leading banks in Hong Kong, the programme provides a transparent standard for local and international institutions.

Certified Banker is a three-level qualification and the programme is an enhancement from the existing Associate of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers qualification (AHKIB). Members / applicants should be aware of the following new features of the programme:

- a. AHKIB qualification programme is renamed as CB.
 - b. The CB Programme not only encompasses generic banking subjects with elective specialist disciplines, it also integrates subjects from the Enhanced Competency Framework (ECF) introduced by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA).
 - c. The CB curriculum enrichment will take place over time between 2017 and 2020 to ensure ongoing relevance.
2. What is the Enhanced Competency Framework (ECF)?

To enhance professional competence of financial services practitioners, Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) introduced an industry-wide competency framework for various streams of professional functions in the banking sector. ECF subjects will be included in QF Levels 4 and 5 of the CB Programme. Individual certificate programmes for ECF subjects will also be available. The subject areas that will be incorporated with CB, subject to confirmation and industry consultation, are:

- Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (AML/CFT)
- Retail Wealth Management
- Cyber Security
- Treasury Management
- Credit Risk Management
- Risk Management, Compliance and Internal Controls

For those candidates interested in studying these topics, AML/CFT will be available in 2017. Programme and Examination Enrolment Forms will be available for download on the HKIB website.

3. When can I enroll in the CB training programmes and examinations?

The AHKIB Programme will be renamed as the “Certified Banker” (CB), effective from 1st January 2017. For both new and existing candidates, Programme and Examination Enrolment Forms will be available for download from the HKIB website by the end of 2016.

4. What are the entry requirements for enrolling in the CB Programme?

The CB Programme contains three progressive QF Levels (i.e. Advanced Diploma, Professional Diploma and Postgraduate Diploma). Candidates should begin with the Advanced Diploma Programme for Certified Banker (QF Level 4) with entry requirements as follows:

CB (Stage 1)

Advanced Diploma Program for Certified Banker (QF Level 4)

- A Bachelor’s Degree awarded by a recognized university or equivalent; OR
- An Associate Degree / Higher Diploma in Banking and Finance area; OR
- Relevant professional qualifications; OR
- Mature Student (aged 21 or above) with either
 - At least 5 years of banking and finance working experience; OR
 - 2 years of banking and finance experience with recommendation of employer; OR
- Registered HKIB student members or post-secondary full time students

After completing the Advanced Diploma Programme, candidates may proceed to the Professional Diploma Programme for Certified Banker (QF Level 5), and finally the Postgraduate Diploma Programme for Certified Banker (QF Level 6).

5. Is the training programme for ECF subjects compulsory?

Yes. Candidates are required to attend the training relevant programmes before taking the examination.

6. Will there be any exemptions under the new CB Programme?

Starting from 2017, HKIB will only accept exemption applications with regards to recognised qualifications that are pre-approved. HKIB will further explore collaboration opportunities with a range of different institutions and universities on qualifications that will be approved for exemption from CB subjects. For details of the current exemption policy, please refer to the CB Handbook, which will be available by the end of 2016 onwards and updated regularly.

7. I hold a Master's Degree in Business and Finance. Can I enroll in the Postgraduate Diploma Programme for Certified Banker (QF Level 6) directly?

The CB structure involves three diploma programmes in progressive QF Levels (i.e. Advanced Diploma, Professional Diploma and Postgraduate Diploma), and completion of the Advanced Diploma and Professional Diploma are prerequisites for enrolling in the Postgraduate Programme. New candidates, no matter the level of previous study, should begin with the Advanced Diploma Programme.

B. Current ABP/AHKIB Candidates and Conversion Arrangements

8. I haven't completed the AHKIB Programme yet. Will my previous examination results be affected?

Existing records of completed training programmes and examination results obtained as part of the AHKIB qualifications are still recognised. As QF recognition was received on 1st January 2013, any achievements since this date will not be affected. If however, you have studied ABP/AHKIB subjects before 2013 and would like to resume in the future under the new CB Programme, please contact HKIB staff for details.

9. If I complete my study in 2017, will I be awarded the ABP/AHKIB Diploma or the CB Diploma?

All existing candidates of the AHKIB Programme will be converted to the CB Programme directly. Starting from 2017, candidates who complete all the required subjects, will be awarded a CB Diploma.

C. Graduates and Conversion Arrangements

10. I hold the Advanced Diploma in Banking and Financial Services for ABP / Professional Diploma in Banking and Financial Services / Postgraduate Diploma for AHKIB. Will my qualification(s) still be valid after the launch of CB?

Qualifications awarded before 2017 are still valid.

11. I have completed the AHKIB Programme in 2016. Can I obtain a new diploma for CB?

Diplomas issued before 2017 will not be re-issued. The conversion arrangement is applicable to ABP/AHKIB scrolls only but not diplomas.

D. Designation Holders and Conversion Arrangements

12. What are the new designations under CB?

The new professional designations are as follows:

Before 2017		2017 onwards		
	Designation	Short Form		
			Designation	
			Short Form*	
1.	Associate of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers	AHKIB	Certified Banker	CB
2.	N/A		Certified Banker (Stage II)	CB (Stage II)
3.	Accredited Banking Practitioner	ABP	Certified Banker (Stage I)	CB (Stage I)

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

13. I am an ABP/AHKIB of the Institute. Can I obtain a new CB scroll?

All ABP and AHKIB designation holders will be converted to their respective CB designation automatically. You may obtain a CB scroll if you are a current HKIB member and you have fulfilled the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours requirement for the previous year. Please note that the new scroll will be issued to a candidate's highest attained qualification as of 31st December 2016 only.

14. How do I obtain the new CB scroll?

All you need to do is to complete a Confirmation Form. No administrative fee is needed. Due to the considerable volume, the scrolls will be prepared in batches and candidates will be notified when the scrolls are ready for collection.

15. Can I still use the ABP/AHKIB designation?

The AHKIB and ABP designations will be replaced in 2017 by the respective CB designations and should no longer be used after the 1st January 2017.

16. I have completed QF Level 5 of the AHKIB Programme (i.e. Professional Diploma in Banking and Financial Services) but not yet QF Level 6. Is there a new professional designation under the CB Programme?

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 yet the Postgraduate Diploma Programme (QF Level 6), have current HKIB membership and possess two years banking or finance related working experience, are eligible to be elected as CB (Stage II) designation holders. Qualified members will receive an email notification concerning the new designation in the first quarter of 2017.