



## Canadian Hydrographer Certification Scheme (CHCS)

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### *Application for Certification with CHCS via AHSCP – Procedure*

The only other International Board of Standards of Competence for Hydrographers and Cartographers (IBSC) recognized certification scheme for hydrographic and offshore surveyors is the Canadian Hydrographer Certification Scheme (CHCS), which provides Certified Hydrographer (CH) and Certified Hydrographic Technician (CHTech) status. The CHCS is operated by the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) via the Canadian Hydrographer Certification Panel (CHCP). The CHCS was recognized by the IBSC on 15 April 2016 for 6 years.

The Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel (AHSCP) provides Certified Professional Hydrographic Surveyor Level 1 (CPHS1) and Level 2 (CPHS2) status. Individuals certified by the AHSCP, wishing certification under the CHCS 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, Australian Surveying and Spatial Science Institute (SSSI) and the Survey and Spatial New Zealand (S+SNZ). See the Table below. The MRA came into force on 20 September 2018.

**Table Accepted Exemptions – CHCS – Summary**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>CPHS 1</b>	<b>CPHS 2</b>
<b>CHCS</b>	CH	Equivalent	
<b>CHCS</b>	CHTech		Equivalent

An individual can be certified by CHCP without joining the ACLS. A CPHS 1 or CPHS 2 can become an Associated ACLS member if that person so desires, after paying the applicable fee to the ACLS of CAD \$ 100 per year. However, to become a Regular ACLS member would require a BSc in Surveying (or equivalent) as well as the requirement to pass other ACLS criteria to become a Canada Lands Surveyor (CLS).

Certification renewal is required each year. Certification is valid for the year in which it is conferred, and then the next certification renewal period will start on 01 January of the next year. Unless the individual's certification is renewed, then that person cannot use the CH or CHTech designation. Currently, the following ACLS fees in Canadian dollars are shown in the Table below. The fees are the same for residents and non-residents of Canada.

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**Table Applicable Fees**

<b>Service</b>	<b>ACLS Regular and Associate Member Fees</b>	<b>Non ACLS Member Fees</b>
Candidate fee for initial submission and assessment	C\$ 325	C\$ 500
Yearly renewal fee for either CH or CHTech designation due on 01 January	C\$ 225	C\$ 350

An applicant with a CPHS 1 or CPHS 2 designation seeking certification with the CHCP, should complete the “Application for Certification with CHCS via AHSCP – Form”, and follow the instructions included in the form.

For legal, insurance and professional conduct reasons the ACLS and CHCP 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 AHSCP and the subsequent AHSCP assessment, will be required. The applicant has to complete the relevant page of the “Application for Certification with CHCP via AHSCP – Form”, to allow for the release of that information, which will be forwarded to the CHCP in whole or in part.

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

The ACLS CPD program is very similar to the AHSCP CPD Policy. The ACLS CPD program is based on CPD credits earned in recognized CPD activities. For the purposes of the CHCS, the CPD shall be focused on hydrographic and/or offshore surveying.

Note that if a person does not comply with the CHCP Guidelines with respect to ACLS CPD and falls out of the certification requirement, then that person would need to be recertified.

The ACLS CPD program follows the Calendar Year (01 January to 31 December) format whilst the SSSI CPD program follows the Financial Year (01 July to 30 June) format. For the ACLS, 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.

However, the ACLS has accepted that where a CPHS 1 or CPHS 2 is a SSSI member, then a scanned copy of the individual’s SSSI CPD listing page(s) can be used 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 January to 31 December. This documentation shall be sent directly to the ACLS Registrar at [registrar@acsls-aatc.ca](mailto:registrar@acsls-aatc.ca).

In addition, the ACLS has stipulated, as a concession because of the MRA, that where a CPHS 1 or CPHS 2 is not an SSSI member, then all CPD must be entered via the Canadian GeoEd website at <https://www.geoed.ca/>, which will be scrutinized by the ACLS Registrar.

The CPD submission and payment of the appropriate yearly fee is due on 01 January and the deadline is 31 January.

For further information, please refer to CHCP Candidate Handbook at [https://www.acsls-aatc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CHCP\\_Candidate\\_Handbook\\_V17\\_Nov\\_6\\_2019.pdf](https://www.acsls-aatc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CHCP_Candidate_Handbook_V17_Nov_6_2019.pdf).

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The ACLS CPD requirements are in the ACLS Bylaws as section 9.6 on pages 21 and 22 at <https://www.acls-aatc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CONSOLIDATED-BYLAWS-1Jan2018-B.pdf>.

The ACLS Code of Ethics are in the ACLS Practice Manual as section 1.8 on pages 8 to 10 at <https://www.acls-aatc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Practice-Manual-2015.pdf>.