



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 73 [2017 Senate Bill 132]	Use of Certain Professional Titles
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2017 Wisconsin Act 73 (“the Act”) restricts the use of certain professional titles or corresponding initials. To use the titles “certified dangerous goods professional,” “certified hazardous materials manager,” or “certified hazardous materials practitioner,” a person must be certified by the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management. To use the title “certified health physicist,” a person must be certified by the American Board of Health Physics. To use the title “certified industrial hygienist,” a person must be certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene. To use the title “certified safety professional,” a person must be certified by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. Finally, to use the title “registered radiation protection technologist,” a person must be certified by the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists. These prohibitions do not apply to a student or apprentice acting under the supervision of a certified individual.

In addition, the Act provides that no business entity may falsely identify, advertise, or represent that its services are furnished by such a certified professional, unless the services are provided by or under the direction of a person who is certified. The Act also prohibits any person from misleading or deceiving another by the unauthorized use of a certification mark awarded by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office that includes one of these titles.

Any person who violates these requirements is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$1,000. A violation of these requirements is also deemed an unfair method of competition in business or an unfair trade practice.

The Act also prohibits any city, village, town, or county from enacting or enforcing an ordinance or resolution that restricts the use of any of these titles or representations.

Effective date: November 29, 2017

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.