Another year has passed and about a fourth of you CHPs have turned in or are about to turn in your recertification papers. Once you have done it a couple of times, it gets a lot easier. For those of you who are newly certified, either this year or in the last couple of years, congratulations on your achievement. Now it’s time to start the process to hang on to your credentials.

Many CHPs use the preapproved continuing education credits (CEC) that we have posted on the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) Web site. These include attendance at national and local Health Physics Society (HPS) meetings and participation on standards committees, the Board of Health Physics, and the Panels of Examiners. Those of us on the Continuing Education Committee really appreciate it when CHPs acquire credits in this manner, as we do not have to do anything. And that brings us to the point of this article.

Any activity that is submitted for consideration for CECs (that is not on the preapproved list) is reviewed by a Continuing Education Committee member to determine the appropriate assignment of credits. Credit can be granted for individual use or for group use in the case of classes, courses, seminars, or workshops. The committee receives roughly 300 submittals a year. Our committee for 2011 consists of me, Joseph Greco, Cheryl Antonio, Louise Buker, Joel Rabovsky, and Brian Hinderliter. Brian replaces James Cherniak, who completed his term of service at the end of 2010.

As a reminder, you can find a Web form at the AAHP Web site or just email the completed cover form to the committee address (aahpcec@burkinc.com). We try to turn things around within three weeks, but sometimes things get a little backed up due to our regular jobs.

The committee also has the responsibility of organizing the eight-hour AAHP courses given at the annual and midyear HPS meetings. This article will be published just before the Charleston meeting, where we have two offerings. Tom LaBone will be presenting the course “Uncertainties in Occupational Internal Dosimetry.” Ken Krieger will be presenting the course “Fundamentals of Industrial Radiation Safety.”

The committee is also soliciting ideas for the AAHP courses in West Palm Beach this summer and for future meetings. If you would like to share your knowledge and experiences with your colleagues and get a few CECs at the same time, give me a call at 803-502-9852 or drop us a note at the committee email address. Instructors receive 20 CECs for their efforts in putting together an eight-hour course. There is also a $1,000 honorarium for each course.