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We at the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (CBIC) studied the possibility of translating the CBIC Examination into French for Canadian administration. Unfortunately at this time, CBIC will be unable to participate in this project. Our decision was made after much research and debate, and not determined lightly. To assist you in understanding our decision, CBIC would like to share some of the issues which arose while we researched the task of translating/adapting our exams into French.

In order for CBIC to proceed with this possibility, we needed to take into account the recommendations as determined by Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP), our Testing and Measurement firm. Since we are also accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies we needed to consider NCCA Accreditation requirements as well.

The following steps were needed for CBIC to move forward with this project:

1. Hiring a translation service, with appropriate security agreements in place, to translate all current forms of the examination.
2. Forming a panel of 3-5 Bi-lingual Content Experts who would be charged with reviewing and comparing the translation of the examination from English to French to ensure that any colloquialisms, etc., had been translated appropriately for content/subject matter. A comparison would be needed to be done to compare the difficulty level of each of the test questions in French as compared to how they written in English. AMP would need to provide instructions and directions to the bi-lingual panel on how to perform these tasks.
3. After the Content Experts completed their tasks, AMP recommended that some form of analysis be done on the translated forms (i.e., a passing point study or some form of comparative analysis) in order to ensure the comparability of the level of difficulty between the English forms and the French adaptation. This analysis required a group of individuals prepared to sit for the examination in French for which they would receive delayed reporting results until analysis could be completed. Ideally this group size consisted of 30 – 50 individuals.
4. Formatting issues were also considered. When an exam is offered in more than one language, the capability to view the exam items in both languages

on-screen at one time would be preferred. The current system used by AMP does not allow for this and most likely won't for quite some time. With current testing capability, the candidate would have to choose what language to use for testing purposes prior to starting the examination. For this reason, it would become critical to make the difficulty level of both the French and English exams to an acceptable comparable level.

5. In order to comply with NCCA accreditation, an accreditation we proudly plan to continue, the above tasks would need to be performed each and every year. That meant that once this examination was adapted/ translated and the administration of a French examination begun in Canada, CBIC needed to be able to perform these tasks every year, continually, in French, for the life of the examination program or risk losing NCCA accreditation.
6. The examinations for the practice of infection control and epidemiology are based on surveys of those practicing in these fields. This is performed using a Practice Analysis tool, and the results of our most recent one are posted on the CBIC website (www.cbic.org). In the past the Practice Analysis surveys have not included French speaking Canadians, and incorporation of this into the current practice analysis system/structure might become problematic.
7. The last issue is one of continuance of this process and the budgetary concerns associated with this. We wish to state this was only one of, and not the overriding concern. Once started, CBIC realized this to be a long term project which would have no ending date. Even though there may be a sponsor currently available to pay for adaptation/ translation fees or additional Test Development fees that would be incurred by CBIC in order for AMP to perform these services, CBIC needed to consider this as a long term investment. Budgetary dollars needed to be associated with it every year regardless of whether or not sponsorship could become available. The CBIC budget needed to include annual expenses for additional time for Test Development, and Research & Development time. In addition, the CBIC Test Committee needed to decide how to continue this process in the future – i.e., adding 3-5 Bilingual Content Experts as regular members of the Test Committee or potentially forming a dual committee that would meet. This process likely would be similar to that of the English Test Committee which meets separately from general CBIC Board meetings to perform select tasks such as item writing, item analysis, and exam preparation. This would require financial support of these additional meetings and meeting attendees, and the costs incurred would depend on how this was structured.

CBIC appreciates the wonderful opportunity you provided us when you first approached us with the ideas of creating our exams in French. We too were excited at this possibility and hope you will understand our reasons for declining this project at this time.