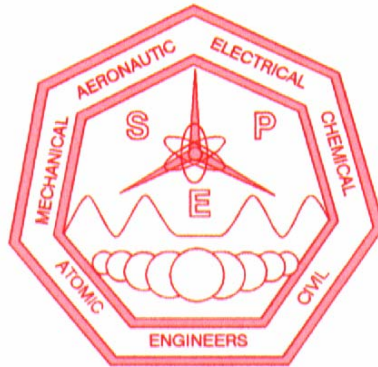


# THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



## PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING

## MEMBERSHIP GUIDE

A company limited by guarantee, No 966239, registered in England



# General Information About the Society

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## **A. Background to the formation of the Society**

The Society of Professional Engineers (a Company Limited by Guarantee No 966239, registered in England) was founded on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1969, by a number of Corporate Members of the Society of Engineers, the third oldest Engineering Body in the United Kingdom, having been established in 1854, to promote the interests of highly skilled engineers worldwide, in all the main branches of engineering.

The aim in setting up the new Society, was to combat what has been the besetting problem in the United Kingdom in this century, namely the lack of status accorded to the well trained, experienced professional engineer, in the absence of any legal protection given to the title "Engineer", which can be, and is used by any person whether trained, experienced or not, who decides to describe himself or herself as an "Engineer".

It was therefore decided to create and maintain a Register of Engineers who by their knowledge of the various aspects of the art of the Engineer and proven competence in their speciality, could be accurately described as Professional Engineers and who on Registration, could use the designations "P.Eng" or "P.Eng(UK)" as enshrined in the Memorandum & Articles of the Society approved by the Department of Trade & Industry, as well as being permitted to use an official Stamp giving names & registration numbers for use on drawings, calculations and letterheads.

In 1984, the Articles of Association were revised to enable The Society of Professional Engineers to become completely independent of the Society of Engineers.

In July 1990, the Society of Professional Engineers became a full Member Body of the International Union of Professional Engineers, who represent the interests of Professional Engineers Internationally and within the EEC.

In 2001, the Articles of Association were reviewed and updated, and approved by Companies House.

## **B. Aims & Objectives**

The main Aims & Objectives of the Society are as follows:

- (1) to establish and maintain a Register that embraces all suitably qualified professional Engineers of whatever discipline
- (2) to protect and enhance the status of the Professional Engineer and promote the concept of this title throughout the world by establishing, maintaining and strengthening close links with bodies in other countries which have similar Aims & Objectives
- (3) to establish and promote the highest professional standards without restriction to any particular engineering discipline

### **C. The Definition of the Professional Engineer**

The Society of Professional Engineers take the view that a "Professional" Engineer is a person of proven competence in his/her speciality in any branch of Engineering having a facility for deductive and logical thought, the ability to economically develop, adapt and assimilate new theories and techniques. The fulfilment of this competence based on the practical as well as academic skills, both of which may be obtained after the completion of the original formal technical education.

The Basis of the Membership Elections procedure is that candidates present evidence of their qualifications, training and experience. Each of these elements is given an appropriate weighting, which is then measured against the set standards of the Society.

With this procedure, it is possible to balance any original academic attainment against the candidates work experience and additional study at a professional level.

The Society has always contended that the acquisition of knowledge is of greater importance than the means of acquisition, and therefore is able to accept a variety of routes to membership, whether by way of Degree, Diploma or Certificate or through other approved studies.

Professional experience is taken to mean engineering employment at a 'decision making' level, extending beyond the purely technical expertise.

### **D. Designatory Letters**

Applicants admitted to the Register are entitled to use the designations "P.Eng" or "P.Eng(UK)" if qualified outside the United Kingdom.

Applicants not meeting the requirement of Directive 89/48/EEC may be awarded the designation A.P.Eng or A.P.Eng(UK).

### **E. Registerable Qualifications**

Candidates for election, whether from the United Kingdom, or from Overseas, must aggregate a total of 18 points from Section 2(A&B) & 3(AB&C) as set out on pages 3 & 4.

In addition to membership of the SPE, the European Community & Trade Relations Division of the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI), of the British Government, have indicated to the Society, that those Members whose qualifications and experience meet the requirements of Article 3(b) of the EEC Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (89/48/EEC), can have these elements assessed in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Directive, this information having also been conveyed by the DTI to the National Coordinators of Directive 89/48/EEC in every country of the European Economic Community.

Article 3(b) of Directive 89/48/EEC requires that Applicants must "show that the holder has successfully completed a post-secondary course of at least 3 years duration, or of an equivalent duration part-time at a University or Establishment of Higher Education or another establishment of similar level of a Member state, and, where appropriate, that he/she has successfully completed the professional training required in addition to the post-secondary course".

## **F. Requirements for Admission to Membership**

Full Admission to membership gives Members the right to describe themselves as Professional Engineers, and to use the designations "P.Eng" or "P.Eng(UK)".

*This sheet sets out the criteria that are adopted in considering applicants for election to the Society. Candidates are asked to self assess themselves on the basis of the points system, and return this sheet together with the membership application form.*

### **MEMBERSHIP ACCEPTANCE**

In order to be accepted for registration by The Society all applicants must aggregate a total of 18 points from sections 2(A&B) & 3(A,B&C) as set out below and on page 4.

#### **1) Entry Method**

The candidates is required to aggregate a total of 18 points from the schedule listed below, of which not more than 12 points may be from any one section.

Documentation will be required certifying the requirements of Sections 2A & 2B whilst references or other forms of verification will be required for Section 3.

Applicants Name.....

Address.....

.....

#### **2) Academic Qualifications (minimum 8 points – maximum 12 points)**

<b>A</b>	<b>BASIC QUALIFICATIONS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>	<b>Applicants to complete</b>	<b>Assessor to complete</b>
i	Master of Engineering	12		
ii	Honours Degree in Engineering (2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Minimum)	10		
iii	First Degree or Diploma in Engineering or approved Institute of Higher Education (including Open University)	8		
iv	Higher National Certificate or Diploma prior to 1968	8		
v	Direct Examinations of other Institutions, Societies & Associations as accredited by the appropriate State Body.	8		
vi	First Degree in engineering-related subjects eg mathematics, physics, computer science	6		
vii	BTEC or SCOTEC Higher National Diploma or GNQ/SNVQ Advanced Level	6		
viii	First Degree of Open University to include full credits in approved engineering or engineering-related subjects	5 to 8		
ix	BTEC or SCOTEC Higher National Certificate (engineering 5 pts)(building 4 pts)(Post 1968)	5/4		
<b>TOTALS</b>				

<b>B</b>	<b>SUPPLEMENTARY QUALIFICATIONS</b>		Applicants to complete	Assessor to complete
	(NB Qualifications included in Section 2A cannot be offered as supplementary qualifications)			
i	Approved Post Graduate Course in Engineering or Engineering related subjects (ie. Management, Finance, Geology)	2-6		
ii	Each Engineering Subject as an Endorsement above the final level of an Approved Degree or Higher National Diploma or Higher National Certificate prior to 1968	2		
iii	Each Engineering subject as an Endorsement above the final level of an Approved Degree or BTEC/SCOTEC Higher National Diploma prior to 1968.	2		
iv	Approved Diploma/Certificate in Engineering related subjects eg management, mathematics, physics, chemistry, geology, etc.	2		
v	Each Open University approved Engineering or Engineering-related subject, non-foundation with full credit.	2		
		TOTALS		

3) **Training and Experience** (minimum 8 points – maximum 12 points)

<b>A</b>	<b>TRAINING</b> (minimum 1 point – maximum 12 points)			
i	For each full year of structured, supervised Training	1		
ii	For each full year of other Practical Training (ie supervised junior position)	0.5		
<b>B</b>	<b>EXPERIENCE</b>			
i	For each year in approved Engineering Employment, excluding Employment allowed under 3A above.	1		
<b>C</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE</b> (MINIMUM 4 POINTS – MAXIMUM 8 POINTS)			
i	For each year, subject to a minimum of 4 years of employment or independent business in a professional engineering capacity, defined as having responsibilities in addition to the technical sphere, eg management, supervisory, commercial, or definitive decision making in an engineering speciality	1		
ii	For Continuing Professional Development (CPD) (The point will be awarded when 30 days of appropriate CPD can be claimed)	1		
		TOTALS		
		GRAND TOTAL OF SECTIONS 2(A&B), 3(A,B&C)		

**NB.** Where points are graduated, the number awarded will be at the sole discretion of the Membership Elections Committee as will the total number of points awarded to the applicant.

**4) Remarks**

(This section to be completed by the ASSESSORS)

## **G. Membership of, and/or Close Liaison with International and Other Organisations**

One of the main aims of the Society is to establish close liaison with other like minded bodies whether in the United Kingdom, the EEC or Internationally and to promote the concept of the "Professional Engineer"

This is an on-going process and may take the form of a "Twinning Agreement", or a more informal arrangement, but one that always involves exchanges of information and the ability of members of each organisation to apply for membership of the other.

Information on Reciprocal Membership Arrangements with other Professional Bodies can be found in the Society's publication "The Professional Engineer".

## **THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS** (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

### **G) Extracts from the Memorandum & Articles**

1. The Company's name is The Society of Professional Engineers (and on this document it is called "the Society")
2. The Society's registered office is situated in England and Wales
3. Definitions –  
Engineer: A person involved in the design, manufacture or use of machines structures or systems where the principal criteria are their ability to withstand, react to or use natural forces. Without prejudice to the generality of this definition, engineers are to be classified as the Council of the Society shall from time to time determine.  
Engineering: The practice of a person who is an engineer within the definition above  
Professionalism: Conduct in which the needs of the client in particular or the public in general must always take precedence over the engineer's commercial interests
4. The objects for which the Society is established are
  - (i) to promote high standards of expertise and professionalism in the practice of engineering, for the benefit of those members of the general public who have need to avail themselves of the services of engineers.
  - (ii) To promote the development of inventions and improvements in the practice of engineering and to disseminate information on matters affecting the practice of engineering so as to bring the results of research and considerations of good practice into the public domain.
  - (iii) To promote improvements in the law relating to matters of engineering practice so that members of the public may be better able to rely on the highest standards of advice and practice in those who purport to be professional engineers.

The full Memorandum and Articles are available for inspection by prior arrangement with the Secretary of the Society.