

Document no: 05-02
Version no: 3.0
Revised by: Judith Ward
Authorised by: Council, February 2018

Introduction

The IRSE seeks to promote for the public benefit the advancement of the science and practice of railway signalling and telecommunications, and to maintain high standards of practice and professional care amongst those working within the industry. The IRSE therefore recognises Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as an integral part of its mission and has adopted the recommendations of the UK Engineering Council CPD Policy Statement and Code for Registrants.

Definition

Continuing Professional Development is defined as the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of relevant knowledge and skills, and the development of personal qualities necessary for the execution of professional duties throughout working life.

Responsibility

Members have a professional responsibility to ensure they are competent and capable of carrying out their work and duties to the required standard. In addition, they must comply with the IRSE Code of Professional Conduct

CPD Requirements for IRSE members

IRSE members at all levels are expected to keep abreast of new developments in science and engineering, relevant to their field of professional activity, and to encourage those working under their supervision to do likewise.

The IRSE Council expects all members to honour their professional obligation to take all reasonable steps to maintain, develop, and record their CPD. This includes reflecting on it, evaluation against their objectives and regular review.

The IRSE Council does not mandate the amount of time which members take doing CPD. Members are expected to define their own requirements, through determining and monitoring their own professional engineering competence.

Candidates seeking transfer to a higher class of membership will be required to provide documented evidence of their CPD activities.

Licence Holders

Licence holders and potential licence holders are required to maintain and develop their professional competence as appropriate for their licence categories.

Monitoring of CPD for those members registered with the UK Engineering Council via IRSE

From January 2017 the IRSE will, on an annual basis, monitor a random sample of the previous year's CPD records of those members registered with the UK Engineering Council through the IRSE as EngTech, IEng or CEng.

Demonstrating Commitment to CPD

Commitment to CPD is shown through the maintenance of an up-to-date professional competence record, and working with a full understanding of the IRSE's Code of Professional Conduct. Demonstration of this is through appropriate written records or a recognised web-based system designed for the purpose.

Self Management

The prime responsibility for CPD rests with each member. However, the Institution recognises that effective CPD relies on a partnership between individuals, employers and the Institution. It is therefore recommended that CPD is planned and implemented in partnership with an employer, where appropriate.

Supporting the Learning and Development of Others

The IRSE Council expects members to support the learning and development of others by any reasonable means available to them.

Providing Opportunities for CPD

The IRSE provides opportunities for CPD through:

- The organisation of lectures, technical events and seminars. These are arranged both by the IRSE centrally and by its Sections at various locations worldwide;
- The provision of a Mentorship Scheme, to help members to develop their professional competence, achieve their learning objectives and enhance their non-technical skills through mentoring provided by more experienced members;
- IRSE publications and journals providing technical information on new and existing systems and practices;
- The IRSE Professional Examination is held annually, with study information available for members to use;
- The provision of papers, video recordings of meetings and other event details from IRSE website and IRSE library (held at IET London);
- Encouraging and supporting CPD activities by employers, aligned where practicable to company Personal and Professional Development programmes;
- The provision of CPD guidance for members at all level;
- The provision of Mycareerpath, an online professional development system, for members at all levels.

END