



## **Rules and Regulations for Entry to Grades of Membership**

### **GENERAL**

#### **Introduction**

These Rules and Regulations are enacted under the By-Laws of the Institute to detail the entry qualifications and requirements to the various grades of membership of the Institute as listed in those By-Laws. The rules for membership as described herein will be applied by the Membership Committee and Council of the Institute to all applications for determining the grade of membership of any particular applicant. The Articles of Association and By-Laws also contain the rules and regulations appertaining to the maintenance of membership and a copy of these are available on the Institute's website.

#### **Grades of Membership**

The grades of membership of the Institute form the core of recognition of the professional development of the Individual within the Institute. There are eight grades of membership within the Institute, both corporate (voting) and non-corporate, and these are:-

1. Life Fellow (corporate) with designatory letters FIFSM (Life)
2. Fellow (corporate) with designatory letters FIFSM
3. Member (corporate) with designatory letters MIFSM
4. Associate (corporate) with designatory letters AIFSM
5. Technician (corporate) with designatory letters TIFSM
6. Student (non-corporate) with designatory letters SIFSM
7. Honorary Member (corporate) with designatory letters Hon MIFSM
8. Affiliate Member (non-corporate), no designatory letters are attached to this grade.

*(Designatory letters can only be used whilst a member remains fully paid up and action will be taken by Council for any unauthorised use or abuse of these letters).*

#### **Academic Background**

The Institute will approve and accredit external providers of courses and examinations which are deemed to satisfy the academic criteria to the various grades.

The Institute may also, in the future, conduct its own courses and examinations and these will form one of a number of ways of meeting the required academic standards for the various grades of membership.

## **Professional Work Based Achievement**

Applicants for membership should be able to demonstrate that their work has a direct relationship with the objectives of the Institute and especially in the fields of management of fire safety, fire prevention, fire extinction and fire engineering in general.

## **Continuous Professional Development**

Applicants may also be required, if requested, to demonstrate that they have or are undertaking Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for a specific period and in accordance with any policy that the Institute may initiate in the future.

## **Suitability for any Grade of Membership**

The Institute will assess every applicant for his or her grade of membership based on a number of criteria but especially: -

1. The educational and academic qualifications relevant to the objectives of the Institute,
2. Vocational qualifications and training, and
3. Experience.

Any member seeking an upgrade between the grades should be able to show and demonstrate academic qualifications, vocational training and experience as expected for the grade of membership applied for. A non-refundable administration fee, details of which are on the form, is payable with the application for upgrade at the time of application. The Membership Upgrade form can be downloaded from the website.

## **Entry Requirements for Grades**

- 1) **Student.** Every person applying for the grade of Student shall satisfy Council that they are engaged in part time or full time fire safety management employment or are studying within the fields of fire safety and fire engineering.
- 2) **Technician.** Every person who wishes to apply or transfer into the grade of Technician shall satisfy Council that they meet the following requirements: -
  - a) Have at least two years of training and experience in relevant fields of fire safety management/engineering, and
  - b) Have academic or vocational achievements/qualifications or equivalents at a level to be determined by Council.
- 3) **Associate.** Every person who wishes to apply or transfer to the grade of Associate shall satisfy Council that they meet the following requirements: -
  - a) Have at least three years' experience in fire safety management or a related position, or
  - b) Have at least three years responsibility for fire prevention advice or fire safety in either an advisory or enforcement role, and

- c) Hold a recognised qualification at the level that Council feels appropriate, or
  - d) Have no formal qualifications necessary for the grade of Associate but apply through a Mature Candidate Route. Such an applicant will have to submit a detailed application of competency and achievement in fire safety management/fire engineering and show that this involvement has been for a sustained period to the satisfaction of Council.
- 4) **Member.** Every person who wishes to apply or transfer to the grade of Member shall satisfy Council that they meet the following requirements: -
- a) Hold relevant qualifications (e.g. the Advanced CFPA Diploma) at a level that Council feels appropriate, and
  - b) Have at least five years responsible experience in fire safety management/fire engineering, and
  - c) Demonstrate a proven track record of competency and training in the field of fire safety management/fire engineering, or
  - d) Have no formal qualifications necessary for the grade of Member but apply through a Mature Candidate Route. Such an applicant will have to submit a detailed application of competency, experience and achievement in fire safety management/fire engineering or speciality that they can prove is relevant to the aims and objectives of the Institute, and show that this involvement has been for a sustained period to the satisfaction of Council.

The new member will be issued with a certificate showing the grade of membership allocated. A member receiving an upgrade in membership grade will also receive a new certificate of membership showing the new grade.

Any member wishing to have a duplicate certificate of membership should contact the Institute's Administrative Assistant who will issue the duplicate certificate on receipt of an administrative fee. This fee will be determined from time to time by Council and be recorded in the Miscellaneous Finance Policy Document held by Council.

- 5) **Fellow.** Membership as a Fellow will only be in recognition of a substantive contribution made by a member of the Institute in furthering the aims and objects of the Institute or on being made a Vice President. Election to Fellow will only be carried out at an Annual General Meeting following a recommendation by Council.
- 6) **Life Fellow.** This is the highest grade of membership of the Institute. Anyone nominated to be elected to Life Fellow will have served and represented the Institute at the highest level on many occasions over the years and will also have made a significant contribution to the recognition of the Institute at both national and international level. Life Fellows shall not normally be under the age of 60 years. There will be no limit to the number of Life Fellows and the grade of Life Fellow will carry all the same rights and privileges as that of the grade of Fellow. Election to Life Fellow will be by recommendation of Council to the membership at an Annual General Meeting.
- 7) **Honorary Member.** This may be given to someone who may not have the necessary entry qualifications to satisfy the entry into a corporate grade of membership but it is given in recognition of a substantive contribution made by an individual to the Institute. Proposals should be sent to the Secretary General. Council will ratify before recommending to the Annual General Meeting for election to the grade.

- 8) **Affiliate Member.** This is a grade that carries no post nominals and is meant for businesses or companies who wish to be associated with the Institute. It will be expected that an Affiliate Member will have at least one corporate member of the Institute within the organisation that is applying for the grade. The Affiliate member will have the right to use the Institute's Affiliate Member logo on their paperwork etc.

## **Individual Case Procedure**

The Institute may consider applications from a person who may not satisfy the membership criteria in any particular grade applied for but who may satisfy Council that they have academic qualifications of an appropriate standard and relevance to the applicant's involvement in fire safety management/fire engineering. The applicant will also have to demonstrate relevant experience and training as well as involvement in fire safety management/fire engineering. There will not be a formal list of qualifications that are acceptable, rather the applicant will have to qualify the relevance of qualifications held to current vocation or profession.

## **Mature Candidate Route**

The Mature Candidate Route (MCR) provides a means of entering a membership grade at the appropriate level. An applicant for the MCR must provide a full application form containing all qualifications held, experience and training undertaken. The applicant will also have to satisfy Council, either by submission of a technical paper or detailed evidence of achievement and competency that he/she is of a standard that is appropriate for the grade of membership applied for.

## **Retired Members**

On notification of the Institute's Membership Secretary, retired members (defined as those members in any grade that have ceased to be commercially active) will be invited to pay a final payment, equivalent to the annual subscription applicable at the time of invitation, following which they will continue to enjoy all the benefits of membership.

Should a retired member take up employment or become commercially active again they should inform the Membership Secretary and restart membership in the grade that was held before retirement.

## **Administration**

All applications will be processed as quickly as possible via the Membership Committee and Council should be informed of the list of current applicants and recommendations of the Membership Committee in each case.

In certain circumstances, referees nominated by an applicant may be contacted where it is necessary to confirm or discuss any information an applicant has given in support of their application.

Once an application has been processed and a membership grade has been allocated, the Institute's Administrative Assistant will keep the application form and supporting documentation provided for a period of 6 months before deleting it.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Elected Officials and Council**

If, in the opinion of Council, any Elected Official or member of Council is deemed to have acted in a dishonourable or unprofessional manner such as which may affect the interests of the Institute, they may be required to resign or be removed from their post with immediate effect as Council may determine.

Any proposal that an Official shall be required to resign or be removed from post shall be made at a Council meeting. Where possible, a maximum of 21 days' notice and not less than seven days' notice shall be given to Council and to the member concerned stating the proposal to be considered at the meeting. In order to validate such a proposal a quorum of Council must be present. The vote of Council will require a majority decision. The member shall be given an opportunity of submitting a statement in writing regarding their defence.

The Institute may also, by extraordinary resolution, remove any Council member from office. If an elected Council member is so removed, then Council may appoint another person to fill the vacancy.

### **Membership - Requirement to Resign**

If, in the opinion of Council, any Life Fellow, Fellow, Honorary Fellow, Member, Associate, Technician or Student is guilty of dishonourable or unprofessional conduct or of conduct prejudicially affecting the interests of the Institute, they may be required to resign their membership or have their name struck off the membership roll, or, if deemed appropriate, be suspended from membership for any period not exceeding two years, as Council may determine. Council may determine this directly or refer the matter via an Ethics Committee set up under the Institute's Code of Ethics and Discipline

Any proposal that a member shall be suspended from membership or be required to resign their membership or have their name struck off the membership roll shall be made at a Council meeting. Where possible, a maximum of 21 days' notice and not less than seven days' notice shall be given to Council and to the member concerned stating the proposal to be considered at the meeting.

No member shall be suspended or required to resign his membership or expelled by having their name struck off the membership roll except by a resolution passed by a meeting of Council at which a quorum must be present. The vote at the meeting of Council will require a majority decision. The member shall be given an opportunity of submitting a statement in writing regarding their defence.

If any member who, in pursuance of the foregoing provisions, is called upon to resign their membership fails to do so within seven days from the date of the requirement, Council shall strike their name off the membership roll.

When a member's name is struck off the membership roll they shall, thereupon, cease to be a member of the Institute and to have any rights as a member.