

GUIDANCE ON EQUIVALENTS TO THE IRSE EXAMINATION

Clause 2 of the Bye-Laws requires that applicants for the class of Member via sub-clauses 2.6.1, 2.6.2 and 2.6.3 shall *"have passed the Institution's examination or such other equivalent qualification or experience as the Council shall accept"*.

Applicants wishing to offer an equivalent to the IRSE Examination must make an individual case to the IRSE for consideration, on the basis of one (or more) of the following arguments:

- The applicant has a similar tested qualification from another body. This could be:
 - § A qualification from LUL or an overseas railway administration.
 - § Pass certificates from examinations at the completion of one or more broad-based railway signalling or railway telecommunications engineering training courses approved by the IRSE. A view would need to be taken on the value of courses of a more specialist nature.
 - § An academic qualification to degree level in railway signalling or railway telecommunications engineering from a recognised UK or overseas university or training college.
- The applicant has demonstrated depth of knowledge across a sufficient breadth of railway signalling or railway telecommunications engineering by means of either:
 - § A Technical Report covering an agreed scope, and assessed by the IRSE. This is equivalent to an Engineering Council (UK) route for CEng, but it is recognised as being very onerous for the applicant, and this will inevitably limit numbers applying via this route.
 - § At least three learned technical papers, patents, etc. on railway signalling or railway telecommunications engineering subjects in the past five years, demonstrating personal competence across a broad range of signalling or telecommunications activities. The applicant must demonstrate that these papers are their own work, and the Sponsors must verify this.
- The applicant has substantial responsible experience in railway signalling or railway telecommunications engineering. This is interpreted as having a degree-level qualification in a related engineering discipline (e.g. RAMS, hardware or software product engineering, system engineering, system integration, testing, verification and validation) that has been used substantially to the furtherance of railway signalling or railway telecommunications engineering at Senior Responsible level for at least seven years (cumulative) during their career (giving an acquired breadth of knowledge of the whole discipline).

Any offered equivalent to the examination in the form of alternative qualifications, theses or learned papers would be subject to a professional review by a panel familiar with the standards of the IRSE examination. If substantial Responsible Experience is offered as an equivalent, the panel would assess the applicant's competence, i.e. the acquisition of knowledge, the application of that knowledge, and (importantly) the professional attitude of the applicant. The interview would include inspection of an Engineer's Log Book for evidence of appropriate experience over a significant period.

These alternatives to the IRSE Examination are illustrated as follows:

