

Mandatory Reporting of Continuing Professional Development (CPD)



Introduction

CPD is becoming progressively more important globally and within an ever-growing number of professions. Structural engineering is no different. The highly competitive nature of the industry means that it is of fundamental importance for structural engineers to maintain and develop their skills and abilities in order to advance their careers.

Clients and employers increasingly expect engineers to undertake appropriate CPD on an ongoing basis, and, although support may be offered by your employer, the onus for development remains on the individual as the primary interface between the industry and the general public. Working within such a high profile industry, and especially one so closely concerned with health, safety and risk on a variety of levels, places a number of obligations on members of this Institution; not least amongst these is the duty to maintain and extend their knowledge, expertise and experience.

The Institution's CPD Policy

The Institution defines CPD as "the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skills and the development of personal qualities necessary for the execution of professional and technical duties throughout the practitioner's working life". Attaining a professional qualification is not the end of the road, merely one stage in the process of lifelong learning. Structural engineers need to change and develop in order to remain competitive in an evolving industry.

To further this ethos the Council of the Institution, at its meeting on 23 May 1996, approved the introduction of an additional Rule of Conduct to clarify members' obligations to the profession in respect of CPD: members of the Institution shall have a duty to update and broaden their professional knowledge and skills on a continuing basis. The current code of conduct reinforces this requirement and states that members shall "maintain and broaden their competence, and assist others to do so."

It is the Institution's intention to ensure that its members remain at the forefront in maintaining and developing their professional competence for their own benefit and for that of society. Members should also assist in furthering the formation and professional development of other members and prospective members of the profession.

The Benefits of CPD

Benefits to the individual

- Maintaining and improving knowledge and abilities will lead to enhanced work performance and confidence.
- Career prospects will be widened and improved.
- CPD focuses the individual's career development, allowing for specific targeting of activities.
- Individuals will be able to more readily react and adapt to a changing profession and world.
- CPD records and annual returns demonstrate a commitment to the profession and continued competence.

- In an increasingly litigious world, it makes obvious sense to take precautions against possible legal action. It is not beyond the realms of possibility to imagine an enterprising lawyer in a courtroom capitalising on the lack of CPD approval in order to undermine or cast doubt on an individual's professionalism. An easy way to potentially mitigate against this eventuality is simply to ensure that your CPD record is approved.
- Although graduates are not requested to submit details of their CPD activities, they are required to demonstrate a commitment to CPD during their Professional Review Interview and need to gain the support and signature of a Fellow for their application to Chartered or Associate-Membership – this can be easily achieved by attendance at local evening meetings and seminars.
- CPD records are required when transferring to the grade of Fellow.
- Up-to-date CPD records are normally required when applying to join other professional organisations and in jurisdictions where professional registration is required in order to practice.

Benefits to the employer

- Better skilled and more efficient workforce.
- More adaptable staff.
- Employers who support CPD can expect greater staff retention and motivation.
- There may be a potential impact, through non-submission of CPD, on P.I. Insurance and liability under CDM regulations.

CPD Activities

The current CPD Return Form which has been in place for many years, and the newly developed Activities Record which will be available from 2011, are split into four sections. Members should complete all applicable sections but should not feel compelled to enter information into an area where they have no activities to report.

It should be noted that **CPD is not just about attending courses** – there are many ways of undertaking CPD. These include (but are in no way restricted to):

1. Work-based learning:

- teaching/mentoring of members and prospective members
- project specific research
- IT skills development

2. Self-directed study:

- preparation and delivery of lectures
- preparation of articles and refereed papers
- reading of journals/technical papers
- post-graduate study

3. Courses/events/seminars:

- Institution
- in-house
- external (for example, supplier-led seminars)
- attendance at lectures, seminars or conferences

4. Horizon broadening activities:

- Institution work (e.g. branch/division/group and Institution committees, informal study groups, Professional Review Interviewer, examiner, etc)
- community and public service involvement (e.g. school governor, business and community involvement, etc).
- appropriate TV programmes

Completing the CPD Return Form

The Institution will accept forms from other organisations

This means that if you have already completed a return for another institution (for example, ICE, HKIE, EngineersAustralia, IPENZ), or prepared a professional development forward plan/record for your employer or personal use, you can simply submit a copy of that document to the Institution as it is the content that is important not the type of form. This is also the case where you are required to submit a return as part of the legal requirements of practising in your locality. Consequently there is no need to copy and paste information from one form to another. The only thing we would ask is that you ensure that the following are included:

- your name
- branch/division/group
- membership number
- number of hours spent on each activity
- benefits gained from each activity

Give details wherever possible (including dates)

As far as possible members should avoid using vague, unsubstantiated terms. Although those Professional Development Panel members reviewing the forms are not asking for reams of information, they will want to understand what CPD has been undertaken and gain a 'flavour' of the development of the individual. Terms such as 'various seminars', 'research related to numerous projects' and so forth would not be considered acceptable. This is not to say that the necessary CPD remains unfulfilled, merely that, as the details have not been included, it cannot be appropriately gauged. Hence, wherever possible, the member should indicate what the seminar was about, or what research was undertaken and the benefits gained. Again, this does not require an exhaustive description, one simple line stating the title of the course or the name of the paper read, etc, plus the development gained will usually be sufficient.

Do not simply list work responsibilities – ensure that the learning you have undertaken is clearly stated. Similarly, it is not enough to give details of projects worked on, unless they also state how the member has undertaken research/learning related to those projects and what developmental benefits were gained.

The online facility

If members are having trouble remembering the CPD they have done during the year, they may well find the online facility very useful. Accessed via the 'My Area' section, this web-based resource allows members to enter details onto an electronic version of the CPD Return Form at any point during the year and save the information for future reference. This means that, come submission time, members will only need to update the form – if necessary – and click the 'submit' button. In addition, and at the request of several members, we have introduced the ability to archive the online CPD Return Forms. This will automatically occur when a member submits an online CPD Return Form, and this archived Form will remain accessible to the member should they wish to see a previously submitted version. Please note that as the online facility is contained within the secure 'My Area' section it is only possible to view and amend your own details.

The introduction of mandatory reporting of CPD activities

The main elements of the new scheme are:

- An annual requirement to declare a commitment to the Institution's CPD policy. The Institution believes that the simplest way for members to declare their commitment is via a short statement on the Subscriptions Notice. This declares that upon paying your subscription you have satisfied your CPD obligation and will undertake at least 90 hours of relevant CPD activities over a three year period. A minimum of 30 hours CPD will be expected each year.
- The four current categories of CPD will remain, namely:
 - work-based learning;
 - self-directed study;
 - courses/events/seminars;
 - horizon broadening.
- This will apply to all Technicians, Associate-Members, Associates, Chartered members and Fellows who are engaged in engineering.
- If you are RETIRED or NOT PRACTISING AS AN ENGINEER the scheme will not apply to you and you will not be expected to undertake CPD.
- Should any member be unable to attain 30 hours CPD in a year, mitigating circumstances will be taken into account (e.g. long-term illness, maternity leave, career break, etc).

Why has the Institution made the reporting of CPD compulsory?

1. Many well-respected professions already have mandatory reporting of CPD, e.g. lawyers, medical practitioners, etc, and there is a growing awareness of CPD, its relevance and importance amongst the public;
2. Increasing numbers of engineering organisations throughout the world are moving towards compulsory reporting of CPD often directly related to practise licences – if they are not there already. This Institution is therefore out of step with other professions and similar institutions/organisations;
3. The Institution must maintain its international position as the pre-eminent global body for structural engineering;

4. With the advent of the Structural Engineers Register (SER) in Scotland and the proposal to introduce similar schemes in England and Wales over the coming years, it is clear that progression to mandatory reporting of CPD will become inevitable across the UK and the Institution should be at the forefront of any such proposal, not following the edicts of any other organisations/bodies.

CPD hours per year

Individuals are expected to undertake at least 30 hours of CPD per year. As this scheme operates on a rolling basis over three years, it is possible to have a year where less CPD activities occur and for this shortfall to be overcome in subsequent years. However, this should only occur in exceptional situations and reason(s) for the shortfall must be indicated on the Activities Record.

It is the Institution's view that all engineers should easily be able to attain 30 hours of CPD per year.

Non-technical CPD

Those who have moved away from the more technical aspects of engineering must nonetheless submit CPD details. If the CPD activities are not of a technical nature, then the member should state their current position so that when their CPD is assessed it is clear why activities fall under non-technical headings.

Health and Safety

It is recommended that individuals should be aiming to gain at least 6 hours of health and safety CPD each year. This reflects the ever increasing importance placed on health and safety by our industry and was prompted by the Health and Safety Panel and SiD (Safety in Design). Although the Institution strongly supports this emphasis on health and safety it should be noted that this is a recommendation and not an absolute requirement.

Mitigating circumstances

Examples where a smaller quantity of CPD may be acceptable include career breaks; pregnancy or caring for young children; or illness. There may be other situations that would provide valid reasons for a lower amount of CPD being reported – these can be detailed in the appropriate section of the Activities Record. However, not every reason for failing to report or accrue sufficient CPD will be valid. Lack of time, for instance, would not be considered an appropriate explanation; neither would stating that there are no courses in the local area or that one's employer refuses to pay for courses.

Acceptance of other organisations' CPD requirements

Some organisations have CPD programmes which are broadly in line with this Institution's policies and members of those bodies who have satisfied the CPD obligations within that organisation are not therefore required to submit CPD details; the relevant organisations are given in the table below.

Joint members must however either submit written confirmation stating:

I hereby certify that I am professionally registered with {insert name of relevant organisation} and have satisfied their requirements for Continuing Professional Development.

Or an official notification from their 'host' organisation comprising a list of compliant members must be received by the Professional Development Officer.

Arrangements with other bodies whose CPD schemes are recognised by this Institution

Country (host organisation):	No of CPD Hours	Consequence of non-compliance in country
Singapore (PEB)	Total 40 (20 each from structured and unstructured courses).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No Professional Engineer is allowed to provide professional services without a valid Practising Certificate for the year (e.g. 2011). 2. A Practising Certificate is issued for the year (e.g. 2011) to Registered Professional Engineers, provided a return is made satisfying the minimum number of PDUs (Professional Development Units) in the preceding year (e.g. 2010). <p>A member of this Institution, who is also a registered Professional Engineer, qualifies for the Institution's CPD notation once the return is verified by the Singapore Division Co-ordinator and confirmed/accepted at HQ.</p>
Canada (APEGBC)	90 hours over three years.	<p>Revocation of the StructEng designation will be considered if CPD levels are low for three consecutive years. An interview with a member of the Structural Qualifications Board will be held with the StructEng member, to determine if there are extenuating circumstances that justify continuing the member's StructEng designation for another year.</p> <p>StructEng failing to submit reports, submitting fraudulent reports, or failing to correct deficiencies as directed, will not be entitled to maintain their Struct.Eng designation beyond the date determined by the Association.</p> <p>Audits may be conducted at random; or as the result of focus on specific practice areas; or following a complaint, practice review, or investigation.</p>
Hong Kong (HKIE)	30 hours per year; 1% random sample.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Warning letters sent in first and second years of non-compliance. CPD committee follow up asking for reasons for non-compliance; 2. Failure to comply in third year results in member being invited to an interview with CPD committee representative(s); 3. Failure to comply for fourth year will result in those members having their names published in Hong Kong Engineer.
Australia (EA)	<p>150 hours over three years.</p> <p>Normally audited not less frequently than every five years</p>	Failure to comply means the member cannot register with the National Professional Engineers Register (NPER).

Barbados (BAPE)	Five CPD activities where a minimum of three of them must be technical activities based on a three year moving total. Therefore a shortfall in any year can be made up in the following years, and any extra activities can be carried forward for up to two years. The three-year total must not be less than 15 activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate members must complete the minimum CPD requirements to transfer to Corporate membership. • Corporate members who fail to meet the minimum CPD requirements will be invited to an interview with the CPD sub-committee and an interim arrangement will be designed specifically for that member. Interim arrangements will be designed on a case by case basis. • Corporate members who blatantly reject the CPD program will be recommended to the Engineers Registration Board for de-registration.
South Africa (ECSA)	<p>25 credits over five years (minimum of three per year).</p> <p>Credits are weighted according to activity with some activities gaining more credits than others.</p> <p>Renewal of ECSA (Engineering Council of South Africa) registration every five years.</p>	If a member does not comply they cannot renew their registration with ECSA.
Scotland (SER)	20 hours technical CPD directly relevant to their certification activities each year..	<p>Failure to submit an approved CPD return may result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification that CPD is inadequate and that failure to rectify the situation by the next year could lead to suspension from membership. • Non-approval of the submission with a recommendation that the Certifier is suspended from membership for a recommended period which shall not be less than 12 months.

If you believe that your organisation meets this Institution's CPD requirements, please contact the Professional Development Officer who will investigate accordingly.

How mandatory reporting of CPD will be introduced

- All members who pay their subscriptions for 2011 onwards are deemed to have confirmed that they have satisfied their CPD obligation.
- Those members elected to a professional grade (Technician, Associate-Member, Associate, Chartered member, Fellow) from 1 January 2011 will be expected to comply with the new requirements, i.e. to submit, on request, the Activities Records or similar documents covering the previous three years. Such auditing will take place in 2012. An example of the Activities Record is included at the end of this document.
- The Professional Development Panel will continue to review CPD records submitted voluntarily and would encourage members to continue to submit on an annual basis. Those who submit approved CPD yearly will not be subject to auditing as they will already be compliant having had their records reviewed and approved.
- Random auditing of all members of the Institution will commence in 2012.

Consequences of non-compliance

For members elected after 1 January 2011, non-compliance will result in them being reported to the Professional Conduct Committee for breach of the Institution's regulations.

However, in such cases members will be given the opportunity to explain why they have been unable to comply with the CPD policy. It is only where a member does not respond at all or provides inappropriate reasons, e.g. insufficient time, too expensive to attend courses, refusal to comply on misguided principle, etc, that they will be reported to the Professional Conduct Committee.

Members who were elected prior to 1 January 2011 will be encouraged to submit and assisted in doing so. Should a member fail to submit a return upon request this information will be recorded on their records and made available to the public through the members' directory.

Mandatory reporting of CPD: FAQs

1. Who will the scheme apply to?

Applies to practising, non-retired engineers from all the professional grades of membership:

- Technician
- Associate-Member
- Chartered
- Associate
- Fellow

The Institution would be happy to accept CPD submissions from Graduate or Student members who wish to provide CPD information in anticipation of doing so mandatorily in the future.

The scheme will NOT apply to retired members or those not practising as an engineer.

2. What's the expected timeline for the introduction of the scheme?

- Current voluntary system remains in place throughout 2011 for members elected prior to 1 January 2011.
- Audit of all new members elected from 1 January 2011 to be conducted in 2012. Newly elected members will be expected to submit their Activities Records, or similar documents, to the Professional Development Panel for approval.
- 2012 - the first audit of the entire membership will take place and randomly selected members will be contacted to submit the Activities Records.

3. How many hours of CPD am I expected to complete each year?

30 hours per year is the expectation. However, in designing this scheme the Institution has recognised that some members may have periods where they need not undertake their normal level of CPD. The proposal is therefore 90 hours over a period of three years.

4. 30 hours per year? That's an awful lot of courses to attend – how can I possibly afford the time or the expense?

It is a surprisingly common misconception that CPD = courses. This is very far from the case. The Institution has acknowledged that CPD can be accrued in a myriad of different ways which can include, but is not restricted to:

- teaching/mentoring of members and prospective members
- attendance at branch/division/group events
- viewing an increasing range of Institution webinars that can be downloaded from the website
- project specific research
- IT skills development
- preparation and delivery of lectures
- preparation of articles and refereed papers
- reading of journals/technical papers
- post-graduate study
- appropriate TV programmes

5. OK – so I don't have to attend dozens of courses each year, but what if I am severely ill or decide to take a career break?

If there is a valid reason why you cannot gain 30 hours of CPD in a given year – or you do not manage to gain 90 hours over three years – this will be taken into account during assessment. Examples of valid mitigating circumstances would be:

- career breaks
- long-term illness
- maternity/paternity leave

There may be other situations that would provide valid reasons for a lower amount of CPD being reported – these can be detailed in the appropriate section of the Activities Record. However, not every reason for failing to report or accrue sufficient CPD will be valid.

6. What will we be expected to submit each year?

Simply paying your subscriptions means you are stating that you have satisfied your CPD obligation. However, the Professional Development Panel encourages members to submit their Activities Record on an annual basis as those who submit approved CPD each year will not be subject to auditing as they will already be compliant having had their records reviewed and approved.

7. And if I am selected for audit?

You would need to submit the Activities Records, preferably for the previous three years. However as this scheme is implemented, the Institution recognises that not all members will have Activities Records (or the equivalent) for a three year period. In such cases members will be required to submit records from the 2010 year onwards.

8. I am member of a number of professional institutions, some of which already have a mandatory reporting scheme. Do I have to submit information to this Institution as well?

Not necessarily. The Institution has entered into agreements with a number of other organisations with regard to CPD requirements which allows those who have joint membership to submit via a simplified procedure. If you are a member of the following:

- SAICE (whose members are registered with ECSA) – South Africa
- PEB – Singapore
- EngineersAustralia
- APEGBC – Canada, British Columbia
- BAPE – Barbados
- HKIE – Hong Kong

and comply with their CPD requirements you need only state on your Activities Record: “I hereby certify that I am professionally registered with {insert name of relevant organisation} and have satisfied their requirements for Continuing Professional Development.”

However, if you are selected for audit you will need to submit your records from whichever organisation to this Institution.

If you are a member of an organisation whose CPD requirements are similar to this Institution but not included on this list please contact the Professional Development Officer at the Institution who will investigate whether they can be included.

You may if you wish submit your CPD information in a different format to the Activities Record but you must ensure that the necessary information is included, namely details of the activities, the benefits gained and the number of hours per CPD activity.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact:

Allan Brereton
Professional Development Officer
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Please note that the following is an example only and is included to better espouse the Institution's philosophy as to how the Activities Record should be completed.

In this example, the number of hours have not been stipulated as the Institution does not wish to provide examples which may be seen as indicative of the amount of time a particular activity should take; it is very much up to the individual member to assess the number of hours spent on an activity and this information must be included against all activities.

The benefits gained from each activity have been included as it is recognised that some members may have difficulty in understanding what is expected of them in this regard and some guidance may therefore be necessary.

Continuing Professional Development: Activity Record

Name:	Membership No:
Year:2010 (Jan - Dec):	Job description/Role: (Please include organisation type, e.g. sole practitioner, partner, etc)
Branch:	

I am a member of an organisation whose CPD system is recognised by the Institution (please provide details below)

Name of organisation:
Please ensure you sign the declaration at the end of this Activity Record

Note: You must gain at least 90 hours CPD over three years. If you have been unable to attain the required number of CPD hours please detail the reasons why below:

YOU MUST INCLUDE THE NUMBER OF HOURS SPENT ON EACH ACTIVITY

Please retain a copy for your own records.

CPD Categories:	Description of Activities (please describe your DEVELOPMENT, not just your job):	Benefits Gained	Hours
1. Work-based learning e.g. mentoring, project related research, development of organisational skills/IT, etc	Training Officer for East Lancs office – ongoing	Keeps me abreast of new developments in industry, especially related to bridge construction	
	Discussions with colleagues/literature investigations regarding: – bridge and culvert inspection	Ensuring H&S of inspection staff and ensuring risk assessments are completed correctly	
	– fire engineering	Produced economical design of composite floor	
	– resin injection techniques to deal with subsidence	Developed resin injection knowledge and competence	
	Mentoring two graduates aiming for Chartered status	Developed knowledge of IPD system and helped keep up to date with new technical processes	
	Sub-total for Work-based learning		
2. Self-directed study e.g. journals/technical publications, distance-learning, post-grad study, etc	<i>Suitability testing of materials to absorb lateral stresses behind integral bridge abutments.</i> CARDER, D. R. and others, 2002	Developed knowledge of materials in relation to lateral stress	
	Professionally qualified CSCS card	Better appreciation of site safety and risks	

	<i>The Structural Engineer</i> , 19th May 2009: <i>Effectiveness of punching shear reinforcement to EN 1992-1-1:2004</i>	Increased understanding of contribution of upper bound section shear resistance	
	<i>The Structural Engineer</i> , 16th June 2009: <i>Challenges of post-tensioning in Dubai – a designer's perspective</i>	Raised awareness of construction situation in Dubai generally and post-tensioning specifically	
	Sub-total for Self-directed study		

3. Course/events/seminars including institution, internal, external, etc	Seminar on displacement piles and precast foundation schemes (local Branch – 08/02/09)	Improved understanding of available techniques and outline costs. Also health and safety aspects of each	
	ICE/StructE/SCOSS meeting 'The unexamined role of the manager in failure' by Richard Williams (held at ICE – 25/06/09)	Enlightening talk on the potential culpability of the project manager	
	The robustness of multi-storey buildings in fire (local Branch – 17/07/09)	Interesting and surprising presentation on robustness/fire issues	
	HILTI seminar - the use of small embedment fixings into cracked concrete (supplier-led, at workplace – 12/10/09)	Increased knowledge of use of embedment fixings	
	Latest Developments in Post-tensioned Flat Slab Design and Construction (Concrete Centre – 29/09/09)	Updated knowledge on post-tensioning	
	Sub-total for Courses/events/seminars		

4. Horizon - broadening activities appropriate TV programmes, institution work, community/public service involvement, etc	Watched selected episodes of 'Mega Structures'	Broadened awareness of significant structural engineering projects	
	Documentary on Leading Engineers of 20th Century	Broadening knowledge of significant engineers and their work and contribution to the art and science of structural engineering	
	School Governor	Developed knowledge in relation to Finance Committee	
	Trustee of a local charity assisting with the care of terminally ill children	No great professional development gained; it is good for the soul though	
		Sub-total for Courses/events/seminars	
	Total CPD hours for all categories for the year		

Please ensure that you retain any evidence of CPD activities (where possible) as these may be requested during audit.

I declare that I will undertake appropriate CPD over the coming 12 months. Potential CPD activities may include: Similar in nature to the activities listed above. Specific activities will of course be dictated by projects, but I do aim to attend more Institution events and meetings during 2010.	
Signature:	Date:



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