

Engineering Assessment and Registration – with IWater



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The contribution of engineering to the systems and processes that deliver water services both in the UK and worldwide is too often unrecognised and undervalued. The need to develop new and innovative ways of maintaining and improving a complex and ageing set of assets will challenge the brightest minds. To ensure that society's needs are met, it is vital that the UK continues to employ highly skilled and professionally qualified engineers. Registration provides a benchmark for employers and the public, providing trust and confidence in the competence of registrants.

Individuals aspiring to be recognised as professional engineers and engineering technicians need independent assessment of their competence. **The Institute of Water (IWater)** is licensed by the Engineering Council to register individuals as an Engineering Technician (EngTech), Incorporated Engineer (IEng) or Chartered Engineer (CEng). It does this by assessing competence against the UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence which is used across the engineering profession.

The assessment is undertaken by peer review and registration is relevant and available to those setting out on their career as well as those whose reputation and experience is more secure. Achievement of registration in each category is valuable recognition in its own right and the skills of all three categories are needed within an engineering team. Life-long learning and career development may also enable individuals to progress within the registration structure, from Engineering Technician to Incorporated Engineer and from Incorporated Engineer to Chartered Engineer. Evidence of competence is the key requirement for progression and normally there will be a need for additional education and training to enable progress.

Today's engineering professionals demonstrate a personal and professional commitment to society, to their profession, and to the environment. This is reflected in the standard for all three registration categories.

What are the categories?

Found in many parts of the industry, **Engineering Technicians** play a crucial role in the development, production, operation and maintenance of all kinds of equipment, vehicles, products, plant and processes. Their skills, experience and understanding of engineering principles allow them to take everyday problems in their stride, keeping costs down and performance on track.

IWater has recently introduced a simplified process for such people in the water industry which allows them to become registered without the need for a formal interview. In particular some standard industry qualifications have been matched to the EngTech competencies such that registration can be a straightforward process. If you are an operative developing your skills and experience in an engineering environment then you may well be on the right track to gaining professional registration at Engineering Technician level.

Incorporated Engineers maintain and manage applications of current and developing technology and may undertake engineering design, development, manufacture, construction and operation. Incorporated Engineers are variously engaged in technical and commercial management. Despite being the professional level at which many practising engineers work, Incorporated Engineer (IEng) is currently under-represented on the Engineering Council register. It is believed that many practising water engineers could have the relevant standards of knowledge and competence to be eligible for IEng but are possibly unaware of this.

Chartered Engineers are characterised by their ability to develop appropriate solutions to engineering problems, using new or existing technologies, through innovation, creativity and change. They might develop and apply new technologies, promote advanced designs and design methods, introduce new and more efficient production techniques, marketing and construction concepts, or pioneer new engineering services and management methods. Chartered Engineers are variously engaged in technical and commercial leadership and normally possess qualifications equivalent to a Masters degree.

Why Register?

Engineering Registration is an additional opportunity to gain professional recognition in your industry, improving your prospects, earning power and influence. Registration is also beneficial to members employed outside the UK as it is recognised internationally.

Registration links engineers and technicians into a professional Institute which provides professional development opportunities and guidance. IWater publishes a quarterly Journal, free to its members, with topical articles and information about the Institute's activities. Area events and the Annual Conference provide opportunities for continuing professional development and networking with those with similar professional interests. The Institute is well known for providing a non - hierarchical environment where people mix freely, whatever their level or seniority in their own organisation.

Employers of registered engineering professionals have the assurance of knowing that their employees have had their competence assessed, their credentials verified, and their commitment to continuing professional development established.

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