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| **This guidance is aimed at those looking to become professional members of the Institute via the EU Directive Route to Membership.** |

TheEuropean Directive 2005/36/EC concerns the recognition of professional qualifications across the European Union (EU). The Nuclear Institute is the UK competent authority for the implementation of this Directive for the profession of nuclear engineering. This route is intended for EU nuclear engineers seeking recognition in order to work in the UK. This route exempts professionally qualified engineers, within the EU, following the NI’s standard qualification process to achieve NI Membership. The resulting NI professional qualification cannot subsequently be used to gain recognition with another engineering body outside the UK, as it will have been granted on the basis of equivalence of the holder’s original qualification.

1. Persons having acquired their professional qualifications in a Member State must have access to the same profession and be able to pursue it in another Member State with the same rights as nationals. Any host Member State in which a profession is regulated must take account of the qualifications obtained in another Member State and assess whether they correspond to those which it requires.
2. The profession of nuclear engineer is unregulated in the UK. However, nuclear engineers qualified as **Chartered Engineer, Incorporated Engineer or Engineering Technician** are considered to hold a regulated professional title. Therefore, a qualified nuclear engineer who meets the eligibility requirements may choose to apply to the NI under the Directive for the equivalent regulated professional title in the UK.
3. For the purposes of this guidance, the host Member State is the UK and the competent authority is the NI. The home Member State is the country in which the applicant is legally established to practise as a nuclear engineer.
   * If the profession of nuclear engineer is regulated in the home Member State, they must be registered with the relevant professional title and have the right to practise that profession in the home Member State, ie they must not be prohibited from practising there at the time of making an application to the host Member State.

* If the profession of nuclear engineer is unregulated in the home Member State, they must possess formal qualifications which enable them to practise as a nuclear engineer there and they must have pursued the profession of nuclear engineer on a full-time basis for at least 1 out of the last 10 years in the home Member State.

1. The Directive **does not guarantee automatic recognition** in the host Member State, as there may be a difference between the formal qualifications and professional experience of the applicant and those required for registration with the relevant competent authority. The competent authority is entitled to ensure that the applicant’s formal qualifications (academic and professional) satisfy its own standards and criteria for registration.
2. The level of regulated professional title for which the applicant is eligible is determined by the level of their formal qualifications. These are defined by article 11 of the Directive: 11 (c) is equivalent to EngTech, 11(d) is equivalent to IEng and 11(e) is equivalent to CEng. Where the equivalence is unclear, the level of the qualification will be individually assessed by the NI.
3. The applicant’s professional achievement will then be assessed against the NI’s required standards of professional competence and commitment for the title for which they are applying.
4. The applicant must possess level of English necessary to practise the profession of nuclear engineer in the UK.

**Eligibility**

To check your eligibility to apply using this route, you must answer in the affirmative to all the requirements listed below. If you have UK qualifications or UK professional experience before gaining the relevant professional title in your home Member State; if you are unable to match your circumstances to those outlined below; or if you have any queries, please email your questions together with a copy of your CV to [membership@nuclearinst.com](mailto:membership@nuclearinst.com) for confirmation of your eligibility.

1. Do you wish to pursue the profession of nuclear engineer in the UK and be registered with the NI and the Engineering Council?
2. Are you an EU or EAA national, or do you have the legal right to be treated as such?
3. Are you qualified to practise as a nuclear engineer in your home Member State?
4. Is the profession of nuclear engineer regulated in your home Member State**?**

**If not, a)** Do you hold relevant formal qualifications awarded by a Member State other than the UK **and** have you pursued the profession of nuclear engineer on a full time basis for 1 year during the last 10 years in your home Member State?

**Or b)** Have you completed regulated education and training for the profession of nuclear engineer as certified by the relevant competent authority in your home Member State?

1. Are you currently legally established, with the relevant professional title to practise as a nuclear engineer in your home Member State? (see note below)

NOTE: In order to confirm which professions are regulated please refer to the Europa database;

<http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/regprof/index.cfm?lang=en> and search under Regulated Professions per Country.

If you have any questions about the regulated professions listed for your home Member State or the competent authority for your profession you should contact the National Contact Point, listed here; <http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/docs/contact-points/info-points_en.pdf>

\*NB If you hold a regulated professional title in a Member State, but your formal (academic) qualification was awarded by a non EU country, then you must also have at least 3 years’ professional experience as a nuclear engineer in the same Member State which awarded you the regulated professional title in order to be eligible via this route.

All applications are considered on an individual, case-by-case basis by the NI’s Membership Committee. The NI will confirm that your application is complete or advise you of any missing documents within one month of receipt of your application. The assessment of your application will not commence until the NI has given you formal acknowledgement that all the necessary documentation and fee has been provided by you. You are strongly advised to complete the relevant application form as fully as possible and to use its checklist to ensure that all submission requirements are met, in order to avoid a delay with this process.

The Directive requires that a reasoned decision is given by the NI within four months of the formal acknowledgement outlined above.

**Application**

Applicants must submit the following documentation along with proof of nationality (certified copy of passport or identity card) and application fee. On receipt of this evidence the NI will contact the competent authority/national contact point for your home Member State to check the content and authenticity of your formal qualifications.

**1. Application Form – MF19 including the relevant Competence and Commitment form**

It is in your interest to submit considered and sufficient information on your training and professional experience to support your application, and to demonstrate the achievement requirements for the grade of membership and level of registration, within the field of nuclear engineering. The assessors will be looking for practical examples of how you have achieved the required levels of competence for each attributeand you need to provide these examples.

**2. Copies of the evidence of the formal qualifications giving you access to the profession of nuclear engineer in your home Member State**. Examples include;

* + **Copies of your post-secondary academic qualifications/diplomas.**

Please note that it may be necessary for the NI to request certified copies and certified translations of your qualifications, and in some cases the course transcripts will be required. It may therefore assist the processing of your application if you are able to supply these with your initial application.

* + **From a regulated profession:** Proof of regulated title or registration with the relevant competent authority and proof that you are not prohibited from using that title in your home Member State (eg certificate from competent authority attesting to that fact; copy of professional licence; certificate from professional body entrusted with the regulation of conditions of access and exercise of the profession; extract from criminal/penal register; certificate of clean criminal record)
  + **From an unregulated profession**: Certified proof of completion of regulated education and training from the competent authority in home Member State or proof that you have full time professional experience as a nuclear engineer of at least 1 year in the last 10 years, as well as proof that you are not prohibited from practising as a nuclear engineer in your home Member State (eg certificate from professional body entrusted with the regulation of conditions of access and exercise of the profession; professional licence; certificate of employer attesting the required professional experience with social security slip or proof of tax payment; extract from criminal/penal register; certificate of clean criminal record)

The NI **recommends** that you also provide the following documents, as these will greatly assist the assessors in their assessment of your application:

1. An independent statement from a senior professional engineer in support of your application, describing how they believe you have demonstrated the required level in each of the attributes. Where possible they should be a professionally qualified member of the NI, another Engineering Council licensed institution, or another European professional body. For applicants from an unregulated profession, this would be in addition to the declaration requested on the application form.
2. A copy of your Development Action Plan outlining your intended development activities for the next 12 months, and your Continuing Professional Development record of the last 5 years. Please refer to the *Continuing Professional Development Guidance*. Once a Member, you will be required to plan and maintain your professional development throughout your career.

**Decision**

If your application is successful, you will be informed of the Committee’s decision within four months of the date from which you received formal acknowledgement from the NI that your application is complete and ready to be assessed.

The Committee will not approve your application for membership if you have not satisfactorily demonstrated in your application how you meet the required attributes for your chosen professional. If the Panel finds a substantial difference between the knowledge, experience or competence that you have demonstrated and the required NI attributes for that title, you will be advised what those specific differences are. You will be given the choice to undertake a compensation measure, as prescribed in the Directive, which can be either an “aptitude test” or an “adaptation period”. Compensation measures can only be undertaken in the UK. If you are resident outside of the UK when you make your application, the compensation measure can only begin once you are in the UK.

**Aptitude Test**

The purpose of this test is to enable you to demonstrate that you possess the required knowledge, experience and competence which were not demonstrated in your application, through a face-to-face interview with two experienced NI Assessor Members. It will be arranged at a mutually convenient date and location. There will be a fee charged for the aptitude test.

The aptitude test will last up to 75 minutes, and questions will be asked only about the attribute(s) which you have not already demonstrated adequately in your application. You will be given the option to make a short presentation at the beginning of your test in which you can demonstrate your aptitude in those attributes.

If you do not pass the aptitude test, you will be advised in writing of the reasons for this. You may request to take another test at a later date for a further fee.

**Adaptation Period**

The purpose of the adaptation period is for you to acquire the necessary knowledge or competence in order to meet the required level of competence for your chosen title.

This will usually take the form of a period of supervised practice of your work as a nuclear engineer in the UK. However it may alternatively be a recommendation that you undertake further learning or education, if that is the most suitable way for you to acquire the required knowledge or competence.

For a period of supervised practice, a qualified NI Member will be appointed by the NI to monitor and assess your progress and provide a written report to the NI on the skills or knowledge you have acquired to confirm when you have reached the required level of competence in the relevant attribute(s). There will be a fee charged for this type of adaptation period. The adaptation period may last up to three years, depending on the extent of the knowledge and skills you need to gain.

**Useful information**

**Appendix A. Equivalence of academic qualifications: Article 11 of Directive 2005/36**

**11 (c) is equivalent to the educational requirements for EngTech registration**

11 (c) a diploma certifying successful completion of

(i) either training at post-secondary level …. of a duration of at least one year or of an equivalent duration on a part-time basis, one of the conditions of entry of which is, as a general rule, the successful completion of the secondary course required to obtain entry to university or higher education or the completion of equivalent school education of the second secondary level, as well as the professional training which may be required in addition to that postsecondary course; or

(ii) in the case of a regulated profession, training with a special structure, included in Annex II (of the Directive), equivalent to the level of training provided for under (i), which provides a comparable professional standard and which prepares the trainee for a comparable level of responsibilities and functions.

**11 (d) is equivalent to the educational requirements for IEng registration**

11 (d) a diploma certifying successful completion of training at postsecondary level of at least three and not more than four years’ duration, or of an equivalent duration on a part-time basis, at a university or establishment of higher education or another establishment providing the same level of training, as well as the professional training which may be required in addition to that postsecondary course;

**11 (e) is equivalent to the educational requirements for CEng registration**

11 (e) a diploma certifying that the holder has successfully completed a post-secondary course of at least four years’ duration, or of an equivalent duration on a part-time basis, at a university or establishment of higher education or another establishment of equivalent level and, where appropriate, that he has successfully completed the professional training required in addition to the post-secondary course.

**Useful links**

[Solvit Network](http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/)

[[Directive National Contact Points](http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/)](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/contactpoints/index.htm)

[Database of regulated professions](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/regprof/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.home)

[European Commission - Professional Qualifications](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/index_en.htm)

[Europa Summary of Directive 2005/36/EC](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/education_training_youth/vocational_training/qualifications_recognition/c11065_en.htm)

[European Commission Users Guide for Directive 2005/36](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/docs/guide/users_guide_en.pdf)

[European Commission Code of Conduct for National coordinators of the Directive](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/future_en.htm#docs)

[UK National law implementing Directive 2005/36/EC](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/uksi_20072781_en_1)

[Eures – the European Job Mobility portal](http://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp?lang=en)

[UK National Contact Point (UK NCP) website](http://www.europeopen.org.uk/)

[Citizens’ Signpost Service (CSS)](http://ec.europa.eu/citizensrights/front_end/index_en.htm)