



## **ESCA 7:**

### **IT IS EASY TO COMPLY WITH CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) AND RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION**

It is fairly easy to comply with the requirements of the CPD system.

Category 1 – Due to the slow validation of formal developmental activities ECSA has awarded each person **1 CPD credit** for 2006 and **1 CPD Credit** for 2007. The compulsory five developmental activities (category 1 activities) can be obtained over the full five year CPD cycle.

Category 2 – Any registered person working In Engineering for more than 800 hours per year can claim **2 CPD credits** (1 per 400hrs) **1 CPD credit** can also be claimed for mentoring candidates towards registration (50 hrs)

Category 3 – Members of recognised Voluntary Associations can claim **1 CPD Credit**. Additional CPD credits may be claimed for individual activities including self study at **1 CPD credit per 10hrs**, up to a maximum of **3 CPD credits per annum**. i.e. reading of technical journals etc.

**ESCA's objective is to create a culture of CPD through which engineering practitioners can maintain their registerability in terms of the Engineering Profession Act, 2000 and international requirements.**

#### **WHY WAS IT NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE CPD?**

To remain globally competitive and to maintain the high standard of engineering for which the South African engineering profession has become known in the past, it has become necessary for engineering practitioners in our country to maintain their engineering knowledge and skills, like their overseas counterparts, in a more formally structured way than before. In today's rapidly

changing technological world it is no longer possible to rely on your basic engineering studies and a few years of practical training to provide professional advice and services.

You need regularly to update your knowledge, and develop and refine your skills. This means undertaking on-going or continuing professional development (CPD). In addition, Section 22 (1) of the Engineering Profession Act, 2000 (Act 46 of 2000) requires that a registered person has to renew his or her registration and has "to apply, in the prescribed manner, to the Council for the renewal of his or her registration".

CPD is also necessary for ECSA to maintain International Recognition

#### **WHAT DOES CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MEAN ?**

ECSA's definition of CPD is widely drawn and not prescriptive so as to remain flexible enough to be relevant to all members at all stages of their careers. CPD refers to activities which:

- have a clear set of objectives;
- have a formal, organized structure;
- require your active participation and – most importantly;
- extend your professional knowledge and skills.

To assist you, the following guidelines on the types of activities that constitute continuing professional development are hereby provided :

#### **Category 1: Developmental activities**

- attendance of structured educational/developmental meetings such as:
- industry related conferences, congresses, seminars and workshops
- Lectures, refresher courses and colloquiums
- ECSA will arrange to have Overseas courses, conferences etc validated

At least five credits (50 hours) must be obtained within a five year cycle from



category 1 and all activities have to be validated by the relevant Tertiary Institution or Voluntary Association.

### **Category 2: Work-based Activities**

- technical work in a practitioner's field of specialization;
- work based activities including management; (two credits for 800 hours of work may be earned annually under this activity)'
- mentoring young engineers in the work place and career guidance (one credit for 50 hours of mentoring annually may be earned under this activity) .

### **Category 3: Individual Activities**

- membership of recognized engineering societies, (one credit annually not linked to hours);
- Part-time lecturing to undergraduate and postgraduate students;
- Supervision of students undertaking postgraduate studies;
- Oral examinations of final year and postgraduate students;
- Evaluation of M dissertations and PhD theses by external examiners;
- Publication of research in peer reviewed journals;
- Publication of technical articles;
- Papers presented at conferences;
- Participation in statutory, professional, institutional, technical or non-technical committees or task groups;
- Evaluation of educational qualifications for ECSA's Qualifications Examination Committee;
- Evaluation of competence and applications for ECSA's registration wing;
- Evaluation of final year students by external examiners;
- Relevant additional qualifications;
- Self-study which includes, but is not restricted to studying of journals or electronic or computerized material.

Three credits (30 hours) may be earned annually under this portion of this category.

### **WHAT ECSA REQUIRES FROM YOU**

ECSA recognizes that, as a professional, you must decide on the type of professional development activities you undertake. However, ECSA also needs to ensure that its obligations to the public are met by setting minimum requirements for regular CPD.

All members of ECSA should claim their CPD credits either manually on Form ECPD 1, or electronically on ECSA's website, and should also submit the Renewal of Registration application form (Form R1.1 and R1.2), after ECSA has informed them of their renewal of registration date (which will be done five months prior to each individual's renewal date).

These regulations ensure that registered professionals are complying with their professional obligations, and provide each with an opportunity to renew their commitment to personal and professional development.

**Retired persons have a reduced CPD requirement as stipulated in the CPD Policy Document.**

**ECSA's objective is to create a culture of CPD through which engineering practitioners can maintain their registerability in terms of the Engineering Profession Act, 2000 and international requirements. ECSA wishes to thank all those registered persons who have submitted their returns and applied for renewal of Registration**

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