

6 April 2021

ICF Technical Membership - Proposed Changes to Bylaws

The Key Points:

- Technical members will not be chartered but will carry the post-nominals TechICFor
- Technical members require to have technical level qualifications and pass an assessment to gain Technical membership
- PESC will determine these qualifications and assessment just as they currently do with those wishing to become chartered
- Members are being asked to vote on introducing this category of membership, not the detail of the assessment level, this is the job of PESC through consultation with relevant organisations and members and will not be subject to members' vote
- Corporate members are Technical, Professional and Fellows
- Only corporate members can vote on Institute affairs
- Technical membership is a category in its own right (as opposed to Associate membership which is a time limited step to becoming chartered)
- If Technical members gain further academic qualifications or appropriate vocational experience over their career they may wish to progress to chartered status
- Current entry requirements for becoming chartered are degree level qualifications and management experience (the exception is the Assessed Professional Competence (APC) route for very senior applicants)
- Many Technical members will not wish to progress to chartered status
- Those with degree level qualifications cannot become Technical members but must join as Associate members
- Many chartered institutes have technical levels of membership
- All members must abide by our Code of Conduct, including Student and Associate members
- Technical members will be expected to complete CPD to maintain their membership
- PESC is currently developing vocational routes to chartership which means that those with no or lower academic qualifications and who can demonstrate their management experience at a professional level, can be assessed for Professional Membership

Council is proposing this new category of membership following research in 2020. This explored the demand for this new membership class and the overwhelming feedback was that there was a need for professionalisation of the workforce at a technical level which would open up membership and the sector to skilled foresters, raise the reputation and influence within the sector and with other industries and the public, and would address the gap in skills and professional development.

