

## **Applications for Specialist Member Grade**

An application for the grade of Specialist Member may be considered from those who are not holders of the BOHS Diploma of Professional Competence in Occupational Hygiene but are engaged in specialist aspects of occupational hygiene. Candidates will usually hold an honours or postgraduate degree or equivalent qualification in a scientific or technological subject relevant to occupational hygiene and have at least five years' experience in the specialist subject offered. This subject will be an important part of occupational hygiene as currently defined by the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene. The applicant will be required to produce evidence of their level of competence in their specialist subject in the form of a synopsis of their work experience, which will be assessed by the Chief Examiner. If this assessment is positive, the candidate will be subject to a professional discussion (oral examination) which will test his or her knowledge of the general principles of occupational hygiene in addition to the specialist subject offered.

The list of suitable subjects for Specialist Member Grade is Asbestos; Health Physics; Noise and Vibration; Ergonomics; Microbiology; Engineering; Toxicology; Environmental Science; Chemistry; Occupational Health; Occupational Safety; Dermal Exposures; Epidemiology; Control of Hazardous Substances. If a specialist subject does not appear on this list, an application, including information on the topic area, can be made to the Chief Examiner and this will be given consideration at the next meeting of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene Committee.

The applicant is required to provide the names of three referees along with their synopsis. Our policy is to normally require that two of the referees be Members, Specialist Members or Fellows of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene but alternative referees who can verifiably be seen to have an appreciation of technical and academic expertise in the field which the applicant claims to be expert in can be selected. Candidates may not nominate as referees Members, Specialist Members or Fellows to whom they are related, who are supervised by the candidate or who are members of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene Committee. If accepted, applicants will be advised of the date(s) for the next available session(s) of professional discussions (oral examinations). If not accepted at this stage, applicants will be informed by letter.

No later than one month before the date of the professional discussion, the applicant is required to provide three examples of the range of work undertaken in their specialist area, together with a typed synopsis of their experience (approximately 1000 words). The candidate will normally be examined by a panel of three examiners. BOHS will endeavour to ensure that at least one of the examiners has knowledge of the application of the specialist area in an occupational hygiene context. The professional discussion, which will last approximately one hour, will comprise:

Examination of the specialist area, including questioning on the work submitted. This is primarily aimed at ensuring that the candidate has sufficient specialist knowledge to warrant admission under this grade.

- Examination about the general principles of occupational hygiene including:
- Standards, compliance testing, impact of legislation;
- Understanding of occupational hygiene principles at the professional level, i.e., prevention vs protection, assessments and the role of measurement, monitoring strategies;
- Management of health hazards, e.g., engineering controls, health surveillance, auditing;
- The content and purpose of occupational hygiene reports;
- An in-depth knowledge of technical areas of occupational hygiene practice would not be expected.

Applicants will be notified concerning the results of the professional discussion in writing. Those granted Specialist Member grade by the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene following the application process will be entitled to use the post-nominal letters MFOH(S).