



**THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL
for the
QUANTITY SURVEYING PROFESSION
DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE RAAD vir die
BOUREKENAARSPROFESSIE**

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGISTRAR

In an effort to improve communication between the Council and our members, this newsletter is the first written communication to our members for the year 2005. Since the previous newsletter, most of the recent developments have already been placed on the SACQSP and ASAQs websites for the information of our members. This newsletter merely serves to ensure that our members remain well informed and up to date with latest developments.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

As at 7 April 2005, the South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession (SACQSP) had a total of 2319 members made up as follows:

Registered members (PrQS)	:	1778
Candidate members (CandQS)	:	541
TOTAL	:	2319

At the same stage, there were a total of 3371 members registered with the Association of which 674 were student members.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2005

In terms of the requirements of the Quantity Surveying Profession Act (49 of 2000), the four-year term of office of the current Council expires during the course of this year. The invitations for the nomination of suitable candidates for the Council for the next four-year term was gazetted in the Government Gazette. It was also widely publicised in the newspapers, on the website, with tertiary institutions and in Council and Association newsletters. Nominations were called with a deadline date of Thursday 28 April 2005.

Nominations have been received and these will be submitted to the Minister of Public Works, Mrs Stella Sigcau, by no later than Friday 27 May 2005 for final approval and appointment.

For the record, nominations were invited and received in terms of the following stipulated composition of the Council made up as follows:

Voluntary Associations nominations	9
Academic nominations	2
State representatives	3
Public representatives	3
TOTAL	17

It should also be noted that a maximum of only eight members of the present Council may be re-appointed for the next term (in terms of clause 42(11) of the Act). This implies that roughly half of the current Council must vacate their positions and we will be welcoming the equivalent number of new members to the Council. We look forward with anticipation to these new exciting developments.

REGISTRATION FEES : 2005/2006

At the last Finance Committee meeting of the Council, it was resolved that the registration fees applicable for the year 2005/2006 will be based on the following schedule:

	Professional Members (PrQS)	Candidate Members (CandQS)
Registration Fee	925,00	610,00
CBE Levy	42,00	21,00
	967,00	631,00
VAT(14%)	135,38	88,34
TOTAL	1 102,38	719,34

It should be noted that all members who practice outside of the borders of South Africa would be exempt from paying the VAT component.

Members are urgently requested to pay their registration fees at earliest convenience. In terms of the Quantity Surveying Profession Act (49 of 2000), members are obliged to pay the registration fees within a maximum period of 60 days on presentation of the enclosed invoice. The Council is thereafter empowered to cancel the registration of a defaulting member with immediate effect.

OUTSTANDING SUBSCRIPTION FEES OF THE COUNCIL

The Council wishes to thank all the registered Council members who have paid their registration fees timeously and who are in good standing with the Council. The Council is however experiencing a disturbingly large number of members who have currently not yet paid their full registration fees of previous years.

The Council resolved that where members have consistently failed to pay their fees in spite of numerous reminders, that the following action will be taken where applicable:

- Defaulting members will have their Council registration cancelled and be struck
- The list of names of struck members will be placed on the Council website for public scrutiny
- The names of struck members will be submitted to Government and Quasi-Government departments for their information and records.
- The names of struck members that still owe monies to the Council will be handed over to the National Credit Bureau to ensure that any outstanding fees are paid and the outstanding accounts settled.

Should any defaulting members not have paid their dues as a result of experiencing financial hardship, the Council would welcome an approach to the Council offices so that special payment arrangements may be agreed. Every case will be considered on its merits and handled in the strictest of confidence.

The Council regrets having to take this firm action but it simply can no longer accept the situation where members willfully fail to pay their dues whilst enjoying full registration with the Council.

It must be pointed that it would be considered a legal offence for such struck members to practice and continue to hold themselves out to be registered Quantity Surveyors. We therefore urgently appeal that members pay their dues timeously to avoid any unpleasant and dire consequences.

CHANGE OF FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the Council has hitherto always been from 1 March to 28 February of each year. On the request of the Council for the Built Environment (CBE), the Council has agreed to change the financial year in this coming year from 1 April to 31 March of each year. This will result in the respective Councils in the built environment being phased and co-ordinated into the same cycle.

It should therefore be noted that the past year was simply regarded as a 13-month financial year to accommodate this change. This will however not have any meaningful impact on the general membership.

REVISED RULES AND CATEGORIES OF REGISTRATION

The decision was recently taken by Council that membership registration with the Council will in future be considered under the Quantity Surveying, Construction Management and Technologist qualifications respectively, each with their own respective routes to registration. In addition, the registration categories will be extended to include the following categories:

Registration Category	Professional Abbreviation
Registered QS Assistant	RQS Assistant
Registered QS Technician	RQS Technician
Registered QS Technologist	RQS Technologist
Registered QS Candidate	Candidate QS
Registered QS Professional	PrQS

The above categories will be based on the defined levels of competency as determined by the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) from levels 4 to 7. These are currently being written and developed by the QS Standards Generating Body (QS SGB) and will hopefully be completed early next year.

In the meantime, the amended Rules and revised registration categories of the Council will be gazetted for public comment and approval.

RICS RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT

We are proud to announce that the Council has agreed to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) whereby the two organisations have agreed to accept each other’s registration standards and admission criteria. To mark this historic development and to formally sign the agreement, an official Signing Ceremony function has been arranged for Wednesday 18 May 2005 in the Council offices in Midrand. This function will witness our President, Mr Lucas Chauke, and the RICS President, Professor Barry Gilbertson, formally signing the agreement and they will also be presenting each other with honorary membership of their respective organisations. This will be a joint function with the ASAQS, who will similarly be signing their Reciprocity Agreement with the RICS.

Full details of the agreement and steps to be followed by members who wish to apply for membership with the RICS will be made available on the SACQSP website (www.sacqsp.co.za). Any further queries may be directed at the offices of the Council (telephone 011-315 4140) for further clarification.

Needless to say, any member not in good standing with the Council (or the Association) will not be permitted to benefit from this agreement. For example, a member who wishes to make application for membership with the RICS under this agreement, will be required to demonstrate that he/she is a legitimate and fully paid up member of the Council.

SACQSP WEBSITE

Members are advised that the Council website (www.sacqsp.co.za) is now finally up and running and is available for general use by the members. The website is however still in the initial stages of development and the volume of available information will improve with time as it is further populated and developed. It is intended that the Council website will contain a wide range of interesting information such as the QS Professions Act, Rules of the Council, routes to registration, registration categories, various other Acts of the built environment, levels of competency for registration, the Tariff of Professional Fees, etc. We would encouraged members to make use of this facility, which will also be linked to the website of the Association (www.asaqs.co.za).

TARIFF OF PROFESSIONAL FEES 2005

Members are advised that the recommended “Tariff of Professional Fees : 2005” for the QS profession has been gazetted and is available and current for 2005. This includes the hourly time charges, disbursement and travelling rates for the public sector.

Please be reminded that reference should be made to the Council Fee Scales, and not the Association Fee Scales. As only the statutory Councils have been granted exemption from the Competitions Act restrictions as far as professional fees are concerned, this safeguards the Association of possibly being accused or charged of “price-fixing” as a result of the recommended tariff of fees.

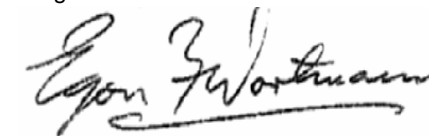
CPD PROGRAMME

In compliance with the Quantity Surveying Profession Act (49 of 2000), all registered Quantity Surveying members are obliged to undergo continuous professional development (CPD) and to submit annual submissions for consideration and approval. Although many members have complied with this requirement, a number of members have yet to submit their first submission as required by the Act. Defaulting members are urgently requested to complete their submissions and to bring their CPD programme up to date. Non-compliance with this continuous registration requirement may result in registration with the Council being cancelled.

CHANGED OFFICE HOURS

In an attempt to better serve our membership, it was decided by Council to change and extend the hitherto official Council office working hours. As of 1 March 2005, the daily office hours were changed from 08h00 to 16h00 to **08h00 to 17h00**. We trust that this will better serve our members over a slightly longer working day.

Regards



EGON WORTMANN
REGISTRAR

MAY 2005