

The RSC Register of Analytical Chemists

Education Department
Royal Society of Chemistry
Burlington House
Piccadilly
London
W1J 0BA

Tel: +44 (0)20 7440 3383

www.rsc.org
www.chemsoc.org
www.rsc.org/analchem

Free to RSC members
£20 to non-members

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Foreword

The high standards of professional conduct and the importance of the role of specialists in the field of analytical chemistry has been recognised throughout our industrialised history. In response to this demand the Royal Society of Chemistry has published the Register of Analytical Chemists.

The aim of the register is to publish the names of competent analytical chemists, for the benefit of employers, enforcement agencies and the general public. This register contains the names and addresses of those members of the Royal Society of Chemistry who have demonstrated a general knowledge of the subject of Analytical Chemistry, and established specific knowledge and experience in the principles and practice applicable to their own specialist field.

Those named on the register are recognised by the Society as being competent analytical chemists with specialist skills. It remains the responsibility of the user of this register to establish whether an individual's expertise will meet the requirements of a particular need.

Dr Mark Seymour CChem FRSC
Chairman
Analytical Chemists Register Panel of Assessors

Introduction

The Royal Society of Chemistry has compiled this Register of Analytical Chemists because there has never been a greater need for the public to be assured of the professional competence of analytical chemists, given the complex nature of modern society.

Decisions on such issues as the liberty of the citizen, human and animal health, consumer and environmental protection, international trade and the integrity of sport are all dependent on the validity of analytical measurements and the interpretation placed upon them by professional analytical chemists.

In producing this register the RSC is fulfilling part of its commitment, under the terms of its Charter, to serve the public interest by demonstrating that the highest standards of professional competence and ethical conduct are applied in this area of chemistry.

Through two of our precursor societies, the Royal Institute of Chemistry and the Society for Analytical Chemistry, we have a long history of providing the means for analytical chemists to develop and maintain their professionalism in order to discharge their responsibilities to employers and clients. Every individual on the register has voluntarily subjected himself or herself to a full evaluation of their knowledge, skills and experience in analytical chemistry.

The evaluation requires demonstration of extensive expert knowledge and competence in the subject to enable a professional assessment to be made of the problem posed by the client or employer.

The RSC Code of Conduct and Guidance on Professional Practice requires the individual to exercise judgement in deciding whether they have the further specialist knowledge to tackle the problem or to refer it to a more appropriately experienced colleague. The evaluation has thus been extended to the specialist area of expertise claimed by the registrant.

We are sure that the register will be of value to legislators, government departments, employers, certification and registration bodies and National Accreditation of Measurement and Sampling (NAMAS, a service of UKAS, the UK Accreditation Service), particularly in the light of developments within the internal market in Europe.

As the truly protective science of a complex modern society, the users of analytical science need to be assured of the competence of practitioners. We are confident that our procedures for registration offer this assurance.

RSC members who are named on the Register are entitled to use the designation RSC "Registered Analytical Chemist" on their business cards, letterheads and promotional material.

Purpose of the Register

The main purposes of this register are:

- to assist non-specialists in seeking to identify professional practitioners whose qualifications and experience have been attested to by an independent body;
- to provide a source of names of competent specialists who are subject to the RSC Code of Conduct;
- to respond to the needs of legislation; and
- to highlight the names of these specialist members of the RSC.

Continuing Professional Competence

Registered Analytical Chemists have to pay special regard at all times to the public interest and to the maintenance of the highest standards of competence and integrity.

The RSC has introduced a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme for the register. CPD has been defined by the RSC as:

“..... the responsibility of individuals for the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skills to ensure continuing competence as a professional throughout their career”.

The RSC considered the professional development activities which members undertook against the development objectives they had identified, and the extent to which these demonstrated their commitment to maintaining professional competence.

In 1995 RSC members on the register were issued with a CPD record book as an aid to planning CPD activities. A new CPD framework was implemented in August 2001, in line with the new membership structure, and members are now invited to submit an annual summary of their CPD activity to the RSC.

Where members have participated in the RSC CPD scheme two dates are shown against an individual's entry in this update to the register;

- (i) the year they were admitted to the register; and
- (ii) the year of their last successful CPD review.

In the case of members who choose not to participate in the scheme, there will be no CPD date. Users of the register are reminded that participation in the CPD scheme is voluntary and therefore caution should be exercised in placing any interpretation upon the absence of a CPD date.

Entry on to the Register

The entry of the name of an individual professional chemist on to the indicative Register of Analytical Chemists is governed by the regulations for the Register.

The Council of the RSC has delegated authority to a panel of assessors to determine entry on to the Register. The panel of assessors has a duty to evaluate the extent to which an individual can be said to have satisfied the conditions of eligibility.

From 1 April 2002, admission onto the Register has been via the RSC's NVQ/SVQ Level 5 in Analytical Chemistry, or for holders of the MChemA (Mastership in Chemical Analysis), the production of two years' CPD returns.

Further information can be obtained from the RSC website at www.rsc.org/analchem and www.rsc.org/nvqsvg, or from the Education Department on 020 7440 3383.

Code of Conduct

The Royal Society of Chemistry is empowered by Royal Charter to admit chemists with suitable qualifications and experience to its categories of membership, provided they agree in writing to follow high standards of professional conduct. The principles involved are given in the RSC 'Code of Practice and Guidance on Professional Practice' which is available to members, the public and employers.

The RSC has established disciplinary machinery to deal with cases of possible professional misconduct. One of the powers that can be exercised is the removal of the name of an individual from any register maintained by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The RSC Code of Conduct is reproduced below:

The Code of Conduct of the Royal Society of Chemistry

The Council of the Royal Society of Chemistry has adopted the following Code of Conduct.

- 1 This code of conduct is applicable to all members (Honorary Fellows, Fellows, Members, Associate Members and Affiliates).
- 2 All members, having subscribed to the declaration as required under paragraphs 6 and 13 of the By-laws, have a duty to
 - *observe the provision of the Charter and By-laws of the RSC and any regulations made under them*
 - *conduct themselves honourably in the practice of their profession*

- *maintain the highest standards of competence and integrity, especially in carrying out any statutory duties relevant to a particular appointment or area of employment*
- *have regard at all times to the public interest*
- *further the interests of and maintain the dignity and welfare of the RSC*

3 In order to fulfil their duty under this Code, members shall give due attention to any general guidance on professional conduct, together with advice on specific issues, and shall conform to any rulings on such matters that may be approved and issued from time to time by the Council of the RSC.

Members are reminded that the declaration signed on taking up membership of the RSC (as required under By-laws 6 and 13):

I, the undersigned, do hereby declare that, while a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry, I will observe the provisions of the Charter and By-laws and any regulations made under them, and that I will conduct myself honourably in the practice of my profession and will further the interests and maintain the dignity and welfare of the RSC for as long as I shall continue to be a member.

Annual retention fee

An annual retention fee of £25 is charged for members to remain on the Register. This is requested by the Membership Department at the same time as the RSC membership fee.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

The RSC recommends that all consultants take out professional indemnity insurance. Other Registered Analytical Chemists may wish to consider whether this is necessary. Further guidance is available from the RSC website at www.rsc.org/members.

The latest version of the Register is published on the RSC web-site at www.rsc.org/analchem.