



IRSE Professional Examination

REGULATIONS

AUTHORISATION AND REVISIONS

Version 1.0 issued 1 February 2003

Version 1.1 issued 1 November 2007

Version 1.2 issued 28 April 2008

INTRODUCTION

These regulations ensure that all candidates are given the same opportunities, and that the examinations will be conducted in a fair manner.

1. Examination Requirements

1.1 The examination set by the Institution consists of seven modules as detailed below:

Module 1 Safety of Railway Signalling and Communications (Compulsory)

Module 2 Signalling the Layout

Module 3 Signalling Principles

Module 4 Communications Principles

Module 5 Signalling and Control Equipment, Applications Engineering

Module 6 Communications Equipment, Applications Engineering

Module 7 Systems, Management and Engineering

Full details of the syllabus for each Module are given in the examination syllabus.

1.2 Candidates must obtain a pass in Module 1 and, in addition, pass three of the remaining six modules. There is no restriction on the order in which the modules can be taken.

1.3 Candidates may take from one to four modules on one day. When four modules are sat in one day, the time allowed is, for Module 1 (1hour), plus any three other modules (all 1hour 30 minutes each). Please note therefore that if Module 1 is not to be sat, then the maximum number of modules that may be sat in one day is three.

2. Exemptions

2.1 Exemptions from individual modules (except Module 1) may be granted in cases where the Council is satisfied that the candidate has passed an examination by a recognised body which substantially covers the syllabus of that specific module. (See also *'Information for Students'*)

2.2 Candidates must provide a copy of the syllabus of the relevant sections of the qualification; together with their 'notification of performance' which details their pass marks by subject area. A summary sheet must also be provided which fully cross-references the qualification against the IRSE Examination module for which they are claiming exemption.

2.3 The decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

3. Educational Standard

3.1 Candidates who wish to sit for the IRSE Professional Examination are advised that the academic level of the exam is equivalent to an ordinary degree.

3.2 Candidates are advised that they should be fully prepared to sit for an examination of this academic standard before entering the examination. Preparation should include:

- Reading the 'Information for Students' document and the 'Examination Syllabus'
- Studying the suggested 'Reading List'
- Attending IRSE Technical lectures, seminars and conferences
- Reading IRSE News
- Studying the published Model Answers
- Reading past IRSE Examination Review reports
- Practising questions from past examination papers
- Attending Study Groups where available

4. Entry to Examination

4.1 Candidates must apply for entry to the examination on the prescribed form. Copies of the form are obtainable from the IRSE Head Office or from the examination pages on the website: www.irse.org.

4.2 Candidates must be members of the Institution and must not be in arrears with their joining fee and subscriptions. Applications received from candidates who are not fully paid up members will be returned unprocessed.

4.3 Applications must be received at the IRSE Headquarters by **30 June** of the year in which the candidate requires to be examined. Please note that unfortunately applications received after this date cannot be processed.

5. Date and Place of Examination

5.1 The Examination is held in October each year and, where practical, every effort is made to arrange examination centres convenient to the majority of candidates.

5.2 Candidates will be advised of the place at which they will be examined by the beginning of September, or as soon as possible thereafter.

5.3 The invigilator's decision will be final regarding entrance to the examination on the day (eg in cases of lateness) and allowable equipment.
(See 'Information for Students' for detail)

6. Examination Fees

6.1 A fee of £50, which includes study materials, is charged for each module and this must accompany the completed entry form. The examination fee may be remitted in the form of a cheque or credit card payment payable to the Institution. Applications received without the due remittance will be returned unprocessed.

6.2 Fees will not be returned to any candidate who subsequently withdraws their application or fails in any part of the examination. Candidates will be required to pay the full fee for any subsequent entry.

6.3 An exception may be made if the candidate is ill, provided that a doctor's certificate is sent to the IRSE Head Office at the time of examination, or in such other special circumstances as the Council may approve.

7. Results of Examination

7.1 Each candidate will be advised of the result by the IRSE Head Office, usually at the end of December of the year of sitting the examination, or as soon as possible thereafter.

7.2 The Examination Committee's decision is final and they will not enter into any correspondence regarding the marks gained by a candidate or the number of marks required for a pass.

7.3 Should there be any exceptional concerns about the result obtained, an appeal may be made by writing to the Professional Development Manager. This must be received by 15 February of the year immediately following that in which the candidate sat their examination. Appeals will only be considered at the discretion of the Council.

7.4 A certificate will be awarded to candidates who pass at least four modules including Module 1.

7.5 A candidate will only be deemed to have passed the IRSE Professional Examination when the requirements of 1.2 have been met.

8. Further Information

Further information about the examination, previous exam papers, examination support materials, and study groups may be obtained from the IRSE Head Office or from IRSE's website: www.irse.org.