

# **CONSTITUTION**

## **1 Title**

The Institute will be known as,  
The Institute of Safety in Technology and Research  
hereinafter called the Institute.

## **2 Aims of the Institute**

The aims of the Institute are:

- 2.1 the furtherance of the interests of the health and safety profession within the areas of membership of the Institute:
- 2.2 the advancement of health and safety skills and knowledge amongst its membership:
- 2.3 the maintenance of the professional standards of its membership:
- 2.4 the preservation and enhancement of the status of its membership, including representation upon bodies of influence considered beneficial to the membership of the Institute.

## **3 Membership**

- 3.1 Membership will be open to persons working within the disciplines of health and safety who satisfy the criteria for membership.
- 3.2 The Institute may, by a resolution at an Annual General Meeting, determine categories of membership.
- 3.3 Individuals may apply to join as a **Member** provided they are professionally active in one of the following, or related sectors:
  - 3.3.1 Universities where technology or scientific research are a significant part of the activities.
  - 3.3.2 Research and Technological Institutes.
  - 3.3.3 Science or Technology based Industry.
- 3.4 Persons not otherwise eligible to join as a Member may apply to join as an **Associate**. Persons applying must satisfy the Executive Committee that they have a sufficient interest in the activities of the Institute. They will enjoy all the privileges of membership except that they will not have voting rights, nor will they be eligible for election to office.
- 3.5 A nominal roll of the membership of the Institute will be available for consultation at each Annual General Meeting (AGM).

- 3.6 By accepting membership of the Institute a person agrees to the holding on computer of the personal data supplied on the application form, and to disclosure of that information for the purpose of publication of the Handbook, and to disclosure for other purposes which the Executive Committee may decide.

#### **4 Officers and Executive Committee**

- 4.1 The Officers of the Institute will hold their positions in an honorary capacity. The terms, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, will be construed accordingly.
- 4.2 The Officers of the Institute will be:
- 4.2.1 Chair:
  - 4.2.2 Secretary:
  - 4.2.3 Treasurer:
  - 4.2.4 Vice-Chair.
- 4.3 The Executive Committee will consist of:
- 4.3.1 the Officers of the Institute; and
  - 4.3.2 minimum of three to a maximum of five other members.
  - 4.3.3 only Members or Fellows are eligible to serve on the executive committee.
- 4.4 The Executive Committee will manage the affairs of the Institute for the period between AGMs.
- 4.5 The Officers and members of the Executive Committee will be elected at an AGM.
- 4.6 The Executive Committee may co-opt additional members as required.
- 4.7 At a meeting of the Executive Committee four members and/or officers will constitute a quorum.
- 4.8 Officers will be elected as follows:
- 4.8.1 The Chair of the Institute will be elected to serve for a period of three years preceded by a period of two years as Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair (Chair elect) will be elected at the AGM two years prior to the termination of the period of office of the incumbent Chair. He or she will act as Chair in the absence of that officer, and will be a member of the executive committee for two years prior to taking office as Chair in his or her own right. The retiring chair will automatically hold a position on the executive committee for a period of one year immediately following the end of the elected period in office and will act as chair in the absence of that officer.
  - 4.8.2 The Secretary will be eligible for re-election annually.
  - 4.8.3 The Treasurer will be eligible for re-election annually.
- 4.9 Executive Committee members will be elected for a two year period of office.

- 4.10 Nominations for election as Officers and members of the Executive Committee must be received in writing by the Secretary at least forty two days before the AGM. All nominations will be recorded and must include the written consent of the nominee.
- 4.11 A nomination for office will be construed as a nomination for membership of the Executive Committee in the event of the nominee not being elected to the office in question.

## **5 Meetings**

- 5.1 Annual General Meetings (AGMs).
  - 5.1.1 Fellows and Members may submit items for inclusion on the agenda of any AGM to the Secretary. Such submissions must be made in writing at least forty two days before the AGM.
  - 5.1.2 An AGM of the Institute will be held to elect Officers and members of the Executive Committee, to receive reports from the Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer on the previous year's activities, and to transact any other business.
  - 5.1.3 Notice of at least twenty eight days will be given of an AGM.
  - 5.1.4 At an AGM twelve Fellows and/or Members will constitute a quorum.
- 5.2 Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs).
  - 5.2.1 An EGM will be called by the Secretary on instruction from the Executive Committee or the Ethical Practices Committee, or on receipt of a request in writing signed by at least one third of the Fellows or Members of the Institute, stating the business to be transacted at that meeting.
  - 5.2.2 At an EGM twelve Fellows and/or Members will constitute a quorum. In the event that a quorum is not attained, the meeting will stand adjourned until the next AGM.
- 5.3 The Chairman will preside at meetings of the Institute, and of the Executive Committee. In his or her absence the Vice-Chairman will officiate or, in the absence of the Vice-Chairman, the Executive Committee will elect a chairman for that meeting only from among those present.
- 5.4 The election of Officers and members of the Executive Committee will be by ballot of the members of the Institute attending the AGM.
  - 5.4.1 Any other voting will be performed by a show of hands as deemed necessary by the Chairman unless a resolution to do otherwise is received and passed.
  - 5.4.2 Only Fellows and Members of the Institute are entitled to vote.
  - 5.4.3 Any resolutions, save as provided otherwise in this constitution, may be passed by a simple majority.
  - 5.4.4 In the case of an equality of votes for and against a resolution, the Chairman will have the casting vote.
  - 5.4.5 Abstention from voting will neither be recorded as a vote for nor against the resolution or other matter under consideration.

## **6 Amendments to the Constitution**

- 6.1 Notice to amend this Constitution must be given in writing to the Secretary forty two days before the AGM at which the amendment will be proposed.
- 6.2 All amendments to the Constitution must be approved by a two thirds majority of those present and voting.

## **7 Finances**

- 7.1 All payments made on behalf of the Institute will be made by bank cheque. Cheques will be signed by any two of the Officers of the Institute.
- 7.2 Accounts which have been independently verified by a competent person will be presented to the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.3 The Institute will collect and receive subscriptions, entrance fees, donations and grants in furtherance of its primary objects, either from its membership or other persons, and hold and apply the same and any other funds either for any particular one or more purposes hereby authorised, or generally for the promotion of its aims and objects.
- 7.4 The monies of the Institute not immediately required for its purposes may be invested in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject to current legal requirements.
- 7.5 The income and property of the Institute, howsoever derived, will be applied solely to the promotion of the aims of the Institute as set forth in this Constitution. No portion of such income and property will be paid nor transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the membership of the Institute, provided that nothing herein will prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration, or reimbursement of expenses, to any Officer or servant of the Institute.

## **8 Other Activities and Objectives.**

- 8.1 To further its aims the Institute may:
  - 8.1.1 provide an organisation for its membership to exchange information and views;
  - 8.1.2 endeavour to improve and elevate the standards of technical and general professional skills and knowledge of its membership;
  - 8.1.3 promote, hold, and sponsor symposia, conferences and other gatherings for the purpose of furthering the primary aims of the Institute.

## **9 Ethical Practices Committee**

- 9.1 An Ethical Practices Committee will be established if required by resolution of the Executive Committee or a general meeting. This will consist of the present Chairman, all past Chairmen who are still Members or Fellows of the Institute, and the Secretary in post. At a meeting of this committee a quorum will be; the present Chairman, the present Secretary, and one past Chairman who is still a Member or Fellow of the Institute.

- 9.2 This committee will consider ethical matters referred by the Executive Committee and make reports and recommendations to a general meeting. The general meeting may take any appropriate action.

## 10 Winding Up or Dissolution

### 10.1 Voluntary Dissolution

Any proposal to voluntarily dissolve the Institute will be considered by the Executive Committee if it is supported by the written request of at least **one third** of the Fellows and Members of the Institute. Following the receipt of any such valid proposal the Officers of the Institute will convene an Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss and vote on the proposal. At least two weeks prior to the meeting all Fellows and Members will be sent a ballot paper which will allow them to register their vote for or against the proposal or to nominate the Chairman or any other Fellow or Member to act as their proxy at the EGM if they so wish. Any proposal to dissolve the Institute will only be carried if it is supported by at least **two thirds** of the Fellows and Members currently on the Indicative Register of the Institute.

### 10.2 Disposal of Assets

If upon winding up or dissolution of the Institute there remains after satisfaction of all its liabilities any property whatsoever, the same will be capitalised and the monies received, together with any moneys remaining in the bank or investment accounts will be disbursed equally between the membership.

**Annex A**  
**Membership Criteria as Presently Approved**

**A/1 Categories of Membership**

The membership will consist of three active categories namely:

- A/1.1 Fellows
- A/1.2 Members
- A/1.3 Associates

**A/2 Fellows**

- A/2.1 Nomination of Fellows and their election at the AGM by simple majority will be carried out in accordance with the following provisions.
- A/2.2 Nominations for the category of Fellow will be made in the first instance to the Executive Committee.
- A/2.3 Nominations will be written and will be confidential to the Executive Committee. They will be made by any two of the following:
  - A/2.3.1 Chairman
  - A/2.3.2 Vice-Chairman
  - A/2.3.3 Secretary
  - A/2.3.4 Treasurer
  - A/2.3.5 Member of the Executive Committee.
- A/2.4 Adjudication of all nominations for the category of Fellow will be carried out by the Executive Committee.
- A/2.5 In reaching a decision, the Executive Committee may take any or all of the following factors into account. The nominee has:
  - A/2.5.1 normally been a Member for not less than ten years;
  - A/2.5.2 achieved a position of eminence in the field of health and safety, determined by evidence of relevant published work, reputation as a public speaker/lecturer on health and safety subjects, membership of committees or governing bodies of health and safety institutions or the editorial panels of relevant publications;
  - A/2.5.3 made a significant contribution to academic research in the field of health and safety;
  - A/2.5.4 attained a senior position in his or her organisation, taking into account the scale and nature of the organisation.

### **A/3 Members**

- A/3.1 The category of Member will be open to persons who can demonstrate to the Executive Committee that they have attained graduate or equivalent level qualifications in a scientific, technological, or engineering discipline and adequate experience in one or more of the disciplines of safety within the areas of interest defined in clause 3.3 of the Constitution.
- A/3.2 In assessing an applicant the Executive Committee will consider all the relevant facts, including formal qualifications, and experience. Periods of experience of less than two years (full-time appointments) or four years (part-time appointments with 50% of time allocated) within the disciplines of health and safety in an organisation defined in paragraph 3.3 of the Constitution will not normally be considered adequate to permit entry to this category of membership.
- A/3.3 The Executive Committee may make such enquiries as it deems necessary to verify information supplied by applicants.
- A/3.4 The disciplines of health and safety are considered to be:
- A/3.4.1 General Safety
  - A/3.4.2 Occupational Hygiene and Occupational Health
  - A/3.4.3 Radiation Safety
  - A/3.4.4 Biological Safety
  - A/3.4.5 Fire Safety
  - A/3.4.6 Engineering, including Chemical Engineering/process Safety
  - A/3.4.7 Environmental Safety
  - A/3.4.8 Chemical Safety

### **A/4 Associates**

- A/4.1 Persons not otherwise eligible to join as a Member may apply to join as an **Associate**. Persons applying must satisfy the Executive Committee that they have a sufficient interest in the activities of the Institute. They will enjoy all the privileges of membership except that they will not have voting rights, nor will they be eligible for election to office.

### **A/5 Retirement**

- A/5.1 Individuals who retire from gainful employment (which includes self employment, consultancy etc.) may retain their category of membership on a retired basis and pay the reduced membership fee. They will enjoy all the privileges of membership except that they will not have voting rights, nor be eligible for election to office. Retired members may continue to use MISTR or FISTR but must also include Ret.d to indicate that they are retired from gainful employment. Should the individual take up gainful employment again (which includes self employment, consultancy etc.) they must revert to their pre-retirement membership status and pay the appropriate annual membership subscription.

## **A/6 Change of Circumstances**

- A/6.1 Individuals whose circumstances change such that their membership requirements fall below those of their category of membership should notify the Secretary and, if necessary, the Indicative Register will be amended accordingly.

## **A/7 Abbreviated Titles and Designatory Letters**

- A/7.1 Each Fellow and Member of the Institute may use the title of the category of membership to which he or she belongs, or the appropriate abbreviation thereof as shown below, and will not use any other title or abbreviation to denote his or her membership of the Institute.

Fellow - FISTR

Member – MISTR

- A/7.2 Retired Members should continue to use titles and designatory letters with the addition of (ret.d).

## **A/8 Indicative Register**

- A/8.1 A register will be kept containing the names of each Fellow and Member of the Institute. This is the Indicative Register of the Institute.
- A/8.2 A list of Associates and those retaining their membership on a retired basis is also kept.

## **A/9 Admission and Certification**

- A/9.1 Every Fellow, Member and Associate will, on election be given a certificate of admission to his or her appropriate category of membership. Such certificates will remain the property of the Institute.
- A/9.2 Admission to membership will be effective from the date of a decision to this effect by the Executive Committee.