

Vicky Smith CEng MIFE

In September 2010, I was registered as a Chartered Engineer via the Institution of Fire Engineers. Although I had always been aware of Engineering Council, UK-SPEC and the award of Chartered Engineer, I hadn't actively pursued professional registration before this time. As an engineer, I have always been proactive in seeking career opportunities and work experience, which has not only been challenging but has provided me with the necessary exposure to new areas of work. I take CPD and technical and professional competency very seriously, and so, once I was confident I could demonstrate that I met the CEng competencies requirements I submitted my application. The rest they say is history!

So how did I get there?

Upon graduation from the University of Leeds in 2000, my first role was as a graduate Fire Engineer with LWF. Following a move to Dorset the opportunity arose for me to become a part time fire fighter, whilst also working as a Safety Engineer for Serco Assurance. I later moved to Wiltshire Fire Service where I became a Fire Inspector then Procedure Manager helping support the introduction of risk based inspection regime, new national legislation and fire Inspector Training. In 2008, I joined BRE Global as a Senior Fire Engineer.

I am currently the Project Manager for fire safety improvements on HMS Victory in Portsmouth. This is an interesting project that brings unique challenges that must meet the MoD's objectives which include preserving the ship, maintaining it as a popular visitor attraction, ensuring the venue is viable for corporate events, optimising the operational use by the navy but perhaps more importantly ensuring that it keeps its historical accuracy. It is certainly a team effort and it is very rewarding when ideas come to fruition.

My responsibilities include providing fire-engineering consultancy to design teams, leading and project management of fire engineering frameworks, client relationship management, providing advice on fire risk management and risk assessment and giving support and direction for fire engineers and graduate engineers.



I am very fortunate that my employers, BRE Global, are supportive of the Engineering Council the IFE. They have made achieving CEng part of my role requirements and have actively supported me with providing exposure to the necessary work to support my application.

I personally see the Engineering Council as the industry sign of competency. I wanted to have independent accreditation, which is recognised by my peers in my industry, and in CEng, I have that.

I am currently on maternity leave after the birth of my first baby, although I'm certainly not resting! I'm using the opportunity to review my CPD and consider the future direction of my career, which I hope will include studies and work around human behaviour and matters relating to means of escape and evacuation. As a Chartered Engineer, I have proven that I have the range and depth of expertise and knowledge to practice in most aspects of fire engineering.

My advice to any engineer is, if you enjoy your work and career and you strive to be good at your job, registration as a Chartered Engineer will follow.

Vicky Smith, CEng MIFE
Registered September 2010