

UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence (UK-SPEC) 3rd edition 2014: Summary of key changes from the previous edition

During 2013, the Engineering Council undertook a five yearly review of UK-SPEC with the close involvement of professional engineering institutions (PEIs) and other stakeholders. All their feedback was carefully considered and, in keeping with the strong support for the previous edition, un-necessary changes have been avoided. Most of the document remains unchanged. This overview of the key revisions is intended to assist institutions when briefing their volunteer mentors, PD advisors, PR interviewers and others who need to know. Institutions are likely to use this overview to develop their own revised guidance and when interpreting UK-SPEC for their own sector/discipline.

The 3rd edition was published on 31 January 2014 and is available on the Engineering Council's website at <http://www.engc.org.uk/ukspec> Hard copies can be obtained from info@engc.org.uk.

The Engineering Council's Board of Trustees approved a two year transition period, thus by 1 February 2016, all professional reviews should be conducted according to the Standard set out in this edition.

Layout

This remains the same. New for this edition is the inclusion of a table comparing the requirements for all three titles. This is provided as an Annex. Many respondents said that they would find this helpful.

Introduction

Whilst this may appear rather different, much of the revision amounts to a re-ordering or an updating of information (such as the international context). The more substantial revisions are:

- Reference to the 'commitment' element of the competence and commitment requirements for registration has been strengthened.
- 'Competence' and 'commitment' have been explained.
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and the Code for Registrants have been included.

The A – E Standards

The definitions of each title - EngTech, IEng and CEng – have been re-drafted, mostly for clarification. The fact that the list of exemplar activities (right hand column) is not intended to be exhaustive has been stressed.

Additional exemplar activities have been provided, particularly for EngTech, with the aim of wider relevance and appeal, thus helping more individuals to identify appropriate workplace activity that can help them towards registered status.

Revisions have been made to clarify some IEng requirements and enhance their distinctiveness.

A section about Professional Development has been included for EngTech.

Attention has focused on areas/topics that have arisen since the previous revision. Your attention is drawn to the following revisions, mostly to the Standard rather than to the exemplars, which are not minor/editorial/tidying.¹

Engineering Technician (EngTech)	
Safety/safe systems of working	Included within the definition of title
<i>Diagnostic</i> replaced by <i>appropriate</i>	B1
Security	Included in B2
<i>Self and others</i> becomes <i>self or others</i>	C2
Awareness..... diversity and equality	D2
Risk	Exemplar E2: risk assessment
Sustainability – expanded for clarity	E3
CPD – expanded for clarity and alignment with the CPD Code for Registrants	E4

¹ Please refer to the UK-SPEC 3rd edition for more new exemplar activities

Incorporated Engineer	
Problem solving, financial planning and leading and developing staff	Within the revised definition of title
Fully exploiting and implementing	B1
Identifying risks	B2
<i>Carry out holistic and systematic risk identification, assessment and management added</i>	C1
<i>Contribute to awareness of risk</i>	D2
Take account of... <i>security</i>	B2
Take account of... <i>intellectual property</i>	B2
Collect and analyse results	B2
Carry out necessary tests	B2
<i>... including due concern for safety and sustainability</i>	Within 'design' B3
<i>Apply a sound knowledge of health and safety legislation</i>	E2
<i>Use resources efficiently and effectively</i>	E3
Professional standards – <i>team commitment</i>	C3
needs and concerns of others ... <i>diversity and equality</i> ,	D3
CPD: <i>record</i> as well as carry out	E4

Chartered Engineer	
Consider and implement <i>new and emerging technologies</i> (clarity)	B1
<i>Allocate and manage resources</i>	B2
<i>... appropriate analysis of risk</i>	B2
<i>Define holistic and systematic approach to risk identification, assessment and management</i>	C1
<i>Raise the awareness of risk</i>	D2
Take account of... <i>security</i>	B2
Take account of... <i>intellectual property</i>	B2
<i>Manage implementation of design solutions</i>	B3
<i>Agree becomes define quality standards</i>	C2
<i>..... including due concern for safety and sustainability</i>	Within 'design' B3
<i>Apply sound knowledge of health and safety legislation</i>	E2
<i>Use resources efficiently and effectively</i>	E3
Professional standards – <i>team commitment</i>	C3
, needs and concerns of others ... <i>diversity and equality</i>	D3
Communication: <i>contribute to becomes lead</i>	D1
CPD: <i>record</i> as well as carry out	E4

There is one new Standard (E5) which is identical for all titles: 'Exercise responsibilities in an ethical manner'.

Professional and Ethical Behaviour

This final section has been expanded to include the CPD Policy Statement and reference to other Engineering Council documentation such as guidance material. 94% of respondents to the second consultation about the revisions said that they found this section helpful.

A glossary has been included.

The annex is new: a matrix comparing competence across the three registration titles.