

Changes to ICES commercial management competencies

Last year, new format commercial management competencies were introduced for the quantity surveying and project management specialisms. Three additional new streams are due to be launched for cost engineering, estimating and a new specialism, risk management. The standard definitions of appreciation, knowledge, experience and ability (AKEB) will also have new definitions in order to make it easier for applicants to interpret each activity requirement.

Whilst there has been no change in the overall standard required from applicants — each new format specialism will have the same six core competencies — the activities will be assigned different standards according to the specifics of the specialism itself. There will also be a set of specialist competencies which are unique to that stream. Applicants for technical member or member grades will need to complete three sets of competencies; general, core and specialist.

Membership manager Paul Brown said: “The idea is to create cohesion for all of the commercial management streams, whilst accurately addressing the specifics that are unique to each role. We hope that the new competencies require less interpretation, reflect what is happening in industry and are easy to understand.”

www.ices.org/competencies



Examples of the pathway to membership or technical membership using the revised commercial management competencies.

Apprenticeship reform

A number of construction firms have signed up to the government's new Trailblazer apprenticeship schemes. The first wave of new construction apprenticeships will focus on wood occupations and assembly technicians. In developing the scheme the Construction Industry Training Board, Chartered Institute of Building and Institution of Civil Engineers will work with companies including Laing O'Rourke, Carillion, Kier, Balfour Beatty and the Royal Engineers. The rail design trailblazer will see Jacobs, Arup, Atkins, CH2MHill, Hyder Consulting, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Tony Gee and Partners, URS, WSP, the Institution of Civil Engineers and Institution of Engineering Technology working together.

James Wates, chair of CITB, said: “Construction faces a perfect storm. 400,000 workers are set to retire in the next five years and with skills shortages at an all-time high, we need to make sure that we recruit the best and brightest talent so we can compete for business on a global scale. This partnership is a great first step — and it puts employers in the driving seat to ensure that we have the right skills to thrive.” New apprentices can expect to take part in reformed apprenticeships as early as 2014 to 2015.

Construction law discount for ICES

ICES members are entitled to a 10% discount on attendance rates at two construction law events this summer. The Construction Law: Contracts & Dispute Management Conference will run from 24-25 June 2014 in London. Speakers include Dominic Helps from Corbett and Co, ICES fellow Hamish Lal from Jones Day, Nicholas Gould from Fenwick Elliott and former judge Stefan Leupertz.

The Construction Law Summer School will be held in Cambridge from 1-4 September 2014. Speakers on the residential masterclass include ICES fellow Lindy Patterson QC from Dundas & Wilson, Mark Roe of Pinsent Masons, Adrian Hughes of 39 Essex Street, and civil engineer and barrister Peter H J Chapman.

Booking details are available at www.ibclegal.com

Crossrail joins CYT scheme

Crossrail has joined the Construction Youth Trust's Budding Brunels scheme. The programme will engage with students in west London who are studying level 3 science, technology, engineering and maths based subjects. Staff from Network Rail will provide presentations on different roles and routes into the industry, as well as site tours, group-based activities and work experience.

New ADS for ICES

J N Bentley has become the institution's latest approved development partner. The civil engineering company will run an approved development scheme for quantity surveying staff. The scheme will be supervised by Paul Ellis from the company's northern office and David Sawyer in the south.

GEO Business line-up announced

The conference programme has been released for GEO Business. Speakers include ICES honorary fellow Dr Vanessa Lawrence, director general and CEO of Ordnance Survey, David Philp, head of BIM implementation at the UK Cabinet Office, and Anne Kemp, director for BIM strategy and development at Atkins. Event organiser Versha Carter said: “It is an impressive line-up for any show, let alone a launch event, and is a fabulous endorsement for GEO Business.”

The conference will be chaired by ICES fellow Chris Preston, and president Alan Barrow will be acting as session chair.

GEO Business runs from 28-29 May 2014
www.geobusinessshow.com

FIG Young Surveyors USA meeting

The Federation of International Surveyors (FIG) is holding its first Young Surveyors networking meeting in north America this month. The speakers include Don Buhler, chief cadastral surveyor at the US Bureau of Land Management, Curt Summer, executive director of the National Society of Professional Surveyors, William Stone, a state advisor at National Geodetic Survey, and senior representatives from Trimble and Leica Geosystems.

The meeting will be held from 14-15 April 2014 at the Town and Country Resort Hotel, San Diego. Register online at
www.nsp.us.com

Risk survey

ICES members are asked to complete a survey on risk management being organised by law firm Weightmans. The short survey covers opinions on the identification and contractual management of risk.

The survey can be found online at
www.surveymonkey.com/s/HPSXZYJ