



Infosec **&** Training Paths
Competencies

Newsletter

New Waiver Route application process

Candidates applying via the waiver route will in future have the option of completing a competency-based application form in place of their dissertation.

The change has been made in recognition that many experienced IA practitioners have a wealth of experience from which to prove their competence, and may wish to call on their experience from a number of different projects in their ITPC submission. However, the standards and general rules are the same as for the dissertation.

The form asks for a specific relevant example for each of the ten ITPC core competencies to demonstrate how the candidate has achieved it. The example should give a reasoned case indicating the situation, what the candidate did, why and how they did it and what the outcome was. All examples should be within the last two years. Together the examples should demonstrate the breadth and depth of the candidate's experience. Each competency should be demonstrated in around 350-500 words, so in total the effort is the same as that required for the dissertation, but avoids potential duplication of the competency descriptions provided by waiver candidates.

Waiver candidates may continue to produce the dissertation plus the competency descriptions, as now, if they prefer: the new form is optional. Regardless of which method they choose, candidates' submissions will be examined in the same way and to the same standards by our examiners.

Full details will be posted on the website during May along with the form, which will be available for use from June 2007.

Standard training route candidates are not affected by this change, and should complete their applications in the normal way.

CPD – the first year ends ...

Well done to all those who have submitted their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) returns and been awarded CPD certificates for 2006. All those who submitted their returns before the end of March should by now have received CPD certificates.

If you have sent in your form since the end of March, but have not yet heard anything, this is because we are holding CPD returns and dealing with them in batches for greater efficiency. The next batch will be assessed in the first days of May, to allow for April returns.

We know that many certificate holders with April – March reporting years were waiting for the end of their year and completing the form at the same time as their staff reports. Please don't forget to send it in!

CPD certificates should be kept safely and used alongside the ITPC Certificate of Infosec Competency to prove that you have maintained the Certificate's currency.

... and a heads up for future changes

The first batch of CPD returns in January highlighted some particular areas of concern, which we have highlighted in a letter sent out with CPD certificates. These are likely to result in a minor changes to the CPD rules for 2007. Although any changes have to be ratified by the ITPC Steering Committee, we felt you should be forewarned as you will have set, or be setting, your objectives for the coming year, and may already be engaging in CPD activities.

Please note that this proposal has not yet been ratified by the Steering Committee: final details will be available at the start of August when the Steering Committee has had an opportunity to review CPD fully. As CPD works around different reporting years, the Steering Committee has been unable to review the running of CPD until all returns have been received.

There are two major issues which have caused concern:

- Some individuals seem to be claiming against what would seem to be normal work. We have raised this with individuals where cancelling this would cause them to fall below ITPC's requirements. Occasionally this can be explained as a genuine extension into development, but should only be included where there is a strong element of development (as opposed to doing one's normal work). **This is not a change – individuals should bear this requirement in mind when planning their CPD.**
- Papers and presentations seem to be used more than expected: both may be the result of some research or other development activity, but merely presenting against one's normal work would not normally count as development. **We will therefore be recommending that papers and**

presentations are limited to a single entry of 5 points in 2007. (In practice, all those who have claimed more than 5 points would have met the overall requirements comfortably if this limit had been in place for 2006.)

Although at present this is only a proposal, please bear it in mind in your planning and action for 2007 CPD.

Training update

On behalf of CESG and the National School of Government we would like to thank everyone who responded to the training needs analysis questionnaire at the end of last year.

The response rate was very good and has given us useful feedback on requirements for future training. We will keep you informed of progress as courses are reviewed and new training developed.

Please keep in touch ...

We want to make sure we stay in touch with all ITPC certificate holders and candidates so we can keep you informed about future developments to the Scheme.

Please could you email or write to let us know your email address and telephone number – and please don't forget to let us know if you change your job or work address.

Come and see us at Infosec

We will be at the Infosecurity Europe 2007 at Olympia on 24th-26th April. CSIA are again sharing a stand with the IISP, so if you are there come and see us on stand E252.

ITPC Contact Details

ITPC Scheme
Cabinet Office CSIA
Room 2.20
26 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2WH

email: itpc@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/infosec