



CEASA and ECSA roles and relationship explained

The Clinical Engineering Association of South Africa (CEASA) is a voluntary association representing Clinical Engineering practitioners.

<http://www.ceasa-national.org.za/>

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) is the statutory body representing all fields of engineering in SA.

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<https://www.ecsa.co.za/about>

"The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) is a statutory body established in terms of the Engineering Profession Act (EPA), 46 of 2000. The ECSA's primary role is the regulation of the engineering profession in terms of this Act. Its core functions are the accreditation of engineering programmes, registration of persons as professionals in specified categories, and the regulation of the practice of registered persons.

Consequently, the ECSA is the only body in South Africa that is authorised to register engineering professionals and bestow the use of engineering titles, such as Pr Eng, Pr Tech Eng, Pr Techni Eng, Pr Cert Eng, on persons who have met the requisite professional registration criteria."

CEASA has its own constitution that simultaneously creates, empowers and limits governance. The constitution also defines membership category requirements and members rights. All applicants for CEASA membership must agree to the constitution before admission to the association is granted.

Full voting membership of CEASA is granted by regionally elected CEASA branch committees to Clinical Engineering practitioners who apply for and satisfy the committee that they have at least two years of active experience in the field of Clinical Engineering.

CEASA non-voting Associate membership may be granted to Clinical Engineering students and those with less than the pre-requisite 2 years' experience. Associate membership may be upgraded to Full membership once the requisite two years of active experience in the field of Clinical Engineering is proven. Applicants with an active interest in Clinical Engineering but who are not Clinical Engineering practitioners may also be granted Associate membership.

CEASA membership in itself is not a qualification and does not imply that Clinical Engineering practitioners are engineering competent, neither can Clinical Engineering practitioners declare themselves so, only ECSA may do this after the practitioner formally applies for and is granted professional registration.

Some prospective employers call for Clinical Engineering applicants to be CEASA members as pre-screening to assure them that applicants are truly active in the field; they never employ an applicant on this basis alone.

CEASA is not involved in any way with Occupational Specific Dispensation (OSD) initiatives pertaining to employment in the state sector.

ECSA registration is currently only voluntary for Clinical Engineering practitioners in South Africa, though this may change and already in some cases, employers may call for Clinical Engineering practitioners to be ECSA registered.

Since CEASA is officially recognised by ECSA as a voluntary association representing Clinical Engineering practitioners in South Africa, ECSA affords CEASA members a substantial registration fees discount. ECSA will check with CEASA whether persons claiming membership are truly paid-up members or not.

Once registered with ECSA, Clinical Engineering practitioners will have to maintain that registration with on-going CPD activities. Some CEASA activities such as the CEASA/SAFHE congress and attendance of some ECSA recognised members meetings provides registered persons with valuable CPD points that they must acquire over a stipulated period to remain registered at ECSA.

Clinical Engineering practitioners individually choose to join CEASA and whether or not to remain a CEASA member according to their perceptions of what CEASA means to them, what it can do for them and what they can do for CEASA.

CEASA members have the right to decide not to pay their annual membership fees. By default, non-payment of membership fees automatically results in Clinical Engineering practitioners ceasing to be CEASA members. All membership certificates issued by CEASA are only valid for the year for which they are marked and lapse at the year end.

Re-admission to CEASA is currently not barred, however a new CEASA membership application form needs to be fully completed and re-submitted for consideration, an extra re-joining fee in addition to the current membership fees will apply if the applicant is accepted and that will be in whichever category the the local CEASA branch committee deems fit.