

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must:

- complete the IRATA application form
- submit one year's audited accounts (where applicable)
- agree to abide by the:
 - Constitution
 - IRATA Code of Ethics and Objectives
 - Guidelines for Safe Working

All applications and correspondence shall be in the English language and all payments shall be in UK currency. All categories of membership are open to companies from outside the UK. Such applicants shall meet all appropriate requirements, e.g. fees, audits, attendance at general meetings etc.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

There are three categories of membership:

- Full
- Probationary
- Individual

FULL MEMBERSHIP

Full membership shall be open to the following types of organisation:

Operator: Companies directly engaged in operations utilising industrial rope access techniques (other than training).

Trainer: Companies engaged in training personnel in all techniques of industrial rope access.

Equipment Supplier: Manufacturers and/or suppliers of equipment for use in industrial rope access.

These shall be known as: Full Member (Operator); Full Member (Trainer); Full Member (Equipment Supplier).

Requirements

Full Membership is available to the three types of organisation listed above which meet the following requirements. They shall:

- a) have completed a minimum of one year's trading in the relevant activities; i.e., operator, trainer, equipment supplier;
- b) have completed one year as a probationary member in the type(s) of full membership required;
- c) have passed an IRATA Technical Audit in the appropriate membership type(s);
- d) have relevant adequate general and technical management expertise and supervisory personnel;
- e) have an acceptable form of record, regularly maintained, of the training and experience of all employees engaged in work associated with rope access where applicable;
- f) have implemented and maintained systems acceptable to IRATA for quality assurance/quality control

Multiple Type Memberships

It is permissible to be a full member of more than one type (e.g. operator and trainer) provided that the requirements of each type are met.

The annual subscription for one type of full membership covers any other type attained, i.e. only one subscription is payable.

Group Membership

Companies which have satisfactorily been full members for at least one year may extend their membership to include subsidiaries, sister or other legally associated companies other than that originally audited. The original member shall remain the official - or full member - and, when applying for group membership, shall, in writing:

- a) nominate which of its subsidiaries, sister or other legally associated companies are to be included, giving their office addresses. (Excluding the office originally audited)
- b) undertake to ensure and guarantee that each of these subsidiaries, sister or other legally associated companies shall operate fully to IRATA requirements and standards as if it were the original full member
- c) acknowledge that it accepts that if any of these subsidiaries, sister or other legally associated companies are found to be in breach of IRATA obligations, requirements and standards, then its own membership shall be open to review and disciplinary action as if it had committed these breaches itself.
- d) acknowledge that it shall receive, as representative, only one copy of IRATA documentation and shall be responsible for the distribution of copies of such documentation to its nominated offices and companies.

The original representative member which is responsible for the other group members is entitled to one vote only. The other group companies have no voting rights.

PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP

The purpose of this category is to inform and guide companies with a view to preparing them for full membership. Probationary membership shall be open to the following types of organisations:

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Operator: | Companies directly engaged in operations utilising industrial rope access techniques (other than training). |
| Trainer: | Companies engaged in training personnel in all techniques of industrial rope access. |
| Equipment Supplier: | Manufacturers and/or suppliers of equipment for use in industrial rope access. |

These shall be known as: Probationary Member (Operator); Probationary Member (Trainer); Probationary Member (Equipment Supplier). It is permissible to be a probationary member of more than one type of category.

Requirements

Applicants shall be expected to submit themselves for an IRATA Probationary Audit before becoming a probationary member.

Probationary members shall apply and successfully complete an IRATA Full Audit within twelve months of the first anniversary of their probationary membership, failing which their membership shall be terminated and they shall be required to re-apply.

Companies wishing to apply for full membership must have first completed one year as a probationary member in the type(s) of full membership required.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Requirements

Individual membership shall be available for persons who do not fulfil the criteria for full or probationary membership and who are engaged as IRATA membership auditors, IRATA assessors, level 3 supervisors

or other associated professional persons. Membership will be granted at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

This category of membership is not designed to cover training, operators or equipment suppliers. Individuals who supply these services should apply for the appropriate type of membership.

AUDITS

There shall be audits of each category and type of membership defined in the rules above. The audit shall be carried out by an IRATA auditor. Any changes to the audit check list shall be developed by the Executive Committee and approved by a simple majority of members at a general meeting. In the case of group members, the audit applies to the original - i.e. representative - member only.

An IRATA Technical and Quality Audit will be undertaken on a full member each three years. The Executive Committee may also request a re-audit or surveillance visit at any time if it believes, with good reason, that the member's standards have fallen below those of the original audit. Such a request shall be notified and substantiated to the member.

QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL

Where full members are registered to ISO 9000 for the type of work covered by their membership type, the audits carried out by the body monitoring ISO 9000 are acceptable in place of IRATA Quality Audits, providing that evidence is given to IRATA that the member's ISO 9000 procedures manual contains sufficient reference to IRATA requirements for the auditors to be able to carry out a proper assessment.

Non-compliance, non-conformance

Any non-compliances or non-conformances revealed by an audit shall be corrected within 3 months. The member shall subsequently demonstrate that the above non-compliances or non-conformances are rectified within this time.

All costs of audits/surveillances shall be borne by the member except re-audits at the request of IRATA which shall be paid by IRATA.

MEETINGS

All members (full, probationary, individual and subscription) shall be entitled to attend and speak at general and sub-committee meetings, and to receive the full information services of IRATA.

VOTING RIGHTS

Only full members shall have voting rights. Each full member shall be entitled to only one vote.

IRATA LOGO

Full members only may use the IRATA logo and then only if the membership status is clearly stated directly beneath it. (e.g. "Full Member Operator", "Full Member Trainer" or "Full Member Equipment Supplier"). Probationary members shall not use the IRATA logo.

APPLICATIONS AND FEES

Application for membership shall be provided in such a form as the association approves. Applicants and members shall provide full contact addresses for communication with IRATA, and shall notify any changes.

Acceptance for membership shall be by a 75% vote of approval, undertaken by ballot, of the whole of the Executive Committee. Where membership is not accepted, the applicant shall be notified of the reason(s), in writing, and shall have the right of appeal and re-application as per the Memorandum and Articles of the Association.

Application Fee

Each member shall pay to IRATA a non-returnable application fee and thereafter an annual subscription. Such subscriptions may vary according to the category of membership. They shall be set, or altered, from time to time by the Executive Committee and ratified at a general meeting.

Where Full Members are responsible for other group members no additional entrance fee shall be payable but the responsible company shall pay the full subscription plus a supplement for each additional subsidiary, sister or other legally associated company.

The initial application fee shall be payable at the time of application for membership. The annual subscription shall be payable not later than the due date.

GENERAL

Membership is not transferable

Members who already hold an existing membership category, i.e. probationary, individual, affiliate or full, will receive automatic transference of that membership, complete with its existing audit approval, to the new equivalent membership category or type. Those who wish to add to or change their category or type will be required to reapply for those changes or additions.

TRAINING AND REGISTRATION OF OPERATIVES

Only Full (Operator/Trainer), Full (Trainer), Probationary (Operator/Trainer) or Probationary(Trainer) may train and register operatives.

FEES

Membership subscriptions, agreed by the Executive Committee, are charged from April to March each year. Members joining the Association after 1 July will be charged pro rata. Invoices for subscriptions will be sent upon appointment to membership.

APPLICATION FEE (non refundable)	Full/Probationary	£1250 plus VAT
	Individual	£50 plus VAT
SUBSCRIPTIONS	Full/Probationary	£450 plus VAT
	Individual	£100 plus VAT