

MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
BETWEEN
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS
AND
THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON
December 2012

Whereas,

The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) was founded in 1963 to promote the profession of geology and to provide certification for geologists to establish a standard of excellence for the profession. AIPG presently has more than 6,000 members in the United States of America (USA) and abroad, and is organized into 36 regional Sections. The AIPG adheres to the principles of professional responsibility and public service and certifies the competence and ethical conduct of geological scientists in all branches of the science with members employed in industry, government, and academia. AIPG emphasizes competence, integrity and ethics. AIPG is an advocate for the profession and communicates regularly to federal and state legislators and agencies on matters pertaining to the geosciences.

AIPG is a nonprofit organization whose policies are determined by its Executive Committee.

The purposes of AIPG include:

1. advance the geological sciences and the profession of geology;
2. establish qualifications for professional geologists;
3. certify the qualifications of specific individual Member geologists to the public;
4. promote high standards of ethical conduct among its Members and Adjuncts, and within the profession of geology; and
5. represent, and advocate for, the geological profession before government and the general public.

Membership classifications include Certified Professional Geologist (CPG), Retired, Honorary Emeritus Member, Affiliated Professional, Candidate for Certification, Young Professional, and Student. AIPG certifies professional geologists based on their competence, integrity and ethics. By means of a rigorous and thorough peer review process, the Institute investigates applicants who voluntarily apply for self-regulation through the Institute. This screening carefully evaluates their education, experience, technical competence, and ethical conduct. Continuing education is strongly encouraged but not mandatory as part of certification. Through agreements with professional societies in other countries, AIPG provides access for its Members to professional registration, certification, or chartered status in those countries.

AIPGs Requirements for Certified Professional Geologist (CPG):

Applicants for certification must have a bachelor's degree or higher in the geological sciences with a minimum of 36 semester hours of geology courses plus eight (8) years of professional geological work experience. The members of the Section Screening Committee and National Screening Committee review and verify the applicants' education and academic record, professional experience, and supporting sponsorship and verification forms for the following in their review of the applicants' qualifications for award of CPG:

EDUCATION: 36 semester or 54 quarter hours in geological sciences with a baccalaureate or higher degree; certified copy of official transcripts must be sent by each college or university. Note to those who

received degrees from non-U.S./Canadian universities and the school is unable to provide an acceptable transcript, you must submit a copy of your diploma and a list of courses taken. The Screening Committee may ask the applicant to provide additional information or an equivalency evaluation.

EXPERIENCE: Eight (8) years beyond bachelor's degree, or seven (7) years beyond master's degree, or five (5) years beyond a doctorate degree.

SPONSORS: Three (3) sponsors required from professional geologists, two (2) of whom must be CPG's (see Section 2.3.1 of the AIPG Bylaws for exceptions).

And whereas,

The Geological Society of London (GSL) was founded in 1807. It is the United Kingdom's (UK) national learned society and professional body for the geosciences, and the oldest geological society in the world. The GSL strategy is to serve science and the profession by the following aims:

1. To be the respected public voice of geosciences in the UK;
2. To provide lifelong professional support to geoscientists;
3. To recognize and foster innovation in the geosciences;
4. To promote geoscience education;
5. To communicate geoscience research and practice; and
6. To assure high professional standards for the benefit of society.

The GSL provides a wide range of professional and scientific support to over 10,500 Fellows (members), about 2000 of whom live overseas. More than 2300 Fellows are also Chartered Geologists. Definitions of membership categories are as follows:

Chartered Geologist - The Geological Society of London is the recognized UK professional body for geoscientists. It awards the professional qualification of Chartered Geologist (CGeol). The 'Chartered' designation indicates a professional practitioner with a high level of education, professional competence in their field of practice, a commitment to professional ethics and who is bound by a professional Code of Conduct. Chartered Geologist is appropriate for those Fellows practicing as professional geoscientists and for whom geoscience knowledge is an essential element for the fulfillment of their role.

Chartered Scientist - The Society is one of a number of professional bodies licensed by the UK Science Council to award the title of Chartered Scientist (CSci). This qualification is appropriate for Fellows practicing as professional scientists and for whom scientific knowledge or practice at a professional level forms an essential element for the fulfillment of their role. Many Fellows will fulfill the requirements for both CGeol and CSci and both qualifications are of equal standing.

European Geologist - The Geological Society of London is also licensed by the European Federation of Geologists to determine applications for the European Geologist title (EurGeol) in the UK. All who qualify for CGeol will have met the EurGeol requirements.

Therefore,

Based on review of the requirements and processes for recognition and regulation of certification and/or licensure as professional geologists in the USA by the American Institute of Professional Geologists and in the UK by the Geological Society of London, the requirements of each organization are mutually agreed to be comparable. AIPG reminds its members that the use of the title of “professional geologist” or “geologist” and the practice of geology may also be subject to the rules and regulations of individual states of the United States. Members are reminded to be familiar with those regulations.

By this mutual recognition of professional qualifications, the American Institute of Professional Geologists’ Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) and the Geological Society of London’s Chartered Geologist (CGeol) shall be recognized as comparable between the two organizations in affording its respective CPG and CGeol members discretionary privileges with each of the organizations. This mutual recognition may be terminated or voided should either organization significantly modify its certification standards. Applicants for certification from the other organization are still subject to review based on recommendations of sponsors, employment verification statement, and similar as indicated on the respective organizations application.

By this mutual recognition of professional qualifications the following agreements are acknowledged:

- The American Institute of Professional Geologists will accept applications for the title of Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) from members of the Geological Society of London who are registered as a Chartered Geologist (CGeol) with a single sponsorship affidavit from the Geological Society of London, in lieu of the standard application requirements and the Geological Society of London will accept applications for title of Chartered Geologist (CGeol) with a single sponsorship affidavit from members of the American Institute of Professional Geologists who are Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) members, in lieu of the standard application requirements. The objective is to have an accelerated application process which will not require the submission of transcripts or certified record of employment. Each organization will provide an application to meet these objectives.
- In circumstances where a Chartered Geologist (CGeol) is best qualified to sponsor an application for Certified Professional Geologist (CPG), that sponsorship will be accepted by the American Institute of Professional Geologists, as if from a Certified Professional Geologist, subject to the Chartered Geologist accepting full responsibility as if a Certified Professional Geologist and in circumstances where a Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) is best qualified to sponsor an application for Chartered Geologist (CGeol), that sponsorship will be accepted by the Geological Society of London, as if from a Chartered Geologist, subject to the Certified Professional Geologist accepting full responsibility as if a Chartered Geologist.

Agreement accepted on the ____ of December 2012 by:

Name: _____ For the American Institute of Professional Geologists

(printed) _____ Date signed: _____

Name: _____ For the Geological Society of London

(printed) _____ Date signed: _____