

The New Ratification Process

The IAG ratification process currently adopted by the board stipulates that before a candidate can become a member of the IAG, he or she must attend two assemblies and then be voted on at a third conference.

In the meantime, the board verifies the member in question by conducting a personal visit.

Although this process ensures a high standard of qualification of potential members, we see that in some cases it can result in a period of one or even up to two years before the interested party is able to join the organisation.

This can not only make the decision to join more difficult, but also significantly prolong the development of the IAG in countries where members believe the organisation should be represented.

It can also be a far-reaching risk in the event of a possible resignation of a member in a given jurisdiction.

This is because while the resignation of a member involves a single email, the replacement of such a member in a given location takes approximately 1.5 to 2 years afterwards.

Therefore, the Board would like to propose a modification of the adopted procedure in such a way that the ratification of a member can take place after that member has attended the conference once as an observer. In this way, a vote would be held at the next assembly of the candidate in question enabling him/her to join the organisation.

The Board is of the opinion that this will

- (i) ensure faster growth of the organisation in new locations
- (ii) make it more attractive to potential members
- (iii) minimise the risk of non-representation associated with a member resigning in a location where there are no other member companies.

The Board would like to point out that the proposed change does not result in a modification of the current Articles of Association of the organisation, but only in a change to the internal procedure of the Board.

Indeed, the current provisions of the Articles only require participation in one meeting prior to ratification.

The Board therefore suggests returning to the arrangements previously provided for in the Articles.

An applicant for membership must:

5.2.a Provide to the Association details of its structure, a list of partners and associates of the applicant, addresses of offices, type of work undertaken and information about any professional licensing or other governing body to which it belongs as well as any other information requested;

5.2.b Attend a meeting of the Association as an observer; and

5.2.c Be visited by a representative of the Association.

However the Board may decide that a visit is not required in cases where there are appropriate grounds for this, such as previous involvement in IAG of a leading individual within the candidate firm, or a current IAG Member having substantial good experience of working with the candidate firm.

The Board would like to implement this rule from 2025 onwards (starting at the Rio conference).

Until then, members of the Board will be available to interested members to answer any questions or concerns in this regard.

We continue to receive introductions to new and prospective members from existing members, which is always the preferred way of growing the membership and ensuring we attract quality firms. Please let the Board or Executive Office know of any firms that you think would make good IAG members and we will do the rest!

*Chairman's Address
Los Angeles Assembly
October 2024*