

MEMBERSHIP BYELAWS
(Extract from Association Bylaws)

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Classes of Membership

- (1) Member Firm (MF)
- (2) Associate Member Firm (AMF)
- (3) Personal Member (PM)
- (4) Honorary Life Member
- (5) Affiliate Member

Section 2 Eligibility

- (1) A Member Firm (MF) shall:

- (a) be a company or partnership or a clearly identifiable sub-division of such organisation, providing a service as a consultant, designer, contractor, supplier of specialist services or manufacturer within the total range of geotechnical and/or geoenvironmental engineering and/or related technology.

The service must be provided in at least one of the following specialist areas:-

- (i) design
- (ii) supervision of works
- (iii) advisory services
- (iv) specialist contracting
- (v) laboratory and testing services
- (vi) provision of specialist materials

The AGS Committee must be satisfied that applicants can demonstrate relevant experience, financial stability and a firm commitment to quality and quality assurance based on defined levels of competence. Furthermore all applicants must agree to abide by any Codes of Practice (approved by majority vote at an AGS Annual General Meeting)

- (b) have a registered office in the UK;
- (c) have practised in a manner and in a field of work acceptable to the Committee for a period not less than 3 years;
- (d) have a commitment to set, maintain and enhance quality standards and procedures for the industry and thereby to improve the quality of professional services;
- (e) confirm in writing the firm's acceptance and adherence to the AGS Code of Conduct in Site Investigation
- (f) employ no fewer than 3 full-time geotechnical or geoenvironmental specialists. At least one of the 3 should have a minimum of 10 years' appropriate experience. For the firm to qualify each individual must:
 - (i) be a resident in the UK ;
 - and (ii) be a Corporate Member or equivalent of the Institution of Civil Engineers, The Geological Society of London, The Institution of Water and Environmental Management, The Royal Society of Chemists, the Institution of Structural Engineers, or another appropriate Institution approved by the AGS Committee or a Chartered Engineer and a Corporate Member of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy.
 - and (iii) have a minimum of 3 years' experience as a practising geotechnical or geoenvironmental specialist.

and in addition, the individual must have at least one of the following:

- (iv) a Master of Science degree in an appropriate subject, eg. Soil Mechanics, Rock Mechanics, Geotechnical Engineering, Foundation Engineering, Engineering Geology, Geophysics, Geochemistry, Hydrogeology, Environmental Geotechnics etc; or
- (v) a Doctor of Philosophy degree on a relevant topic in one of the subject areas described above; or
- (vi) 2 years' experience as a practising geotechnical or geoenvironmental specialist, in addition to that in (iii) above

or when ii) to vi) above do not apply the individual must have a minimum of 20 years' experience as a practising geotechnical or geoenvironmental specialist.

(2) An Associate Member Firm (AMF) shall:

- (a) comply with (a) to (e) above.
- (b) employ at least 1 full-time geotechnical or geoenvironmental specialists defined in (1) (f) who should also have a minimum of 10 years appropriate experience.

(3) A Personal Member (PM) shall:

- (a) in the opinion of the Committee, be a sufficiently experienced geotechnical or geoenvironmental practitioner, practising and normally residing in the UK; and
- (b) be active as an individual within a firm or organisation which is in itself unable to fulfil the requirements of MF/AMF/Affiliate.

(4) An Honorary Life Member shall be:

a retired member of a Member Firm or Personal Member, who has been and wishes to remain active in the affairs of the Association.

(5) An Affiliate Member (Affiliate) shall:

be a Firm having employees with academic and professional experience which satisfies the Committee. The firm must be sympathetic to the objectives of the Association and demonstrate interactive participation with the geotechnical and geoenvironmental activities of Members.

Section 3 Applications and Resignations

(1) Acceptance into Membership

It is understood that by applying for and being granted membership in the Association, a firm or individual accepts all provisions of these Byelaws and waives any and all legal recourse against the Association, its officers, Committee, members and staff for actions resulting from application of such provisions.

Every application for membership must be submitted to the Administrator on the appropriate form. Such application for Membership of a Firm must be proposed and seconded in writing by two existing Member Firms. Applications for AMF/PM/Affiliates must be proposed and seconded in writing by two existing members (MF/AMF/PM/Affiliates). The proposers and seconders shall vouch for the quality intentions of the applicant.

Election to membership in the Association shall be by a majority vote of the Committee. The Committee which may, at its option, delegate such responsibility to the Membership Sub-Committee, but reserves the right to review the judgment of and overrule the Membership Sub-Committee.

(3) Termination of Membership

Any member whose membership is terminated for any reason shall lose all rights and interests, if any, in any funds or other assets of the Association. Causes for termination shall include:

(a) Resignation

A firm or individual may resign upon written notice to the Chairman or Administrator of the Association. If a member gives less than three months notice terminating on 31st December of any year of his intention to withdraw from membership of the Company, he shall meet any financial liabilities in respect of the Company for the current year and any outstanding liabilities for previous years.

(b) Non-compliance

A firm which or individual who no longer meets membership criteria will not be eligible for continuation of membership in the Association.

(c) Non-payment of Dues

Dues are payable on the first day in January. If the dues are not paid by 1st April, the MF/AMF/PM/ or Affiliate who has not paid and who has been notified of the arrears, shall have membership terminated automatically.

(d) Breach of Ethics

Membership may be terminated for any breach of ethics, such breach to be determined by the Executive Committee.