

RULES OF THE REGISTER OF TOXICOLOGISTS

The professional title of a person on the register is "European registered toxicologist". In this body of rules the term toxicologist refers to this title. The term toxicologist differs from most other professional titles in that persons with varied basic educations are entitled to use it. In spite of the wide range of jobs available for toxicologists, a common denominator for toxicologists, independent of job descriptions, must be sufficient theoretical knowledge and professional experience. Only then can the toxicologist fully participate in toxicological research, or work as an expert in service jobs, government jobs or in other fields. Moreover, the title of registered toxicologist assures the contracting party/customer that the person engaged in the job is competent to work as a toxicologist. The standardization of the term toxicologist thus clarifies the job description both for those who need the services and for the public in general.

1 § Registration requirements

The registration committee (hereafter "committee"), subordinate to the board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology, maintains a list of registered toxicologists, i.e. the Register of Toxicologists, and gives a certificate as proof of registration. Applications conforming with the committee's instructions are addressed to the committee.

1 § 1 Basic degree

An applicant must have a suitable higher academic degree from a Finnish university, or from a university elsewhere, provided that such degrees are acknowledged in Finland by the Ministry of Education.

1 § 2 Other education (postgraduate studies)

An applicant must have a minimum of 40 study weeks of toxicological training, of which at least 20 must be in the following essential areas 1) toxicological properties of chemicals and physical factors (systematic toxicology), 2) toxicological responses typical of different organs (target organ and genotoxicology), 3) principal methods of toxicology, 4) toxicity studies and risk assessment, and 5) laws, regulations and administrative rules governing the field. The rest of the total minimum training of 40 study weeks may cover other toxicological areas (e.g. occupational toxicology, neurotoxicology, drug toxicology, environmental toxicology, immunotoxicology, toxicological pathology).

Training may be set up either as a 40-study-week package organized for example by a university or as smaller study periods organized by universities or other bodies.

When the training set up by a center for supplementary training, a faculty or other body is not continuous, the study period or whole study package must be subjected for approval by a person responsible for toxicology at a university or faculty. If the university does not have a full-time teacher, it is preferable that the university nominate for example the faculty's senior lecturer in toxicology for the position. Other organizers of study packages may have the package approved by a committee described later.

The committee considers each applicant's training as a whole and judges whether it sufficiently covers the above areas of toxicology.

Irrespective of whether the toxicology training package has been organized as a continuous 40-study-week package or as smaller parts, an examination covering the complete package or the individual parts must be taken. If significant parts of the training have been performed without proof of mastering the study material, the committee organizes an examination to ascertain the applicant's competence. The same procedure is employed also when the committee judges it evident that the applicant's training does not adequately cover the different areas of toxicology.

1 § 3 Working experience

An applicant must have at least 5 years' working experience in toxicology after the academic degree. If the applicant has a Ph.D. in toxicology, 3 years' working experience suffices.

The committee considers each applicant's working experience to judge whether it fulfills the requirements. The applicant must give a short written summary of his/her activities. Working experience may be demonstrated for example by published articles, reports or other activities or by statements given by an employer or research supervisor. The committee considers separately whether to credit part-time work as an expert.

1 § 4 Other rules of entering the register

A toxicology professor or senior lecturer (docent in the field of toxicology) may be included in the register directly on application.

Inclusion in the register does not require a membership in the Finnish Society of Toxicology.

2 § Renewal of registration

Registrants remain in the register for 5 years. To re-register a person must give the committee a written account showing the sustaining of professional expertise during the past 5 years (e.g. training, publications, reports or a job description). This account is given during the last year on the register.

3 § Removal from the register

Registrants must follow the ethical guidelines of the Finnish Society of Toxicology. The committee may admonish possible violators of the guidelines or remove the registrant from the register in case of repeated violations.

4 § Registration fees

Expenses accrued by running the register will be covered by registration fees. An examination set up for an applicant is charged separately. Renewal of registration is likewise charged separately. The committee determines the fees annually.

5 § Composition of the registration committee

The board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology invites members of the committee for a four-year period at a time. The committee comprises six members, of whom at least one must be a board member of the Finnish Society of Toxicology. One incumbent toxicology professor shall be invited as a member of the committee *ex officio*. One committee member should be a government representative from an appropriate field. Committee members should represent a wide range of toxicological expertise.

The committee is responsible to the board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology.

The board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology appoints the chairperson of the committee.

The committee chooses a secretary and possible other officers from its members.

A substitute is chosen for each committee member.

6 § Remuneration for registration committee members

Travel expenses and daily allowances due to meetings are remunerated on the basis of receipts according to rules of the Finnish civil servants. Meeting fees are agreed upon with the board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology while fees for reviewing examinations are set separately.

7 § Start of operation

The register shall become operative on January 1, 1995.