

Policy on non-payment of membership fees

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Introduction

The Eurachem MOU agreed in May 2009 includes clause 1.6 as follows:

“1.6. Continued membership is conditional on payment of fees as determined by the General Assembly according to Section 1.8”

Despite this, Eurachem recognises that some members may find it difficult to arrange payment of fees within the normal timescale, and further that unforeseen factors may interrupt communications. Either eventuality may result in unintentional non-payment of fees. This paper describes Eurachem’s policy on occasions where a member fails to comply with clause 1.6.

Non-payment

A member is considered to have failed to comply with the conditions of clause 1.6 of the MOU if that member’s fees due for a given financial year (currently January 1st to December 31st) are not paid to the Treasurer by the end of that financial year.

Consequences of non-payment

A member which has failed to comply with the conditions of clause 1.6 automatically ceases to be a Member of Eurachem. The following member privileges accordingly cease with immediate effect:

- The right (MOU clause 4.2) to propose to EURACHEM that specific tasks be carried out.
- The right (MOU clause 4.3) to seek information and assistance from EURACHEM and its individual members on measurement problems on terms to be decided between the parties concerned.
- The right (MOU clause 1.7) to nominate experts to serve on the EURACHEM General Assembly.
- The entitlement (MOU clause 1.12) to vote at the General Assembly.
- The right to translate into their own language, or to distribute, Eurachem Guidance documents.
- Secretariat services to members, including (for example) receipt of the Newsletter in hard copy form and maintenance of member contact details on the website.

Policy on non-payment

Eurachem wishes to encourage members to continue to cooperate and accordingly takes the view that it should be possible for members to renew membership as easily as reasonably possible in the event of unintentional failure to pay fees due. The following policy will therefore be applied:

Signatories of the Eurachem MOU remain signatories until they request in writing to the Secretary that they be removed from the list of signatories as indicated in MOU Clause 5.3. Non-payment of fees is *not* considered to be notice of intent to cease participation in the MOU.

Pursuant to this policy:

- i) Full membership will be considered to recommence immediately on receipt of fees due.
- ii) If a member has not paid fees due in a given year by the opening of the General Assembly in the following year, they are (following MOU clause 1.6) not considered to be a voting member at the time of that General Assembly. In this event, the member will also cease to be liable for any unpaid fees.
- iii) Signatories of the Eurachem MOU may regain full membership privileges at any subsequent time on payment of the fees due for the current financial year, without requiring reaffirmation of the MOU.

Note: Provision ii) above has no effect on amounts due other than membership fees. Irrespective of whether past fees are waived, members remain liable for any other agreed amounts, such as payment due for additional Newsletter copies, for copies of guidance requested from the Secretariat or charges due for workshops or other meetings.