

Information Bulletin No. IB20-010

April 8, 2020

## INTERPRETATION

### Expiry of Examination Papers Passed and Operating Experience Gained for Certification under the Power Engineers Regulation (AR 85/2003)

This Information Bulletin provides compliance guidance with respect to the validity of examination results and work experience for power engineer certification. This Information Bulletin supersedes Information Bulletin IB15-007 which is hereby withdrawn.

Sections 16 through 22 of the *Power Engineers Regulation* prescribe the requirements that must be satisfied by an applicant for a power engineer certificate of competency. The requirements include work experience and examinations.

#### Interpretation

With respect to examinations and work experience specified in Sections 16 through 22 of the *Power Engineers Regulation*, this Information Bulletin establishes that:

- 1) passing grades on examinations required for power engineer certification are valid for seven years from the date the examination was written, and
- 2) Work experience is valid for seven years from the date the work commenced.

#### Effective date

The seven-year expiry of examination results and work experience came into effect July 1, 2012. Examination papers passed and work experience gained more than seven years prior to certification are not valid for higher level of certification.

Notwithstanding the intended purpose of this policy being to ensure examinations and work experience are current, its implementation has been modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic response measures. ABSA temporarily halted offering power engineer examinations effective 16 March 2020. Examinations will continue to be suspended until the public health emergency is declared over, or until examinations can be offered with the highest degree of safety.

Accordingly, the expiry period is deemed frozen as of 16 March 2020, and will not resume until 3 months following the resumption of power engineer examinations.

TYPE: INTERPRETATION	DESCRIPTION: EXPIRY OF EXAMINATION RESULTS AND WORK EXPERIENCE	REGULATION: PER
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**Application**

This Information Bulletin reflects the overall goal of eventual expiration of examinations and operating experience towards higher power engineering certification. The rationale is to address concerns of outdated knowledge and skills and to encourage timely completion of power engineer certification upgrading. There are cases that can and should be considered on their individual merits on an exception basis. Accordingly, the Manager of Examination and Certification has been directed to use discretion in the application of this policy.

If individuals believe that they have justification for requiring more than seven years to complete examinations for higher certification, they should submit this justification in writing to the Manager of Examination and Certification together with an action plan outlining the process and timeline for completion of the required examinations.

There may also be valid reasons for failing to acquire the required operating experience during the seven year period. An individual may accept work in a related field where operating experience cannot be earned. In this type of situation it is possible to stop the clock on the seven years while this related work is undertaken. A typical acceptable example may be the case of a power engineer deciding to be a power engineering instructor at a college. Again, the responsibility would be with the individual to present a written request to the Manager of Examination and Certification for consideration.

*<original signed by>*

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