



# Mining and Metallurgical Society of America

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## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SENIOR QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL STATUS

Proposal by the Quality Membership Committee of the MMSA

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**Justification:** Many experienced members of the MMSA have noted that NI 43-101 and JORC Technical Reports sometimes do not meet satisfactory quality standards.

**Objective:** Recognize QPs who have extensive and comprehensive knowledge and industry experience. The Senior QPs can contribute their perspective to the base studies and produce improved technical reports that more accurately reflect the viability of mining projects.

Technical reports are a reflection of the writers' knowledge and experience. All QPs have reached a recognized level of competence in particular fields that combine into sections of the technical report. The MMSA proposes to address the technical report quality issue by instituting the status of Senior Qualified Professional (SQP). The senior professional has a broader perspective and vision of what is most likely to result in a viable mining project. The senior industry professional will have sufficient relevant industry experience, ethical maturity and appropriate knowledge to be able to read the Technical Report, prior to publication, from cover to cover and opine on whether the document presents a cohesive Report and is of a quality supporting the project in question.

The intent and purpose of recognizing a separate status within MMSA as a SQP is to lend additional credibility to either those sections of Technical Reports and studies within which the SQP is giving his written opinion or to the overall preparation and readability of the complete report. The question of completeness remains the individual QP's and section author's responsibilities.

The MMSA strongly believes that it is not the intent to remove any of the responsibility and liability from individual QPs and section authors. It is also important that the role of the SQP has no added liability. It is also not the intent of the MMSA to usurp any control and responsibility that other professional bodies have in implementing their individual policies.

The MMSA continues to take a leadership role in the mining industry. As part of our role, MMSA was the first professional organization in the United States to activate the Qualified Professional across all mining disciplines.

The Quality Membership Committee has benchmarked the QP experience qualifications against the experience required by other organizations. In Canada, an applicant for a P. Eng. needs to demonstrate only 4 years of verifiable, acceptable engineering experience. In Australia, the Fellowship Grade requires over 10 years of relevant minerals industry experience and 5 years in a position of major responsibility. The Australian Chartered Professional grade requires at least 5 years of relevant work experience in the discipline for which the person is applying.

Probably of more relevance to the MMSA is the Registered Member (RM) status of the SME; the RM applicant must have a minimum of seven years of professional experience of which three must have been in

a position of responsibility. Currently, in the USA, the RM-SME is equivalent to the MMSA-QP status in terms of the ability to act as a Qualified Person for the NI 43-101 Technical Reports. If the MMSA were to increase the requirements of the QP membership, it is likely that potential applicants would choose the RM-SME grade over that of the MMSA.

### **Senior QP Requirements**

In order to differentiate QPs who are Members of MMSA with a significant and broad range of industry experience, the proposed requirements for the SQP status are:

- Be an existing QP member, in good standing, of the MMSA.
- Have achieved a minimum of 25 years of cumulative experience in the mining industry after graduation;
- Have previously been involved with EITHER the preparation, authorship, management and quality control of at least one section in each of four NI 43-101 or equivalent Technical or Valuation Reports (or equivalent experience acceptable to the MMSA) OR have been responsible for the overall preparation, management and quality control of at least two complete NI 43-101 or equivalent Technical or Valuation Reports (or equivalent experience acceptable to the MMSA).
- Strong preference for, but not mandated, a minimum of four years of field work (likely geological or exploration) or operating mine or process plant operating experience, or for the Environmental Permitting and Compliance category, four years of field experience working on site at developing, operating or closing mining properties. The operating or field experience must be related to the SQP category for which the applicant is applying.
- Preferably has completed at least one short course on the requirements of NI 43-101, JORC, SAIMM or other governing jurisdictions.
- Four Sponsors supporting the Member's SQP Status, including at least two current MMSA QP Members.
- The name of the SQP applicant should be published for comment in one edition of the MMSA Newsletter.
- A review of the candidate's application and resume by the members of the Quality Membership Committee, including at their option, a personal interview.

It should be emphasized that the first seven bullets above represent the preliminary criteria needed prior to consideration by the Quality Membership Committee. The Committee's review of the candidate's application is intended to be the primary evaluation of the application.