



MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT

Between

Agency for Qualification of Professional Engineers (in this document abbreviated by AQPE), herewith lawfully represented by Francesc González Navarro
Asociación de Ingenieros Profesionales de España (in this document abbreviated by AIPE), herewith lawfully represented by Jose Maria Martinez Vela,

and

SNIPF (société Nationale des Ingénieurs Professionnels de France) herewith lawly represented by his president Jean François MAGNANI

Here after together to be referred to as: 'Parties'.

I Preamble

1. Considering that Parties
 - subscribe to upholding standards for professional engineers, in order to uphold the quality of the engineering profession and safeguard society;
 - have developed similar processes and procedures, following the ISO/IEC 17024 standard for personnel certification, within their organisations to ensure accordingly;
 - are satisfied about the quality assurance of the processes and procedures in each organisation;
 - intend to engage into a lasting and fruitful cooperation with each other.

2. Parties therefore wish to establish a Mutual Recognition Agreement, with the purpose to:
 - Uphold standards for the engineering profession across borders;
 - Reduce barriers between engineers and exercising the engineering profession between their respective countries;
 - Support mobility and recognition of competent engineers in their respective jurisdiction.

- Encourage knowledge exchange between the engineering communities in Spain and France;
3. The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a principle of mutual recognition of the professional attributes of engineers who legally exercise their profession according to the relevant laws in force in the jurisdiction of each Party and to regulate the conditions in which such attributes will, upon request, be fully recognised and registered at an equal level by any of the other Parties.
 4. All the above within the frame of the national laws and the limits of the legal capacities of each of the Parties. Therefore, under no circumstances this Agreement can be used or interpreted to waive the norms regulating the legal conditions of exercise of the profession of engineer in force in the jurisdiction of each Party.

II Articles

Parties have therefore agreed to the following:

Article 1.

The professional engineers referred to in this Agreement will be of the following level of qualification:
 AQPE/AIPE Professional Engineer (in this document abbreviated by PE), in its three levels:

- o Professional Engineer (minimum 4 years of professional experience)
- o Professional Engineer Senior (minimum 8 years of professional experience)
- o Professional Engineer Expert (minimum 16 years of professional experience)

SNIPF All the IPF certified through the SNIPF certification commission. The initial IPF CDCIP) is delivered after 4 years of exercise of the profession

Article 2.

Engineers certified as IPF and in good standing in the SNIPF certification system, should submit their application for admission as a member of AQPE to secretaria@aqpe.org or for admission as a member of AIPE to secretaria@ingenierosprofesionales.com

§ 1 - Professionals to which this article refers will be admitted to AQPE/AIPE as:

- Professional Engineer IPF Certified, depending upon their years of working experience and to be decided by AQPE/AIPE, whilst maintaining all their professional attributes granted to them by SNIPF, in accordance with the certificate issued by SNIPF

France SNIPF	Spain AQPE/AIPE
Certification IPF	Professional Engineer or Professional Engineer Senior or Professional Engineer Expert

§ 2 – According to the requirements of the accredited "certification scheme PE", AQPE/AIPE will establish if the applicants pending admission as Professional Engineer will or will not be submitted to admission exams mentioned in the procedures of AQPE/AIPE or any other regulation containing such requirement whilst this Agreement is in force.

At the end of the process of mutual recognition, a Certified IPF Engineer already registered in the SNIPF system will achieve the PE certification only if AQPE/AIPE could have positively checked his full conformity to the requirements of the AQPE/AIPE 's "certification scheme PE". In this case his name will be put by AQPE/AIPE in the official list of the certified engineers PE, with a suitable specification according to Preamble – par. 4.

If not, his name will be put in a separate list of AQPE/AIPE professional engineers, whose professional competences are declared by AQPE/AIPE to be "equivalent" to a pre-defined category of PE Engineers.

Article 3.

Engineers registered as PE and in good standing in the AQPE/AIPE system, should submit their application for admission as a member of SNIPF.

§ 1 - Professionals to which this article refers will be admitted to SNIPF as IPF whilst maintaining all their professional attributes granted to them by AQPE/AIPE, in accordance with the certificate issued by AQPE/AIPE.

Spain AQPE/AIPE	France SNIPF
Professional engineer Professional Engineer Senior or Professional Engineer Expert	IPF Certified

§ 1 - According to the requirements of the accredited "SNIPF certification scheme procedure", a PE Engineer already registered in the AQPE/AIPE system will achieve the certification IPF only if SNIPF could have positively checked his full conformity to the requirements of the "certification scheme SNIPF".

For that, the complete certification file must be sent to SNIPF to be checked. If the certification committee of SNIPF considered that this information is complete and in line with the procedures, in this case his name will be put by SNIPF in the official list of the certified engineers SNIPF with a suitable specification according to Preamble – par. 4.

If not, his name will be put in a separate list of PE engineers, whose professional competences are declared by SNIPF to be "equivalent waiting list to be certified".

Article 4.

Application forms for registration in the AQPE/AIPE system referred to in this Agreement should contain at least the following compulsory information:

- Full name
- Passport number / ID (Identity Card)
- SNIPF registration number
- Full address as registered in SNIPF system
- CV
- Professional registration certificate¹ issued by SNIPF, which expressly contains the respective professional attributes, eventual restrictions regarding the exercise of certain activities and information on professional ethics sanctions.

During the process, AQPE/AIPE can ask the applicant to give more information about his professional activities and his CPD-(continuous professional development.)

Article 5.

Application forms for registration in the SNIPF system referred to in this Agreement should contain at least the following compulsory information:

- Full name

¹ If the IPF applicant wants to maintain its compartment and sharp specialization of his certification, he have to apply in AQPE.

- Passport number / ID (Identity Card)
- AQPE/AIPE registration number
- Full address as registered in AQPE/AIPE system
- fulfill the official " documents DC00 and DC01 Dossier de certification initiale)
- Professional registration certificate issued by AQPE/AIPE, which expressly contains the respective professional attributes, eventual restrictions regarding the exercise of certain activities and information on professional ethics sanctions.

During the process, SNIPF can ask the applicant to give more information about his professional activities and his CPD(continuous professional development)

Article 6.

Applicants undertake to send their respective professional ID or certificate, valid in their country of residence, in a maximum of 30 (thirty) days following the request for registration or submission of the application, as evidence of their registration with AQPE /AIPE or SNIPF.

Article 7.

The value of rates, expenses and fees as mentioned on any subject in the specific regulations of Parties, will not be affected by this Agreement.

Article 8.

Professional Engineers and SNIPF referred to in this Agreement have the same rights and obligations regarding the exercise of their professional activities established by Parties in their respective jurisdictions.

Article 9.

Parties will appoint a working committee consisting of at least one person of each organisation, that will be handling all practical issues concerning this Agreement.
This committee has the special task to make suitable comparisons between the "*certification scheme PE*" and the "*SNIPF Certification* ", in order to classify properly the applicants according to Articles 2 and 3, in order to find mutual procedures for exchanging data/information and in order to decrease gradually the differences between the schemes.

Article 10.

Parties undertake to adapt and make available application forms for registration as well as any other required administrative measures within 60 (sixty) days following the date this Agreement is signed.

Article 11.

International conventions or reciprocal agreements regarding arbitration by the competent court for judging disciplinary matters will be respected when applying disciplinary sanctions arising from the exercise of professional activity by professional engineers and SNIPF referred to in this Agreement.
In any case , everything must be done to avoid a legal procedure , and to this effect every action must be taken and discussed between parties to find a friendly agreement .

Article 12.

Difficulties or differences arising in the interpretation or application of this Agreement will be solved through direct negotiation between Parties.

Article 13.

Parties may agree to amend this instrument. Amendments will come into force after a maximum of 60 (sixty) days following mutual approval.

Article 14.

Any one of the Parties may denounce this Agreement, whereby it will cease to have effect 180 (one hundred and eighty) days following receipt of the notification of denunciation by the other party.

Article 15.

This Agreement will come into force on the date the Agreement is signed, and will be valid until denounced by one of the Parties.

III Signing

Seven exact copies of this Agreement are issued, one for each Party.

Signed in

<p>Pour la SNIPF</p>  <p>J.F. Magnani President</p> <p>VP Association M. Fanjat Pt CNC JC. Gaillard</p>	<p>Asociación de Ingenieros Profesionales de España</p>  <p>Jose Maria Martinez Vela In behalf of</p>	<p>Agency for Qualification of Professional Engineers</p>  <p>Francesc González Navarro General Manager</p>
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