

I am conscious that you have an ICoCA Board Meeting tomorrow, and that is the reason for this email.

You will wish to know that today the SCEG main meeting discussed the forthcoming vote on the ICoCA Certification Process and also that your Board meeting tomorrow will agree the text to be put to a members' vote. SCEG was briefed by an industry director and a government director and we were left with the firm belief that the UK PSC sector, through SCEG's comments, had been listened to by your drafters and amendments made to alleviate our concerns on Certification.

But there were four areas that the SCEG membership asked that I bring to your attention, specifically to inform your discussion tomorrow. These are:

1. The ICoCA Website. The website is not remotely up to date. This site should be the key communication tool for members as ICoCA develops its processes. This needs to be rectified as a matter of urgency. Even the fact that there are new Board Directors in place, is not on the website. So please can you fix this quickly and certainly before the vote so all can be properly informed. Two easy and immediate changes pending a through revise would be to delete references to the December 2014 AGA and to add the list of transitional members. This would mean the list of members having to be qualified, so that they are not perceived as being in a superior state above those granted transitional membership. And finally to add the latest certification papers.
2. Who will be able to vote? We had understood that only the transitional members would be entitled to vote, but there was some suggestion that others who had completed their processes should also vote. But some PSCs who signed the Code, who have (or are on the way to) PSC1-2012, who were active in writing the Articles of Association and joined at the time as 'founding members', but who are assessing the value of ICoCA membership, should surely be able to vote by being given longer to determine their position on membership rather than being removed from membership on 15 May. These are core UK PSCs who wish to remain fully engaged, but who cannot be expected to suddenly decide to join as full members until the full extent (and cost) of the process is defined. Indeed the delays have been on the part of the ICoCA Board, so it seems unfair, harsh and designed to drive responsible PSCs away from ICoCA Membership to have this deadline. SCEG believes that a more inclusive approach to voting would be helpful, in that it would allow 'founding members' who remain active to vote, but excludes those who have been inactive and appear simply to have wanted to collect another logo.
3. What if a PSC does not commit to interim membership by 15 May, but decides later when the full set of protocols are in place to join? Will a PSC be entitled to seek membership after the 15 May deadline once there is clarity of the Certification, Reporting and Monitoring, and Grievance protocols?
4. SCEG acknowledges that the terminology 'certification' is used in the Code and the Articles of Association, but its use out of context causes confusion when unqualified. It almost suggests that the Association has turned into a standards audit body. In reality

the ICoCA Board is assessing a standard against the Code and then validating the certification awarded to that agreed standard by a Certification Body, empowered by its approved status from its national body (eg. UKAS), which in turn is empowered by membership of the IAF/MLA. There would be great merit in some minor textual insertion or amendment to demonstrate that the Board understands that PSCs are certified to the ICoCA Board-agreed standards by CBs, and that the Secretariat or Board is validating that certification, not awarding it.

The SCEG membership unanimously asked that these four points would be put to you as our Industry Directors, cc'd to the Executive Director, so that you might discuss these tomorrow at your Board Meeting.

I am also cc'ing the President of ISOA, as we have established a UK/US industry liaison for ICoCA matters.

Very many thanks, and any queries please do come back to me or Paul Gibson for clarification.

Andrew.

Andrew Farquhar CBE