

United States of America Branch
of
The Institution of Fire Engineers
CONSTITUTION AND RULES



1. **Name.**

The name of the Branch shall be the United States of America Branch of the Institution of Fire Engineers, and shall bear the short title of the U.S. Chapter.

2. **Object.**

To foster and support the Institution of Fire Engineers in its object, and so far as is possible within the structure of the Branch, to subscribe to and carry out the object, namely:

To promote, encourage and improve the science and practice of Fire Extinction, Fire Prevention and Fire Engineering, and all operations and expedients connected therewith, and to give an impulse to ideas likely to be useful in connection with or in relation to such science and practice to the members of the Institution and the community at large.

In furtherance of the above object, and ancillary to it, the Branch may:

- (a) *Enable members to meet and to correspond and to facilitate the interchange of ideas respecting the improvements in the various branches of the said science, and the publication and communication of information on such subjects and to co-ordinate and encourage Groups within the Branch.*
- (b) *Do all other things incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above or any of them.*
- (c) *Do all in its power to prepare and produce suitable candidates for membership of the Institution as requisite and to encourage and assist members to attain corporate membership.*

3. **Membership.**

- (a) All grades of membership shall be eligible for membership of the Branch and the Institution as long as they are not in arrears with annual subscriptions.
- (b) Every Branch member shall, on joining the Branch and on the first day of April in each year, pay an annual subscription to the Branch. The amount of the Branch Subscription shall be the annual subscription for all members. The Branch will retain 50% for the cost expense and conduct of the Branch. The balance will be forwarded by the Branch to the International Council, in the United Kingdom.
- (c) A member of a Branch shall have that membership terminated in the event of such person's annual subscriptions being in arrears for twelve months from the date of the same becoming payable, subject to notice being given in such manner as the Branch deems fit.
- (d) In the case of each member elected in the last three months of any financial year, the first subscription shall cover both the year of election and the succeeding year, but shall only entitle the person elected to exercise any vote in the proceeding after election.
- (e) Members of at least 15 years standing may, from the 1st April in the financial year following the attainment of the age of 60, make a payment of twice the annual Fellowship subscription which shall entitle them to remain members of the Branch during their lifetime without payment of any further annual subscriptions.

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4. ***Meetings.***

- (a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held in or about the month of April each year at which the accounts of the previous year shall be submitted for approval and the Branch Council and officers for the ensuing year shall take office, having been elected in accordance with Rule 5.
- (b) Extraordinary General Meetings shall be held as required at times and places to be determined by the Branch Council, notice of which shall be communicated in writing to all members of the Branch not less than nine days prior to the day of the Meeting. Such notices shall specify the exact business to be discussed at the Meeting, and no business shall be transacted or resolution proposed of which notice has not been given.
- (c) On a requisition in writing signed by or on behalf of ten members being received by the Secretary, an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called forthwith giving at least nine days and not more than twenty-one days notice thereof. Such notice shall specify the exact business to be discussed at the Meeting, and no business shall be transacted or resolution proposed of which such notice has not been given.
- (d) Every member present at a Branch Meeting, irrespective of class, shall have one vote, but in cases of equality of voting, the Branch President shall have a second or casting vote.

5. ***Branch Council & Officers***

- (a) The Branch shall elect members from within the Branch to form a Branch Council
- (b) Branch Council shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (which office may be joined with that of Secretary) and a council. The President shall be appointed by the Branch Council from members serving on the Branch Council. The office of President shall not be held by the same person for longer than three consecutive years.
- (c) All members of the Branch of any class shall be eligible for election as officers or to the Branch Council, subject only to members, other than Life Fellows, Fellow, Members and Associate Members, not exceeding one-third of the total number of members of the Branch Council.
- (d) The Branch Council shall appoint a suitably qualified person as Auditor.
- (e) The officers other than the Auditor shall be entitled to be present and vote at all Meetings of the Branch Council.
- (f) The Branch Council shall hold office for one year and unless those members of the Branch at a General Meeting have decided otherwise, all members of the Branch Council shall be eligible for re-election.
- (g) Nominations for officers and membership of the Branch Council, proposed by a member of the Branch and seconded by two other members, should be addressed to the Branch Secretary so as to arrive not later than the first day of April.
- (h) A ballot shall take place to fill membership on Branch Council. Ballots shall be cast in sealed envelopes and counted by a sub-committee appointed by Branch Council. Vacancies shall be filled by the highest polling candidate(s), subject to rule 5 (c) above. If as a result of the Ballot the number of Corporate members elected to Branch Council is less than two thirds, then the vacancy will be filled by the next highest Corporate member. The results of the Ballot and the number of votes for each person shall be declared at the Annual General Meeting.

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6. *Proceedings, Powers and Duties of the Branch Council.*

- (a) The Branch Council shall have the power to co-opt for a specific purpose any member of the Branch to serve on the Branch Council and to fill any casual vacancy occurring therein.
- (b) The Branch Council may determine their own quorum, may regulate their own procedure (other than the appointment of a Chairman when either the President or Vice President are present) and the procedure of any Sub-Committee appointed by them, and may delegate their powers and discretion to Sub Committees consisting of a quorum to include a Chairman or elected Chairman and three members; the Chairman to have a second or casting vote.
- (c) The Branch Council shall manage the property, proceedings and affairs of the Branch, and shall exercise all powers of the Branch which are not required to be exercised by the Branch in General Meetings, subject to any Regulations from time to time made by the Branch in a General Meeting.
- (d) The Branch Council shall not have the power to refuse membership to the Branch, but shall report any reason for wishing to decline specific membership to the International Council. Where the Branch wish to terminate a membership, then it shall be reported to the International Council for approval.
- (e) The Branch Council shall meet at time and places to be determined by itself, but if the Honorary Secretary should receive notice in writing from three members of the Branch Council requesting that a Meeting of the Branch Council be called, the Honorary Secretary shall do so forthwith, giving at least nine and not more than twenty one days notice thereof.
- (f) It shall be the duty of the Branch Council to ensure that a copy of the Annual Report, Audited Accounts and the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting are forwarded as soon as possible to the International Council.
- (g) The Branch Council shall not take any action not in accordance with the general policy of the Institution; and any resolution, either of the Branch Council or a General Meeting, which in any way affects matters of policy must be submitted forthwith to the International Council.
- (h) The President and Treasurer shall be empowered to incur approved expense on behalf of the Branch and Branch Council, and be authorised to operate a current banking account for this purpose and shall notify the Branch Council of any action taken under this ruling.

7. *Alteration of Constitution*

This Constitution shall not be altered or added to except at a General Meeting of the Branch at which such alteration or addition is approved by at least two-thirds of the members present, notice of the proposed alteration having been given to members. NB Before becoming operative, any such alteration shall require confirmation by the International Council of the Institution in accordance with the Institution's By-Laws.

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Approved and adopted for inauguration 17th day of March 1996

SIGNED: Charles H. Rule
Charles Rule – Branch President

SIGNED: Mark Chubb
Mark Chubb – Branch Treasurer and Secretary

Approved by the International Council.

Minute No 9/95. Dated 28th day of January 1995

Confirmed for inauguration 17th day of March 1996

SIGNED: Kenneth J. Lloyd
Kenneth J. Lloyd – International President

SIGNED: David W. Evans
David W. Evans – General Secretary

