

Recognition of Professional Qualifications

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Through implementation of EU directives, the Royal Meteorological Society has achieved the status of Regulating Authority for the profession of Meteorology within the UK. Its Chartered Meteorologist qualification is now recognised throughout the EU, together with the competency-based National Vocation Qualification (NVQ) and Scottish National Vocational Qualification (SVQ).

The paper will expand on the EU Directives and some of the consequences of the RMetS becoming the Regulating Authority in the UK. In particular it will focus on concerns which have arisen within the forecasting community regarding the implementation of the fourth edition of WMO 258 - Guidelines for the Education and Training of Personnel in Meteorology and Operational Hydrology - and the requirement by ICAO that forecasts for International Civil Aviation should only be prepared by individuals conforming to the guidelines in that publication. These now require that forecasters should have a university degree, so excluding many existing forecasters in the UK. The paper will describe how the Society, as the Regulating Authority, is able to confer acquired rights to the majority of these forecasters so that they continue to satisfy the requirements of ICAO.

Certification issues arising from the Single European Sky legislation will also be discussed together with the opportunities these may provide to European Meteorological Societies.