

RULES OF THE FINNISH REGISTER OF TOXICOLOGISTS

The professional title of a person in the Register is "European registered toxicologist" (ERT). The term ERT differs from most other professional titles in that persons with various basic educations may be entitled to use it. Toxicology includes a wide range of subareas. A registered toxicologist must have sufficient theoretical knowledge (education), skills and professional experience in toxicology. Based on this, a registered toxicologist can work as an expert in various types of assignments in toxicology (in academia, government, private sector, NGOs or as an independent consultant). Moreover, the title of a registered toxicologist assures the contracting party/customer that the person is competent to work as an expert in toxicology. The standardization of the term ERT thus clarifies the level of expertise both for those who need the services and for the public in general.

Registration is performed by a two-step procedure by the Finnish Registration Committee of European registered toxicologists (National registration board by EUROTOX; called the Committee from now on). First, the Committee evaluates applications of candidates and admits successful applicants to the Finnish Register and provides them with a certificate. Second, upon request of the Finnish Register, EUROTOX will register these individuals in the EUROTOX ERT register, and issues them a certificate.

1 § Approval of Registration rules

Rules of the Register are approved by the Board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology. All potential changes of the rules are announced in the official yearly meeting of the Finnish Society of Toxicology.

2 § Maintaining the Register

The Finnish Register of European registered toxicologists complies with the European Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). The Committee, subordinate to the Board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology, maintains a list of ERTs accepted by the Committee. The Committee gives a certificate as a proof of registration. Applications conforming with the Committee's instructions are addressed to the Committee. In addition, all ERTs are listed by EUROTOX, which provides a separate document of registration.

3 § Requirements for registration

3 § 1 Eligibility

Eligible to apply are

- Finnish nationals
- Foreign nationals working/having a job in the field of toxicology in Finland
- Toxicologists who are nationals in EUROTOX listed countries working in European countries which do not have their own register for toxicologists

Eligibility once accepted is not reconsidered during re-registration. Inclusion in the Finnish Register of ERTs does not require a membership in the Finnish Society of Toxicology.

3 § 2 Academic degree

An applicant must have a suitable academic degree (BSc, MSc, MD, DVM or equivalent) in a relevant subject from a Finnish university, or from a foreign university provided that such degrees are acknowledged in Finland.

3 § 3 Further education (postgraduate studies)

An applicant must have a minimum of 60 ECTS credits (or equivalent) of toxicological training, which include the following essential areas 1) toxicological properties of chemicals and physical factors, 2) toxicological responses typical of different organs (target organ toxicology), genotoxicology, chemical and radiation carcinogenesis, reproductive and developmental toxicology, 3) principal methods of toxicology and toxicity test systems 4) risk assessment, and 5) laws, regulations and administrative rules governing toxicology. The rest may cover other areas in toxicology (e.g. occupational toxicology, drug toxicology, environmental toxicology, toxicological pathology).

Training may consist of a toxicology program organized by a university, or of smaller study periods in toxicology, organized by universities. Courses in toxicology organized by other bodies are separately evaluated. Irrespective of organization of studies, the Committee considers each applicant's training as a whole and judges whether it sufficiently covers the areas of toxicology mentioned above.

3 § 4 Working experience

An applicant must have a minimum working experience of 5 years in toxicology after the basic academic degree. If the applicant has a PhD, and the topic of the thesis is in the area of toxicology, working experience of 3 years is sufficient. The applicant must give a short, written summary of his/her education and working experience, including further training in toxicology and continued professional development. The application must also include a list of relevant publications and reports, and any other relevant information.

4 § Renewal of registration

Registrants remain in the register for 5 years. To re-register a person must submit the Committee a renewal application with a written account showing the sustaining of professional expertise during the past 5 years (continued professional development and training, publications, reports, job descriptions).

5 § Removal from the register

Registrants must follow the Responsible conduct of research guidelines (The Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK) and the Ethical guidelines of the Finnish Society of Toxicology. The Committee may admonish serious violators of the guidelines by first having a personal discussion between a Committee member(s) and the registrant. A written document of the discussion(s) by the Committee member(s) involved is handled and stored by the Committee. The written decision by the Committee is sent to the violator with a request of a written response. If after these communications the registrant does not agree with the Committee, the Committee may issue a written warning, with justifications, to the registrant. If the violation against the guidelines continues, the Committee may consider removal of the registrant from the register according to the normal decision procedure of the Committee (see 7 §). The registrant may appeal to the Board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology about the removal within three months from the date of the decision of removal.

6 § Registration fees

Expenses accrued by running the register are covered by registration fees. The fee must be paid before the application is processed and is not returned in the case the application is not accepted. Proof of the payment must be included in the application. The same registration fee applies to re-

registration. The Board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology determines the fees annually, and the fees are paid to the Finnish Society of Toxicology.

7 § Members of the registration committee

The Committee is responsible to the Board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology. All members of the Committee must be ERTs and they must represent a wide range of toxicological expertise. The Chair and the Vice Chair of the Committee must be highly experienced toxicologists (e.g. professors) and one of them must be present in the Committee meetings. The Committee must include members knowledgeable in academic toxicological training. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee cannot be a Chair or a Vice Chair of the Finnish Society of Toxicology at the same time. The Board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology appoints the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee after consulting the Committee. The Committee shall elect other necessary officials from among its members. The Secretary represents the Committee in the Board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology.

The Board of the Finnish Society of Toxicology approves the members of the Committee, proposed by the Committee, for a four-year period at a time. Members can be re-assigned. The Committee is comprised of twelve members of which six are personal vice-members who can participate in the meetings. The Committee has the right of decision if the Chair or the Vice Chair and five members are present.

8 § Remuneration

Costs of the Committee meetings to the organizers and members (e.g. meeting costs, mailing costs, as well as travel expenses) are accepted and remunerated by the Finnish Society of Toxicology on the basis of receipts.

9 § Start of operation

These updated rules of the Finnish Register of toxicologists shall become operative on 16.5.2022.