

THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE



SASOM

South African Society
of Occupational Medicine

FOUNDED IN 1948

CONSTITUTION



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Incorporate association not for gain.
South African Medical Association
Reg.No.05600136/08

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Introduction

The South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM) was formed in 1948 to further Occupational Medicine and has subsequently played a leading role in the pursuit of health and safety in industry in general.

SASOM is a professional society and a special interest group of the South African Medical Association (SAMA) with links to the World Medical Association. SASOM has been affiliated with the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and its now 38 scientific committees since its inception.

Our members are registered medical practitioners and other professionals who work in occupational health or who have an interest in this area of medical practice.

SASOM advocated the recognition of occupational medicine as a specialty field in medicine for many years before it was received from the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

SASOM networks with specialist groups in the field of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and jointly issues an accredited scientific journal with them.

SASOM has a permanent National Office in Pretoria with a full-time member of staff and various member support services.

Constitution

1. Name

The name of the Society will be “The South African Society of Occupational Medicine”.

2. Affiliation

The Society is an official group of the South African Medical Association, an association incorporated under section 21 of the Companies Act, 1973, Registered No 05/600136/08 and is subject to the Articles and By-laws of the South African Medical Association.

3. Vision

To enhance the quality of life of the working population of South Africa during employment and into retirement.

4. Mission

To promote, protect and enhance the health of the working population of South Africa. To further all aspects of occupational health in South Africa.

To be the guardian for ethical and medical standards of Occupational Medicine. To be the professional information resource on occupational health matters.

5. Objectives

The objectives for which the Society is established are:

- 5.1 To determine, protect, maintain and promote the health of the working population of South Africa and to be concerned with relevant issues affecting the health of their families.
- 5.2 To enhance the physical, mental and social well-being of the working population of South Africa.
- 5.3 To promote and be involved in providing for healthy work by eliminating occupational factors and conditions hazardous to health.
- 5.4 To strengthen and promote sound communication between the Society and its members and all stakeholders.
- 5.5 To advance occupational health and promote the discipline of Occupational Medicine by means of continuing education.
- 5.6 To contribute to the global body of knowledge in occupational health.
- 5.7 To further the professional standards of practice and interests of the members of the Society.

6. Membership

Membership will be Standard, Retired, Affiliate, Corporate or Honorary.

- 6.1 Standard membership: Any person who is a medical practitioner within or outside the borders of the Republic of South Africa and registered with the HPCSA or with a similar body recognized by the HPCSA.
- 6.2 Retired membership: Medical practitioners who retired from active medical practice.
- 6.3 Affiliate membership: People who are not registered as medical practitioners and who have an interest in Occupational Health or contributing financially to further the objectives of the Society.
- 6.4 Corporate membership: Medical Practitioner groups, companies, institutions, healthcare organisations, academic faculties, etc. who employ more than one person who would like to become members.
- 6.5 Honorary membership may be extended to members of the Society who have rendered exceptional service in the opinion of the Executive. Any member of the Society may motivate a written recommendation to the Executive, supported by two seconders who are also members, for consideration. Honorary membership will only be bestowed by the Executive Committee of the Society and is not to be debated at General Meetings. Honorary membership is for life and no membership and congress attendance fees are payable.
- 6.6 Every member will remain a member until the membership is terminated by either resignation in writing addressed to the Secretary, or by the decision of the Executive Committee of the Society.

7. Control

- 7.1 The general control and direction of policy and affairs of the Society will be vested in the Executive Committee of the Society.
- 7.2 The Executive Committee will consist of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and not more than 6 (six) additional elected members. Each Branch must appoint one of its members to represent it on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may also co-opt members as it deems necessary to function efficiently. Facilitators of special interest groups of the Society will be co-opted to the Executive Committee on an ad hoc basis. The Executive Committee will hold office for a year and until the new committee has been elected.
- 7.3 Election of all officers of the Executive Committee will be by secret ballot of those present at the Annual General Meeting of the Society unless the nominations are unopposed.
- 7.4 The Secretary will ensure keeping of records of all meetings of the Society and conducting of all correspondence in connection with the affairs of the Society.
- 7.5 The Treasurer will manage the financial matters of the Society.
- 7.6 Only medical practitioners registered with the HPCSA or with a similar body recognised by the HPCSA have voting powers in the society.
- 7.7 The activities of the Society will be suspended if at any time its membership becomes less than 50 [fifty] members.

8. Meetings

- 8.1 The Executive Committee will meet at least twice in a financial year. An Annual General Meeting of which at least 1 (one) month's prior notice will be given to the relevant members will be held within 60 days of the close of the financial year.
- 8.2 Special General Meetings of the Society may be held at any time and will be called by the Executive Committee or on the written request of 5 (five) ordinary members of the Society.

9. Organisation

- 9.1 The Society can allow the formation of Branches of the Society in such manner as may be desirable. Branches may be allowed powers of independent action in local matters provided that such action is not in conflict with the objectives and good values of the Society.
- 9.2 Executive members of the National Executive Committee and Branches must be members in good standing.
- 9.3 Reports of local actions, financial statements and lists of Branch members in good standing by the Secretaries and Treasurers of the Branches and special interest groups will be submitted to the Secretary and treasurer of the National Executive Committee at least one month before the Annual General Meeting of the Society for incorporation into the Annual Report.
- 9.4 The Society can allow the formation of special interest groups of the Society in such manner as may be desirable.

10. Membership Fees

- 10.1 Annual membership fees will be payable from the day following the Annual General Meeting of each year by members of the Society.
- 10.2 Membership will be suspended if subscription is not paid by 1 May of the year in which it is due, but membership so suspended may be re-instituted on payment of the arrear subscription due.
- 10.3 Persons who become members after 1 August pay only half the membership fee for that year.
- 10.4 The amount of the fee will be determined by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

11. Amendments

Amendments to this constitution will be affected only if passed by a two-thirds majority of those voting at a General Meeting of the Society.

12. SASOM Membership Types

Standard membership

- For active medical practitioners within and outside the borders of South Africa who are registered with the HPCSA or with a similar body recognised by the HPCSA.

Retiree membership

- For medical practitioners who retired from active medicine practice due to old age (over 65 years of age) or due to medical reasons.
- Retiree membership is subject to approval by SASOM's Executive Committee
- Retiree members do not have voting powers in the Society.

Affiliate membership

- For persons who are not registered as medical practitioners and who has an interest in and/or practises Occupational Health.
- Affiliate membership is subject to approval by SASOM's executive committee
- Affiliate members do not have voting powers in the society.

Corporate membership

- For Medical Practitioner groups, companies, healthcare organisations, academic faculties, etc. who employ several persons who would like to become members.
- Membership includes subscription to three Occupational Health Southern Africa Journals
- Corporate Membership fee will be set at the Annual General meeting for the first three persons and an amount for each additional person.
- Only medical practitioners registered with the HPCSA or with a similar body recognised by the HPCSA have voting powers in the society.

Honorary membership

- Honorary membership may be extended to members of the Society who have rendered exceptional services in the opinion of the Executive. It will not be debated at any other meeting.
- Any member of the Society may motivate a written recommendation, seconded by two members, to the Executive for consideration.
- No membership fee is payable.
- Membership lasts for the life of the member or on written request to terminate it.

Termination of membership

- Members can resign in writing, addressed to the Secretary.
- Decision of the Executive Committee.
- Subscription not paid by 31 January of the year in which it is due.

Re-instatement of membership

- Membership could be re-instated on receipt of payment of the subscription fee for the year in which the application to re-instate is received.
- Persons who once were members and apply again do not have to pay the fees for the year(s) they were not members
- Persons who become members after 1 August pay only half the membership fee for that year.
- Decision of the Executive Committee

13. Membership Application/Renewal

The Membership Application/Renewal process is online via the SASAOM website (www.sasom.org) and all required member information must be completed and fees be paid via the online payment portal or by electronic bank transfer.

14. Membership Fees

Membership fees will be revised annually at the last Executive Committee meeting of the year and be presented and finalised at the Annual General Meeting.

Benefits for SASOM Members

Benefits to members of this prestigious professional Society will include:



Access to professional information on occupational health matters, including updating on new and / or changes in legislation, standards, norms, policies and guidelines.



Guidelines on aspects of the scope and practice of occupational health.



Annual congresses, meetings, workplace visits, workshops and discussions on topical, academic and practical issues, with continuous educational units for participation.



The quarterly academically accredited scientific Journal also registered for continuous educational units.



Access to SASOM's Scientific Committees' reports.



Opportunities to give input on occupational health legislation, standards, norms, guidelines etc.



Advertising opportunities, both professional and general issues / products, including advertising for locums and vacancies to be filled.



Guidance on professional fee structure.



Easy communication and networking with colleagues and cross references to relevant sites through the web.



Assistance on difficult / troublesome / sensitive issues. Lower fees for attendance of congresses and guidelines.

SASOM Guidelines for Occupational Medicine Practice

NO	ISBN	NAME
1	978-1-919727-58-5	Occupational Medicine Practice
2	978-1-919727-59-2	Management of Tuberculosis in Industry
3	978-1-919727-60-8	Management of Absenteeism due to Illness or Injury
4	978-1-919727-61-5	Design, Equipment and Staffing of OH Centres and Mobile Units
5	978-1-919727-62-2	HIV / AIDS In the Workplace
6	978-1-919727-63-9	Medical Requirements for Fitness to Drive
7	978-1-919727-64-6	Occupational Health and Safety Policy
8	978-1-919727-65-3	Management of Food Hygiene and Food Handler Surveillance
9	978-1-919727-66-0	Alcohol And Drug Abuse in The Workplace
10	978-1-919727-67-7	Epilepsy and Employment
11	978-1-919727-68-4	Audit of Occupational Health Service
12	978-1-919727-69-1	Diabetes and Employment
13	978-1-919727-70-7	Refrigerated Cold Environment Work
14	978-1-919727-71-4	Infection Control in the workplace
15	978-1-919727-72-1	Spirometry in the Workplace
16	978-1-919727-73-8	Medical Records in Industry
17	978-1-919727-74-5	Ethics in Occupational Health
18	978-1-919727-75-2	Occupational Risk Profiling
19	978-1-919727-76-9	Management of Medically Incapacitated Workers
20	978-1-919727-77-6	Radiation: Ionising and Non-Ionising (Sun) and Heat
21	978-1-919727-78-3	Medical Surveillance, Initial Health and Exit Health Evaluation
22	978-1-919727-79-0	Injuries On Duty and Occupational Diseases
23	978-1-919727-80-6	Pregnant Workers
24	978-1-919727-81-3	Accommodation of Workers
25	978-1-919727-82-0	Hypertension
26	978-1-919727-83-7	Vision Testing
27	978-1-919727-84-4	Medicines and Permits in Occupational Health
28	978-1-919727-85-1	Medical Surveillance for Health-Care Workers
29	978-1-919727-86-8	Audiometry in the Workplace
30	978-1-919727-87-5	Managing the Older Worker in the Workplace
31	978-1-919727-88-2	Shift Work
32	978-1-919727-89-9	Worker Job Specifications
33	978-1-919727-90-5	Personal Protective Equipment
34	978-1-919727-91-2	Occupational – Related Health Training and Health Promotion
35	978-1-919727-	Transfer of an Occupational Clinic from One OMP to another
36	978-0-620-84131-3	Frequency of Medical Testing for Fitness to Work and the Duration of the Validity of such Medical Certificates for Fitness