

THE SOCIETY OF DYERS AND COLOURISTS

Continuing Professional Development: FAQ's

What is CPD?

CPD is the systematic process of lifelong learning to maintain and broaden knowledge and skills, and develop the personal qualities needed in working life. The Society's CPD scheme provides a structured approach to the maintenance and improvement of members' skills. Participation in CPD enables members to establish their credentials alongside staff of other professionals in their company and demonstrate their commitment to life-long learning and to maintaining their technical competence. In addition, some insurance companies consider participation in a structured CPD scheme within an organization when determining the premium for professional indemnity insurance.

Why does the SDC insist that I complete CPD each year?

To be consistent with the practice of most other professional societies, the SDC now requires that all members with the Chartered Colourist designation participate in the CPD Scheme and keep an annual record of their CPD activities. If you do not possess the Chartered Colourist designation it is not compulsory to keep a CPD record, but the Society strongly advises that it is in your best interest to do so. The Society expects all of its members in practice as professional colourists to maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills.

What are the benefits of CPD?

The benefits of CPD are indisputable and most other professional societies require their members to participate in and record their CPD activities, to maintain their professional status. The types of benefits that can be derived from participating in and recording CPD include:

- Further one's own knowledge of the colour discipline
- Enhance career prospects and salary
- Demonstrate professional achievements
- Received professional recognition
- Increase job satisfaction

How does the scheme relate to my employment?

It is highly recommended that members inform their employer of their involvement in the Society's CPD scheme. CPD activities can complement any actions arising from an employer's annual appraisal scheme, and it is highly useful if CPD can be planned and carried out in partnership with the employer. Employers are then more likely provide in-house training and make time available to attend external courses or conferences. Members will be aware that lifetime commitment to employment no longer exists on either side. Indeed current projections indicate that members will have four key employments during their career, and not all of the changes being due to personal choice. The types of CPD activities undertaken should take into account possibilities for future career progression.

From what date will I need to record my CPD?

From January 2012 CPD will be compulsory for all members wishing to maintain their Chartered Colourist designation. Thus, members should commence keeping a record of their CPD activities from January 2011.

What activities shall be considered as CPD?

The types of relevant activities include:

- Courses (practical, theoretical)
- Conferences, seminars, technical meetings
- Workshops
- Writing articles and papers
- SDC committee work
- Mentoring and tutoring

The Society recognizes the wide diversity of members' interests in the field of colour and coloration, so adopts a flexible approach to CPD activities. Details of the activities that members may follow are located on the website titled CPD Guide.

How will the Society help in promoting CPD?

The Society can support CPD activities in a number of ways, for example in running conferences and seminars, Regional events, its short course provision, its formal academic qualifications, etc. In addition members are always welcome to join its committees and to assist generally in the organization of events, all of which qualify for CPD. The Society will advertise its events in publications such as the Colourist, the newsletter and the journals.

How many hours of CPD do I need to complete each year?

Chartered Colourists will need to complete a minimum of 30 hours of CPD per year.

How do I record my CPD?

You can download the pdf form located on the CPD web page. The boxes in the word version expand as much as you require to take the information when you type or paste text into them. You can either maintain your form on-line or submit it separately, either by post or by e-mail attachment to membership@sdc.org.uk.

How can I verify my CPD activities?

The way in which your CPD activities are verified will depend on their nature. For example, publication of an article or paper is an obvious achievement which can be submitted. Completion of a course may result in a certificate. Members attending a meeting organized by the SDC will be given a certificate of attendance by the organizer or the Chairman/Secretary of a Region.

Will my CPD be audited?

Each year the CPD records of 10% of members will be selected, on a random basis, by the Society's Membership department. You will be notified, at the time your membership is due for renewal, if you are required to submit your CPD record and supporting verification documents.

Who will have access to my CPD records?

Only SDC membership staff and the trustee with responsibility for Membership will have access to your records.

What happens if I fail to complete the required amount of CPD?

Those members with Chartered Colourist designation will have their C.Col. status revoked, but will be able to remain as corporate members of the Society. It will be possible for such members to have their C.Col. status reinstated the following year on provision of evidence that the CPD requirement has been met. The Society will regularly up-date the list of members with Chartered Colourist status on its website.

I am retired, so do I need to fulfil the annual CPD hours?

It is strongly recommended that all members who remain professionally active retirement participate in CPD activity and it will remain a requirement if members wish to retain their C.Col.designation. Members who are no longer professionally active are not required to submit a CPD record.