

THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

Background

From 1st April 2002 the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) was given the power by the Privy Council to issue Certificates of Competence to UK applicants. Once a Certificate of Competence has been awarded an individual can apply to HPC to be registered. The process was formally taken over by the IBMS from HPC on 1st July 2002.

The IBMS Certificate of Competence is issued following an initial assessment of an applicant's educational qualifications, a defined period of training in an approved laboratory, complete the log book and successfully pass an oral examination at the end of the training period.

The reason for these arrangements is two-fold. Firstly, Medical Laboratory Technicians do not have coterminus degrees, and secondly, HPC would have a potential conflict of interest by being both the awarding body and the regulator.

A Professional Liaison Group meeting was held on 3rd December 2002 to explore the possibility of the IBMS undertaking a similar process for international applicants as they currently do for UK applicants. The IBMS Registrations Team are due to meet with members of the International Registrations Team to familiarize themselves with the processes currently in place.

Internationally trained Medical Laboratory Technicians applying to register with the HPC are also required to have their qualifications and relevant work experience assessed, complete a period of adaptation in an approved laboratory, complete the log book and successfully pass an oral examination at the end of the training period.

Proposal

It is proposed by the HPC Executive and the IBMS that the new arrangements for internationally trained applicants should come into effect from 1st April 2003.

The Council is requested to approve the process outlined above.