



Technician registration and unions

Who are technicians and what they do?

Technicians are the trained professionals who install, maintain and operate the equipment and technology each day that makes the UK's engineering and science industries successful. They work in practically all industries from aerospace and the rail industry to higher and further education.

Typically, technicians are responsible for overseeing production and solving practical problems, but many also work in research and help their businesses to develop new products and processes.

What is registration?

Registered Science Technician (RSciTech), Engineering Technician (EngTech) and Registered IT Technician (RITTech) are externally verified accreditation of professionalism and quality.

Registration shows a commitment to professional standards. It also helps with the development of further skills in the job role. Through registration the technicians establish their level of competence in the workplace. The competence is assessed by peers against internationally recognised standards of proven skills, knowledge and any formal qualifications relevant to the register.

A technician wanting to register joins the appropriate professional body and applies to register for EngTech, RSciTech or RITTech. The Engineering Council and the Science Council can help find the correct professional body and discuss the cost involved. BCS, The Chartered Institute of IT is responsible for RITTech. Professional body membership and registration cost for the first year can range from £70 onwards.

Why is technician registration union business?

Some employers are already working with professional bodies regarding registration. For unions this is an opportunity to be informed about employer plans and be involved as a key stakeholder.

Also, a number of employers already pay for professional body registration and/or membership fees for other groups of staff, such as engineers or apprentices. Technicians in existing roles should be given the same opportunity.

Technicians' access to learning and development and continuous professional development (CPD) is union business. CPD and registration help raise the status of technicians and can help with progression and employability. Many union members are looking for the chance to enjoy being more expert in their jobs.

What can reps and union reps do in the workplace?

Unions can raise registration with their branch and discuss the financial contribution with the employer. Union learning reps (ULRs) can assist technicians to find out more about registration and help them find support for evidencing the competencies. Reps can also find mentoring opportunities with apprentices and supporting colleagues.