CIPS Continuing Professional Development (CPD) FAQs

Why is CIPS developing a new CPD system?

As a professional body, CIPS encourages members to adopt a planned and structured approach to the maintenance and upgrading of their knowledge and skills. Not only do purchasing professionals need to keep up to date, but they also need the ability to acquire new knowledge in response to the challenge of new business requirements. For members, this ability to gain new knowledge is the best possible means of gaining a competitive advantage over their peers.

CIPS already has an online CPD system, but we feel that a more sophisticated approach is required, due to changing expectations of online systems and our wish to further encourage engagement with CPD.

What exactly is happening?

CIPS is in the process of developing a new online CPD system to support members by:

- Recording CPD activity, producing reports and encouraging reflection on learning needs and outcomes;
- Automatically updating CPD records in the system with CIPS activities undertaken by members such as attendance at CIPS corporate events, completing a CIPS e-learning module etc;
- Recognising those members who record high levels of qualifying CPD activity.

When will the new system be launched/available?

The new system will be launched in October 2011.

How will you know that the new system is ‘fit for purpose’?

As part of the development process, testing will be undertaken by CIPS members to ensure that the system is user-friendly and easy to use. (If you are interested in helping us to test the new system please contact cpd@cips.org)

Will CPD activities carry ‘points’ or ‘hours’ to count towards CPD?

Yes, all qualifying activities will carry a number of hours that members can record in their CPD records. CIPS is in the process of defining how many hours can be awarded for which activities.

Are there any incentives for undertaking CPD?

The biggest incentive for undertaking CPD is keeping up-to-date in terms of knowledge and practice, thus remaining competitive in the job market. CIPS is considering whether any other incentives can be offered as part of the development.

I am a volunteer with a branch, how will the development affect branches?

All events run by branches that have a significant element of learning and development will be eligible to have CPD hours attached. For example, an evening event such as a presentation by an expert may attract two CPD hours (the number is yet to be decided). The branch will then have the opportunity to promote this in their information about the event and to issue CPD certificates to attendees.

How do I find out more?

Read our member newsletter, Upd@te and look out for information in the CIPS Update pages of SM magazine and on our Facebook page. Visit our CPD area on the CIPS website at www.cips.org/cpd