



DESIGNATION REQUIREMENTS CERTIFIED PACKAGING PROFESSIONAL (CPP) 2025 - ONLINE

Offered by the Institute of Packaging SA (IPSA)
in collaboration with the World Packaging Organisation (WPO)
and the Institute of Packaging Professionals (IoPP) in the USA



CERTIFIED PACKAGING PROFESSIONAL (CPP)*

The CPP is the highest designation for a packaging professional offered by IPSA, and is an excellent investment in your professional development. This credential defines the packaging professional and enables organisations to seek out and hire the right professional based on verified knowledge, skills and industry contributions. Using the CPP programme to assess and evaluate one's professional competency validates you as a truly qualified packaging professional at an international standard. The CPP programme offered by IPSA is administered by the IoPP and endorsed by the WPO.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE CPP DESIGNATION?

- International and public recognition
- Demonstrates that a packaging practitioner possesses packaging knowledge, experience and skills to the degree that they deserve recognition as a true packaging professional
- The designation confirms a commitment to excellence in the packaging profession
- Those earning the CPP® designation are permitted and encouraged to use the suffix 'CPP®' after their title and to display the CPP® certificate
- Having attained the CPP status, the candidate will need to maintain professional knowledge by subscribing to the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme through IPSA, further confirming the on-going professionalism and skills associated with the CPP designation.
- Successful candidates are entitled to use the affix M.I.Pkg(SA) CPP after their names whilst they are members in good standing of the Institute and comply with the CPD points requirements.

IT REQUIREMENTS

Students must have access to a PC and the internet. Any webinar sessions will be conducted over the Zoom application.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidate eligibility for the CPP programme shall be based on the following prerequisites:

- Must be a "good standing" member of IPSA
- A candidate is qualified to begin the process if he/she has six years' experience in packaging or a closely related technical discipline.
- The six-year requirement can be satisfied in one the following ways:
 - Six years of actual work experience;
 - The IPSA One Year Diploma in Packaging Technology plus four years of work experience;
 - The IPSA Advanced Packaging Diplomas plus two years of work experience;
 - Masters in Food & Packaging plus two years of work experience;
 - Bachelor Degree in Food Science plus two years of work experience;
 - Bachelor Degree in Engineering plus two years of work experience;
 - Bachelor Degree in packaging-related area, plus two years of work experience;
 - Bachelor of Science Degree in packaging-related area, plus one year of Masters Degree, plus one year of actual work experience.



CPP REQUIREMENTS

To be awarded the designation CPP, the candidate will need to successfully complete the following:

A. Multiple-Choice Exam

The IoPP's multiple-choice test is mandatory for every candidate entering the programme. The test is comprised of 150 questions on packaging machinery, materials and technology. This is an 'open book' test. An 80% correct score is considered passing. It is presented in an online, Internet-based format. The test is intended to demonstrate the candidate's command of applied packaging technology.

B. One of the following:

1. Narrative Exam

Candidates may choose to answer three narrative, 'essay-type' questions from a list of 10 such questions formulated by other Certified Packaging Professionals. The narrative questions are general in nature in order to permit and encourage appropriate responses drawn from each candidate's own background, whether that is in consumer or industrial packaging, in engineering or design, in technical disciplines or management.

Reference to various texts is encouraged. The answers are evaluated by a committee on a 'pass/fail' basis. This exam is a timed test due within a 4-day window. The questions are emailed to the applicant.

2. Resumé of Activities

Candidates may complete a detailed resumé form (supplied by IPSA/IoPP) to document their past six (6) years

of experience and active participation in packaging and/or related disciplines with a work resumé attached. A Resumé Review Committee awards points for continuous employment; participation in IPSA's affairs; presentations at conferences, seminars and meetings; publishing authored papers on appropriate technical and management topics; attending educational courses and industry exhibitions; teaching or lecturing; securing patents, and more.

3. Writing a Paper

A candidate may write a new paper or submit an unpublished paper written within the past two years on a technical or management topic of his or her choice. The paper will be graded anonymously, 'pass/fail', by three qualified peers. Submitted papers become the property of IPSA/IoPP, and may be published on the IPSA/IoPP websites. Papers must be submitted electronically via e-mail. Work submitted must be solely that of the candidate. No co-authored work is accepted. Professional paper guidelines on request. Candidates are encouraged to use published references in answering test questions and in writing papers.

4. Patents

The candidate may submit proof of a patent granted no more than five (5) years prior to their certification or recertification application. Co-inventor patents cannot be submitted as one of the two requirements.

If both the Resumé of Activities and Patent options are chosen, the submitted patent cannot also be included in the Resumé of Activity point total. Co-inventor patents may be included on the Resumé of Activities, with half the allowed point credit issued.

TIMING

The candidate must satisfactorily complete the Multiple-Choice Exam and one other option in the order they desire, within twelve months from the date of application.

COST

The cost to register for the CPP programme is R 8 000,00 incl VAT, payable on registration. A fee of 135 USD payable by credit card at the time of the exam and 299 USD Text Book fee. If the candidate is not already a member of the Institute of Packaging SA, they will need to apply and be approved as a member at the time of registration and thereafter to keep their CPP Designation. The annual cost of membership at 2025 rates is R 1 886,00 incl VAT.

TO APPLY

Registration forms are available from the National Education Secretary: education@ipsa.org.za or call 082 776 2201. Forms are also available on the IPSA website www.ipsa.org.za.

*The Certified Packaging Professional (CPP)[®] designation is a registered trademark of the Institute of Packaging Professionals.

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

Having attained the CPP status, the awardee will need to maintain professional knowledge by subscribing to the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme through IPSA. Once you achieve your CPP[®], you must keep your IPSA membership up-to-date each year in order to retain certification. If you lose your certification, you must start the certification process over. The CPD programme requires the awardee to have earned at least 30 CPD points in a rolling 3-year period. If an awardee earns in excess of 30 points in any one year, this excess may be carried over to the next year. This will then extend the roll-over benefit.

Each Category is listed on the back of this brochure with CPDs for common activities. If you have any questions on how to apply activities that you do not see on this list, contact the IPSA National Education Office: education@ipsa.org.za.

GUIDELINES TO EARN CPD POINTS

| CPDs EARNED | CATEGORY |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 25 50 50 12.5 20 | CATEGORY A: COURSES OFFERED BY IPSA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Overview to Packaging Technology * One Year Diploma in Packaging Technology * Advanced Diploma in Packaging Technology * IPSA Half-Day Training Courses * IPSA Full-Day Training Courses |
| 20 15 10 5 | CATEGORY B: 'CONTINUING EDUCATION' (Packaging-related College Degrees: Bachelors, Masters, Ph.D.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ph.D. * Masters Degree – including Master of Food and Packaging Innovation * Bachelor Degree – including engineering, industrial design and food science * MBA |
| 2 2 2 4 1 1 1 1 | CATEGORY C: 'SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING' (Training courses, technical dinners, site visits, national conferences, technical forums) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Each year of IPSA Membership * Each day of IPSA-endorsed Conference * IPSA Regional Committee Meetings * IPSA National Committee Meetings * Each day of other IPSA-endorsed tradeshow (e.g. Propak) * Per hour of IPSA Regional Factory Visits, Seminars, Speaker Evenings, Meetings * Per hour of IPSA Student Mentoring * IPSA National Education Meetings |
| 10 5 5 10 5 5 | CATEGORY D: 'CREATING NEW PACKAGING KNOWLEDGE' (Articles written, facilitation at a function, honours and awards) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Fellow of the Institute of Packaging SA * Honorary Member of the Institute of Packaging SA * Per hour as an IPSA Conference or Seminar Presenter, Course Presenter, Half-Day Training Course or Advanced Packaging Diploma Session Presenter * Published Packaging Article * Gold Pack medal winner – you must be the authorised representative of the entrant or part of the team who worked on the entry * Issued Patent – you are listed as one of the inventors |
| 10 10 5 2 5 1 1 | CATEGORY E: 'VOLUNTEER SERVICE' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * IPSA Stand 'manning' (e.g. Propak) * IPSA National or Regional Conference Volunteer * Per year on IPSA National Executive * Per year on IPSA Regional Committee * Per year on Packaging SA Board * Per hour of volunteer assisting with IPSA student mentoring * Per hour as IPSA representative on Government and Industry Working Groups and Standards Committees |
| 5 1 | CATEGORY F: 'WORKING AS A PROFESSIONAL IN PACKAGING' (Work – history, promotions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * For each year of employment (Max 15) * For each promotion |



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.ipsa.org.za