

## Gaining a competitive edge in the Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) market

Many millions of pounds are spent annually in the UK on Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV). The market is very competitive involving individuals having varying degrees of experience and qualifications working for a wide range of suppliers. It is therefore becoming increasingly important to be able to demonstrate personal competence in the different aspects of LEV.

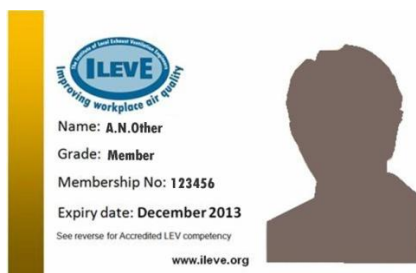
Surveys have shown that customers are looking for well-designed solutions that are reliable, economic running costs; ease of maintenance and for good after sales support.

In the past there have not been any formal and consistent criteria for competency in the LEV industry and those managers wishing to assess suppliers have had to rely on their own 'gut feeling assessment' or at best the proposer's certificate from a short training course which takes no account of experience.

The Institute of Local Exhaust Ventilation Engineers was formed in 2010, to bring about a significant improvement in the effectiveness of the equipment and services provided by the LEV Industry, to raise awareness and to provide a platform for competent LEV Engineers and service providers. ILEVE is an Engineering Institute for individuals to develop their professional career and have their competencies assessed and rewarded. ILEVE is part of The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE).

ILEVE members are assessed in five LEV related disciplines, Occupational Hygiene, Design, Installation Management, Commissioning, and Thorough Examination and Testing. A pass in any category is only achieved with appropriate Experience, Technical knowledge, Qualification and Submitted evidence.

A Competency card awarded together with a member grade and designatory letters. i.e. pass in 5 disciplines and a minimum of 5 years' experience would be awarded Full Membership, 3 years and 3 disciplines for Associate Member and 1 year and 1 discipline for Licentiate Member.



Each card is issued annually to ensure current knowledge and CPD will be a requirement to maintain status. So when assessing LEV proposals customers can see proof of the supplier's abilities from their ILEVE Competency card.

ILEVE is supported by the Health and Safety Executive. Speaking ahead of the launch of the ILEVE in May 2011, Judith Hackett, Chair of the HSE, said: "The formation of ILEVE is the first step to achieving the goal of improved competence for the LEV industry."

So if you want to be in a position to get a competitive edge over your competitors through being able to provide evidence of your own personal proven competencies contact ILEVE at [www.ileve.org](http://www.ileve.org) to find out more about the Institute, membership criteria, membership grading and how to join.