

ESTIF Working rules

Membership categories

According to the Art. 12 of the statutes, the General assembly must define the exact criteria to distinguish the sizes of the categories of member A (Associations), B (Industry) and C (Service providers), as well as the membership fees they have to pay.

The size of an association is determined by the area of glazed collectors sold by its members in the previous calendar year:

Size of association	Voting rights	m ² of glazed collectors sold by its members in the previous calendar year	Yearly membership fee (Euros)
A1	1	< 12 500	965
A2	2	12 500 – 24 999	1 530
A3	3	25 000 – 49 999	2 265
A4	4	50 000 – 249 999	3 275
A5	5	250 000 – 500 000	5 010
A6	6	> 500 000	8 345

The size of an industry member is determined by the solar thermal turnover of the company in the previous calendar year (in thousand Euros):

Size of Industry	Voting rights	Solar thermal turnover by the company in the previous calendar year (in thousand Euros)	Yearly membership fee (Euros)
B1	1	< 4 000	2 550
B2	2	4 000 – 11 999	5 100
B3	3	12 000 – 24 999	7 650
B4	4	25 000 – 49 999	10 200
B5	5	50 000 – 99 000	12 750
B6	6	>100 000	15 300

The size of a service provider is determined by the solar thermal turnover of the company in the previous calendar year (in thousand Euros):

Size of Industry	Voting rights	Solar thermal turnover by the company in the previous calendar year (in thousand Euros)	Yearly membership fee (Euros)
C1	1	< 3 000	2 550
C2	2	>3 000	5 100

Supporting members will pay a flat fee of 965 Euros/year.

The referred amounts are subject to VAT, according to Belgian VAT regulations.

Each member declares its size at the moment of application. Every year, on request of the Secretariat, each member will update its size based on the best possible evaluation of market

development. In case of no answer, the Board may decide to upgrade that member to one size higher.

Deadline for termination of membership is 30 September each year.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council consists of ESTIF members. Any member wishing to join the Advisory Council will pay a fee of 2 550 Euros/per annum, in addition to their regular membership fee. With regard to members from categories B5 and B6 this amount is already included in the membership fee, making them automatically eligible to participate in the Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council, its Chairman or the President of ESTIF may decide to invite outside speakers, representatives of other European trade associations or experts to attend the Advisory Council meeting as guests.

Procedure for paying Membership Fees

The Secretariat will send invoices for membership fees at the beginning of each calendar year. For new members, the invoices are sent after applications. Membership in ESTIF is strictly based on the calendar year.

Members joining ESTIF in the course of the year will pay a quarterly pro-rata of the corresponding membership fee.

Membership fee invoices are payable within one month of receipt. After this term, an organisation that has not paid the invoice will not be considered as member until the payment is received. During this time all benefits may be suspended

European Countries

For the purpose of Article 6 of the ESTIF Statutes, the term Europe shall mean the following countries:

- Member countries of the European Union
- Candidate countries and Accession countries of the European Union
- Member countries of the European Free Trade Association

Under the provision of the Article 6 of ESTIF, the ESTIF Board will use the following guidelines for its decision to accept members. As many of these are identifying cases in a grey zone, a case-by-case analysis remains necessary.

Membership application

- Industry or Service Provider NOT member of a national member association:
 - If no member association exists in the country, the applicant is accepted anyways;

- If the applicant is not directly a member of a member association, but at least one of its direct subsidiaries is, the applicant is generally accepted;
 - If the company/entity has a clear “European” focus, the applicant is generally accepted;
 - The status of membership in a member association is checked only at the time of application. It is reviewed later only at a concrete request of an existing member, of the BoD or by initiative of the Secretariat. In case of non-compliance that member must rectify its status by the beginning of the following year.
- Supporting members:
 - Research institutes, which are not test institutes, are not-for-profit organizations and thus eligible to become support member. Special consideration may be warranted if the institute is involved in other commercial services in the ST sector (e.g. consulting/engineering services). Applicants will be requested to confirm that they are not testing and that they are not-for-profit;
 - Individual persons are accepted as supporting members if they are not linked to a company/organization normally falling under any of the other membership categories. The applicant shall confirm so in writing. All membership rights are then accessible only to this individual.