

ISHVAL'S use of the title 'INSTITUTE' (as opposed to, say, 'SOCIETY')  
Notes by Bob Hardy (2004)

At the time of the founding of ISHVAL, around 1966, I was a Member of 'The Institute of Science and Technology'. This membership required a minimum professional qualification (in the case of my application for ordinary membership in 1966, that was either a B.Sc. or a recognized industrial equivalent). I assumed then that there must have been some minimum qualification for membership to ISHVAL – unfortunately I have never been able to discover what this might be.

Should there be a minimum qualification requirement? Well, in the UK you cannot officially call yourself an 'Institute' unless you satisfy the following criteria:

In the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man the term "institute" is a protected word and companies or other organizations may only use the word if they are "organizations which are carrying out research at the highest level or to professional bodies of the highest standing".

Furthermore, if a company is carrying on a business under a different name to the company name, that business name must comply with the Business Names Act. Use of the title "institute" requires approval from the Secretary of State. Failure to seek approval is a criminal offence.

*The following words imply business pre-eminence or representative or authoritative status:*

- **institute** or **institution** we normally only approve these words for those organisations which are carrying out research at the highest level or to professional bodies of the highest standing. You will need to show us that there is a need for the proposed institute and that it has appropriate regulations or examination standards. You will need evidence of support from other representative and independent bodies.