



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

FAQs: Reimagining the International Practice Specialty

Why did we embark on this reimagining?

The International Practice Specialty member community was put on two-year probation in 2017 due to membership decline and has provided consistent updates on progress to the Council on Practice and Standards. The group's membership remains below the 500-member total required in the Society Operating Guidelines.

However, after further member research, consultation with the group's leadership and additional stakeholders, we agreed to reimagine the community. These efforts will focus on addressing the misperception that this community is only for ASSP members who live outside of the United States rather than its intended goal to serve OSH professionals who have global responsibilities or who have an interest in global safety operations where ever they may live.

Please describe this reimagining.

Reimagining the community will better position it to serve OSH professionals who have global responsibilities. It will optimize the current value and work invested by current leaders while aligning with the community's intended goals and target audience.

What will be the same?

Members will still be able to reach out to those in other countries to share best practices, ideas, learn about different cultures and expand their global networks. The practice specialty will remain part of the Council on Practices and Standards and is expected to carry out the requirements of the Practice Specialty Value Statement and other governing documents.

Who can join the Global Operations Practice Specialty?

Any member of ASSP is welcome to join the Global Operations Practice Specialty.

If I am an international member, but I don't have global responsibilities, can I still join?

Yes. Members residing in different countries can provide specific safety and health information for their countries. They can provide awareness of laws/regulations related to occupational safety & health for members who are pursuing responsibilities in their country. Also, they can be a resource to other members interested in best practices outside of their home country looking to improve their safety and health programs in their respective country.

How will this impact existing International Practice Specialty members and prospective members?

Current members of the International Practice Specialty will remain members. When it's time for them to renew, the new name of the practice specialty will appear on their invoice. New members will join the practice specialty under the new name. All members of the Global Operations Practice Specialty will benefit from inclusive programming and access to a network of OSH professionals across the globe.

During the reimagining phase, will the fee to join this practice specialty change?

The fee will remain the same as other practice specialties.



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Questions for leaders

What is going to be changed after this reimagining?

The new name will be Global Operations Practice Specialty which reflects the target audience. In addition to messaging and marketing, operational planning and programming will need to align.

How will this change affect the relationship with other practice specialties and chapters? Will there be any interface between this reimagined practice specialty and/or ASSP regions?

Practice specialty administrators are members of the Council on Practices and Standards – that remains the same. Practice specialties do not have a direct relationship with any chapters or regions, but all ASSP communities are encouraged to collaborate with any other communities.

Does this change mean a new practice specialty?

No, the International Practice Specialty will have a new name and a new focus. There will still be only 18 practice specialties.

Will this change the International Practice Specialty action plan?

As noted, operational plans will be changed to reflect the community's new focus.

Will these changes affect the International Practice Specialty Advisory Committee?

Practice specialty advisory committees are governed by [Society Operating Guideline 11.2](#). Volunteers are appointed to committee positions by the administrator. Advisory committee members are expected to carry out their responsibilities as stated in the advisory committee position descriptions.

How will we attract new members?

We will work with the ASSP marketing and communications teams to get the word out to ASSP members. Future programming will reflect the new focus to renew interest among current members and attract new members.

Will this change affect nominations received thus far for International Practice Specialty positions or in future nominations?

When we announce the new name and focus, we will include a call for nominations for leaders. The current administrator's term ends June 30, 2020. If candidates who have submitted nomination packets for assistant administrator for the International Practice Specialty wish to be considered once the reimagining is complete, they can let us know. A special election will be held in accordance with ASSP [bylaws](#) (article XIII).

Do the members need to wait until changes are complete to send their queries, suggestions or recommendations?

No, they can submit questions or suggestions any time to communities@assp.org.

Does the reimagining affect existing agreements of the International Practice Specialty?

We will consider these issues on a case-by-case basis.

Once complete, will ASSP offer any discounts for new members to join?

None are planned at this time.

