



Parlour Safe FAQs

Contents

1. Terminology
2. What is the difference between the LTA scheme and the Parlour Safe scheme?
3. Who is eligible for Parlour Safe accreditation?
4. What is the difference between assessment, registration and accreditation?
5. Is it possible to register straight in at Cat Parlour Safe CAT 3 or Parlour Safe CAT 4?
6. Do I need to be a member of IAgRE to be eligible for Parlour Safe Accreditation?
7. Who carries out the assessments for entry into the Parlour Safe CAT 2, 3 and 4 Categories?
8. Who assesses the assessors?
9. Why should I be registered as an Engineering Technician?
10. Why do I need to be a member of IAgRE?
11. What is the link with EurAgEng?
12. How do I apply?
13. How much does the registration/accreditation process cost?
14. How do I pay?
15. How long does my registration/accreditation last?
16. What are the “Additional Assessed Qualifications” shown on the reverse of the photo id card?
17. Can I be re-issued with a replacement photo id card?
18. What happens if I lose my Parlour Safe Cat 4 accreditation?
19. What happens if I lose my Parlour Safe Cat 3 accreditation?
20. What happens if I lose my Parlour Safe Cat 2 accreditation?

1. Terminology

For the purposes of these FAQs, the following terminology applies.

- AEA The Agricultural Engineers Association
- IAgRE The professional body for engineers, scientists and technologists working in the landbased sector
- EurAgEng is the European professional network for engineers, scientists and technologists working in the landbased sector.
- EurAgEng is the European member of the world wide agricultural engineering organisation CIGR.
- EurAgEngTech The recognised acronym for those Engineering Technicians registered through IAgRE under the LTA/Parlour Safe schemes.

- Engineering Council (EngC) The EngC is the regulatory authority for the UK engineering profession.
- Engineering Technician One of the three, internationally recognised, professional registers of the EngC
- EngTech The recognised acronym for Engineering Technician LTA scheme Landbased Industry Technician Accreditation Scheme for agricultural, amenity, forestry and grounds care equipment (but not milking equipment for which there is a separate scheme (See Parlour Safe scheme)
- Parlour Safe scheme Landbased Industry Technician Accreditation Scheme for milking equipment.
- LTA/Parlour Safe scheme manufacturer. Any manufacturer who has signed the LTA/Parlour Safe
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) The underpinning document outlining the areas of responsibility of the various scheme partners.
- LTA/Parlour Safe registration/accreditation fees Any fees relating to the LTA/Parlour Safe registration/accreditation process
- LTA/Parlour Safe assessment fees Any fees relating to LTA/Parlour Safe assessments
- MEA Milking Equipment Association
- Participating dealer Any dealer franchised by an LTA/Parlour Safe scheme manufacturer
- Franchised dealer Any dealer franchised by an LTA/Parlour Safe scheme manufacturer
- Independent dealer Any dealer not franchised to an LTA/Parlour Safe scheme manufacturer
- Non-franchised dealer Any dealer not franchised to an LTA/Parlour Safe scheme manufacturer
- CPD Continuing Professional Development (Click here for further details of what constitutes CPD.)

2. What is the difference between the LTA scheme and the Parlour Safe scheme?

- The LTA scheme refers to the original scheme for agricultural and grounds care equipment. The Parlour Safe scheme refers to the Milking Equipment Association (MEA) scheme.

3. Who is eligible for Parlour Safe accreditation?

- Parlour Safe Cat 1 Registration: Anyone currently an apprentice mechanic or technician working in the land-based sector can apply to be registered at
- Parlour Safe Cat 1. New entrants, to the sector who have qualifications and/or experience in other sectors can also register here. Registration at Parlour Safe Cat 1 is free of charge.
- Parlour Safe Cat 2 Accreditation - Assistant MEA Technician Registration at Cat 2 is for newly qualified apprentices or assessed skilled technicians meeting the required criteria and/or those who have successfully completed Year 1 of the Reaseheath MEA Qualification.
- Parlour Safe Cat 3 Accreditation - MEA Technician Registration at Parlour Safe Cat 3 is for the skilled, experienced technician with at least 12 months experience at Parlour Safe Cat 2, who has successfully completed Year 2 of the Reaseheath MEA Qualification and has attended a series of assessed course programmes, and who may be a product specialist.
- Parlour Safe Cat 4 Accreditation - Master MEA Technician Registration at Parlour Safe Cat 4 is for the professional technician having a proven and assessed track record. Additional assessment criteria include the successful completion of Year 3 of The Reaseheath MEA Qualification and the demonstration of exceptional diagnostic and technical ability together with customer and technical mentoring skills.
-

4. What is the difference between assessment, registration and accreditation?

- Registration is the process whereby an individual's details will be placed on a central register.
- Assessments will be required to ensure that the individual meets certain defined requirements.
- Accredited individuals will be deemed to have been assessed and thus eligible for registration.
- Who does what?
- In the case of Parlour Safe Cat 1, there is no need for assessment, thus there is no accreditation process. Registration only is required. For the other Categories, assessments will be required.
- Assessments - will be carried out either by the manufacturer or the Parlour Safe Administration Team.
- Accreditation - of manufacturers training schemes and of individuals outside of the manufacturers training schemes will be carried out by the Parlour Safe Admin Team.
- Registration - all registrations will be carried out by the Parlour Safe Admin Team.
- e.g. Parlour Safe Cat 2 assessment of individuals will be carried out by the relevant manufacturer for those working for franchised dealers and by the Parlour Safe Administration team for those working for independent or non-franchised dealers.

5. Is it possible to register straight in at Cat Parlour Safe Cat 3 or Parlour Safe Cat 4?

- It will not normally be possible to register at a higher (Parlour Safe Cat 3/4) category without first having been registered at Cat Parlour Safe Cat 2.

6. Do I need to be a member of IAgRE to be eligible for Parlour Safe?

- All who participate in the Parlour Safe scheme are encouraged to join the IAgRE (Institution of Agricultural Engineers). However this is only mandatory at the Parlour Safe Cat 3 and Parlour Safe Cat 4 categories. Those accredited at Parlour Safe Cat 3 and Parlour Safe Cat 4 will be required (as part of the scheme) to register as an Engineering Technician (EngTech) with the Engineering Council (EngC) through the IAgRE. This will require membership of IAgRE.

7. Who carries out the assessments for entry into Parlour Safe?

- Technicians working for franchised dealers.
- Where technicians are employed by franchised dealers, all the assessments for Parlour Safe Cat 2, 3 and 4 will be carried out by the relevant manufacturer as part of their regular product and associated training.
- Technicians working for non-franchised or independent dealers.
- Parlour Safe assessors will assess technicians employed by independent, non-franchised dealers. This will in the first instance, be a paper-based exercise for Parlour Safe Cat 2 applicants. In due course, it is planned to establish a number of independent assessment centres to undertake assessments for Parlour Safe Cat 3 and 4 applicants working for (or as) independent dealers.

8. Who assesses the assessors?

- Manufacturers' Assessments: These will be carried out by selected members of the IAgRE Membership Committee.

- Assessing the Parlour Safe Assessors: All Parlour Safe Assessors are members of IAgRE and will be implementing assessment procedures that are part of the IAgRE QA system which is subject to internal audit by the IAgRE Internal Audit Panel. IAgRE, as a licensed body of the Engineering Council is also subject to regular auditing by the EngC.

9. Why should I be registered as an Engineering Technician?

- Whilst the Parlour Safe scheme will give you recognition within the landbased sector, registration as an Engineering Technician (EngTech) will mark you out as a skilled professional. Widely recognised both in the UK and abroad, it is a title that can bring very important benefits. There are advantages too for employers of Engineering Technicians.
- In particular, they have the assurance of knowing that their key personnel have good skills and experience and an attitude to match. This also inspires confidence in a business client.
- These are the reasons behind our sector industry leaders demanding that EngTech registration be an integral part of the Parlour Safe scheme and sets the Parlour Safe scheme apart from other sector schemes.

10. Why do I need to be a member of IAgRE?

- To become registered as an Engineering Technician (EngTech), membership of one of the licensed bodies of the Engineering Council (EngC) is required. It is not possible to be EngTech registered without this. In the case of the Parlour Safe scheme, the landbased sector has selected IAgRE to run the scheme on behalf of the sector.
- As discussed above, membership of IAgRE is mandatory at Parlour Safe Cat 3 and Parlour Safe Cat 4
- Whilst IAgRE membership is not a requirement for Parlour Safe Cat 1 and Parlour Safe Cat2, it is highly recommended.
- In the unlikely event that a candidate for Parlour Safe Cat 3 or 4 accreditation is already registered as an EngTech through another institution, the membership requirement could be waived but the use of the letters EurAgEngTech would not then be permitted without the payment of an additional fee.

11. What is the link with EurAgEng?

- EurAgEng (the European Society of Agricultural Engineers) is the overarching body representing the national professional bodies such as IAgRE.
- From the outset of the scheme, EurAgEng has been a major supporter and has signed up to the Memorandum of Understanding on which the Parlour Safe project is based and has agreed that the EurAgEng logo can be used in association with the Parlour Safe scheme.
- Also, the letters EurAgEng will be used in together with the letters EngTech for Parlour Safe CAT 3 and 4 registrants. This will give the Parlour Safe scheme a currency throughout Europe.

12. How do I apply?

- Parlour Safe Cat 1 This can be done as one stage process online.
- Parlour Safe Cat 2 Franchised Dealer
- For franchised dealer staff, it will first be necessary to get the go-ahead from the Dealer Principal or Training Manager.
- Manufacturers may choose to carry out a bulk upload of information for a number of candidates. In this case you need do nothing more. Otherwise, there is a two stage on-line process:

- Stage 1 - Enter your details as requested and submit them to the Parlour Safe team. These details will be passed to the relevant manufacturer for confirmation that the details are correct.
 - Stage 2 - The Parlour Safe admin team will then e-mail you a username and password which will allow you entry to the second stage of the registration process. Enter these fuller details as required and submit them to the Parlour Safe team. Again these details will be sent to the manufacturer for confirmation. Once confirmation has been received (and a photo for the photo id card submitted on-line) the registration process is complete and a photo id card submitted.
 - N.B. Photo id cards will not be issued without a suitable photo.
- Non-Franchised or Independent Dealer**
- The full on-line procedure is not available for those working with non-franchised/independent dealers.
 - Instead, the first stage can be carried out on-line. Once the applicant selects the “Independent Dealer” in the drop down box headed “Manufacturer” this will trigger a paper based application procedure which needs to be accompanied by evidence of experience and or qualifications.
 - Parlour Safe Cat 3 and Parlour Safe Cat 4
 - As you will already have been assessed for Parlour Safe Cat 2, progressing to Parlour Safe Cat 3 (and/or Parlour Safe Cat 4) will be by completing an application form for IAgRE membership and EngTech registration.

13. How much does the assessment and registration process cost?

- Parlour Safe Cat 1 Registration is free. Annual membership of IAgRE in the Associate grade (IAgRE) is optional. Current fee rates can be found here.
 - Parlour Safe Cat 2 For those within a franchised dealership of a participating manufacturer no assessment fee will be payable to Parlour Safe. There may however be a fee levied by the manufacturer undertaking the assessment.
 - Assessment for those with non-franchised or independent dealers, or franchised dealers affiliated to manufacturers not yet part of the Parlour Safe scheme will cost £50 payable to Parlour Safe. This is made up of an application fee of £25 (non-refundable) and a £25 process fee (refundable if the application is not successful).
 - If an application is successful, a registration fee of £55 is payable to Parlour Safe. Both the assessment / accreditation and registration are valid for 5 years.
 - Annual membership of IAgRE in the Associate grade (IAgRE) is optional. Current fee rates and costs can be found here. Parlour Safe registrants will also be eligible for entry into the Associate Member grade (AMIAgRE) subject to assessment by the IAgRE Membership Committee.
- Parlour Safe Cat 3 and Parlour Safe Cat 4**
- For those within a franchised dealership of a participating manufacturer there will be no payment for accreditation/assessment payable to Parlour Safe. There may be a fee levied by the manufacturer undertaking the assessment.
 - Accreditation/assessment for those with non-franchised or independent dealers, or franchised dealers affiliated to manufacturers not yet part of the Parlour Safe scheme will cost £50 payable to LTA. This is a non-refundable process fee.
 - In both cases, Parlour Safe tier 3 and 4 accreditation is linked to EngTech registration. Membership of IAgRE is therefore mandatory. The scale of fees applicable depends on the applicable grade of IAgRE membership. The current annual fees (for IAgRE membership and EngTech registration) can be found here.
 - Photo id cards will be valid for 1 year and will clearly show the date of any re-assessment.

14. How do I pay?

Franchised Dealers

- All registrations at Parlour Safe Cat 2 and above have to be approved by the relevant manufacturer. At the time of this approval, the Parlour Safe Admin team will send an invoice to the Parlour Safe scheme manufacturer who will pay the Parlour Safe scheme on monthly terms.
- N.B. The relevant Parlour Safe scheme manufacturer will be liable for any Parlour Safe fees relating to an approved candidate even if the candidate leaves the employ of the participating dealer after the approval date.
- Parlour Safe scheme manufacturers may pass on any Parlour Safe registration fees to their participating dealers.

Non-Franchised or Independent Dealers

- Technicians from independent dealers will not have access to the assessment procedures put in place by the Parlour Safe scheme manufacturers. Other than for Parlour Safe Cat 1 registration, each application from a technician at an independent, or non-franchised, dealer will therefore have to be assessed individually by an Parlour Safe assessor. This is why a separate charge has to be made. These payments (outlined above) will need to be in advance.

15. How long does my registration/accreditation last?

- Parlour Safe Cat 1 - we will remove your details from our database after 6 years unless you ask us to do otherwise.
- Parlour Safe Cat 2 - Your accreditation (and your photo id card) will be valid for 5 years from the date of your accreditation.
- Further accreditation will then be required. This will also be valid for 5 years.
- Parlour Safe Cat 3 and Parlour Safe Cat 4 - Your accreditation will be valid for a minimum of 3 years but your photo id card (which is linked to your IAgRE membership and EngTech registration) will only be valid for 12 months. Your card will state both the date of the expiry of the card and when re-assessment is due.
- In all cases, shortly before your registration/accreditation is due to expire, we will contact you with a reminder to renew or arrange a re-assessment.

16. What are the “Additional Assessed Qualifications” shown on the reverse of the photo id card?

- These are exactly what they say. There are many independently assessed qualifications that are outside of the manufacturers training schemes but are important to your ongoing professional development. These will have been independently assessed by organisations such as AEA (NSTS or National Sprayer Testing Scheme), Lantra (LCI or Lantra Certified Instructor) and others. There is space on the card for up to eight of these qualifications. Evidence will be required that these qualifications have been attained and when.

17. Can I be re-issued with a replacement photo id card?

- Should you require a new photo id card for any reason (card lost, additional assessed qualifications acquired) then we will happily issue you with a new one subject to payment of a £10 fee.

18. What happens if I lose my Parlour Safe Cat 4 accreditation?

- It is possible that if you fail to complete/pass an assessment or fall behind with your CPD (product training courses) that you will be downgraded to Parlour Safe Cat 3 (or even Parlour Safe Cat 2 if you have not complied with the CPD requirements for Parlour Safe CAT 3) You will not however lose your entitlement to EngTech registration and IAgRE membership as the CPD requirements for these are different.
- It is recommended therefore that you continue in membership of IAgRE and maintain your EngTech registration, particularly if you expect your Parlour Safe Cat 3 or 4 status to be re-instated in the near future.
- Remember that IAgRE membership and EngTech registration are professional qualifications in their own right.
- (For further details of your CPD obligations under EngTech registration and IAgRE membership, [click here.](#))

19. What happens if I lose my Parlour Safe Cat 3 accreditation?

- It is possible that if you fail to complete/pass an assessment or fall behind with your CPD (product training courses) that you will be downgraded to Parlour Safe Cat 2.
- You will not however lose your entitlement to EngTech registration and IAgRE membership as the CPD requirements for these are different.
- It is recommended therefore that you continue in membership of IAgRE and maintain your EngTech registration, particularly if you expect your Parlour Safe Cat 3 status to be re-instated in the near future.
- Remember that IAgRE membership and EngTech registration are professional qualifications in their own right. (For further details of your CPD obligations under EngTech registration and IAgRE membership, [click here.](#))

20. What happens if I lose my Parlour Safe Cat 2 accreditation?

- If you fail to be re-assessed satisfactorily at the end of your 5 year Parlour Safe Cat 2 accreditation period, you will be removed from the Parlour Safe Cat 2 register and will need to repeat the application process for Parlour Safe Cat 2 from scratch.