

18 July 2013

Notice from the Examination Board for the European qualifying examination (EQE)

For the Pre-examination and Paper D of the main examination, calendars form part of the examination papers.

The calendars are a necessary tool for the calculation of time limits, in particular where Rule 134(1) EPC applies. According to this provision, time limits expiring on a day on which at least one EPO filing office is not open for receipt of documents (closing day) are extended until the first day thereafter on which all the filing offices are open for receipt of documents and on which ordinary mail is delivered.

For the future examinations, starting with 2014, there will be a slight change to the practice concerning calendars:

For the Pre-examination and Paper D, calendars will continue to be provided to candidates as part of the examination papers and will continue to be a correct calendar for the respective year (e.g. 1st January 2014 will be a Wednesday).

However, the calendars might not necessarily cover all EPO closing days. This means that some days, on which the EPO filing offices are actually closed, might not be indicated as closing days in the calendars.

For future examinations, candidates shall answer the papers solely on the basis of the calendars in the examination papers.

As it is assumed that candidates have become familiar with the style and formatting of the calendar as used hitherto, no change will be made in this regard. Thus, candidates can expect that the style of the calendar will remain unchanged.

For the Examination Board
The Chairman

Ian Harris