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## Detailed rules for the basic examination in surgery

Based on Art. 3 of the basic examination regulations, approved by the board of examiners on 12 May 2000 and amended on 21 March 2003, 13 May 2005, 15 May 2009, 9 May 2015 and 4 May 2018

### 1 Purpose

The detailed rules are part of the examination regulations and describe the details of the procedure.

### 2 Form

Type: MC examination with question types A, A-, B, E and K'; usually, only type A and K' questions are used, total 150 questions.

Duration: 4 hours

### 3 Application, dates, fees

The application formalities are fixed annually (type of information, dates, schedule of fees). A correct and fully and accurately completed application is a requirement for admission to the examination. The application is made electronically via the internet. The application and examination data can be used for scientific analysis.

### 4 Procedure

Following correct application, examination candidates are informed electronically in German or French about the examination form, time and procedure. An identity check may be carried out. The chairman or his representative is responsible for adequate room supervision and for conducting the examination. The specific examination process takes place in accordance with the guidelines for holding examinations. The examination materials (book, computer record, pencil and eraser) are provided. Special incidents are recorded in a log.

### 5 Assessment and establishment of grade and pass limits

The examination is analysed according to accepted methods. It includes the following steps in particular: calculation of a provisional first assessment (first run), recording of candidate's comments if need be, compilation of problematic questions, key validation and elimination of questions with obvious content or formal deficiencies.

The decision regarding the elimination of questions is made by the board or chairman. Calculation of the definitive assessment (second run), proposal for grade limits. The differences in difficulty of the different sessions are compensated by reused questions. The board or a board committee decides the definitive limits.

The standard is set according to scientifically accepted methods (primarily content-based method with an absolute standard, modified Angoff procedure). This process is carried out at intervals of 3-5 years.

## **6 Information about the examination**

Examination candidates receive a signed confirmation of their examination result and its evaluation in accordance with regulation article 5 and are informed of their right of appeal.

Candidates who sit the examination for self-evaluation receive a certificate against which no objection is allowed.

## **7 Examination documents, inspection, complaints**

<sup>1</sup>All examination documents (books and records) are absolutely confidential and are stored in accordance with FMH/SIWF instructions ([www.siwf.ch](http://www.siwf.ch)).

<sup>2</sup>Systematic controls are performed for quality assurance, for which the books may be used. If there are obvious transcription errors, (e.g., a serial shift), reference can also be made to the book.

<sup>3</sup>If the examination is not passed, inspection of the examination is granted in accordance with FMH/SIWF recommendations ([www.siwf.ch](http://www.siwf.ch)).

<sup>4</sup>For separately requested information or follow-up checks, a contribution fee of at least Fr. 100.00 is charged if there is no error in data processing or evaluation.

<sup>5</sup>Information about the ensuing costs for objections is given in the FMH/SIWF schedule of fees.

## **8 Irregularities**

In the event of irregularities, the chairman or his representative decides, and the examination is usually regarded as failed. Serious infringements can lead to exclusion from the examination for many years. Those affected can be sued for the consequences. In the event of late arrival, the examination invigilator decides. An interrupted examination is regarded as not having been taken.

## **9 Exemptions**

In justified cases (e.g., due to disabilities) the chairman of the board can grant exemptions that reflect the individual circumstances of the candidates in question.

## **10 Entry into force**

The detailed rules (in force on 1 July 2000 with the regulation) come into force in altered form on 1 June 2018.

The last alteration was decided on 4.5.2018