Before 1 April 2013 members were required to submit an annual CPD log form. This is no longer the standard requirement. As from 1 April 2013 the CPD audit changed from submission of the annual log by all veterinarians to submission of an annual submission by a randomly selected group of veterinarians only.

In terms of the regulations all veterinarians who practise or render professional veterinary services, are required to comply with the system of CPD as a prerequisite to retain registration. A veterinary professional therefore must, in order to maintain his/her professional registration, accumulate sixty or more points, of which at least twenty points have to be structured points, within every three year cycle from the commencement of the CPD system.

The Regulations provide the guidance as follows:

8.1 All veterinary professionals participating in the CPD system shall retain documented proof of participation and progress of structured activities and a record including the nature, scope and duration of unstructured activities.

8.2 A summary of all activities is to be submitted on an annual basis to the council on a form that is obtainable from the registrar for this purpose when payment of the annual maintenance fee is due.

8.3 All records required in terms of these regulations shall be retained for a period of five years.

8.4 The form is the only data required from professionals. It should be duly completed so that it accurately reflects a veterinary professional’s CPD activities for the three year cycle just completed.

8.5 The form is the record that needs to be submitted should the veterinary professional be selected in the randomly selected audits.
8.6 An individual may submit the data and copies of CPD certificates to the South African Veterinary Council by hand delivery, post, fax and/or electronic mail.

8.7 Veterinary professionals who are non-compliant or who do not submit their CPD records will automatically be included in the next audit.”

Note: Our highlighted script.

The Regulations effectively imply that a veterinary professional must, when randomly selected and called upon by council, submit the prescribed form obtainable from the registrar, as well as documentary proof of his/her CPD activities. Each veterinary professional must ensure that he/she retains his/her CPD records and proof thereof for a period of five years. The same applies to those professionals who are non-compliant or who did not submit their CPD records in the previous cycle when called upon to do so and/or did not apply for deferment. Members are therefore no longer required to submit their annual log unless called upon or selected for the annual audit.

The random selection of veterinarians, specialists and persons with restricted registration for the purpose of submission of records for CPD compliance for the 2013 audit was conducted by a veterinary specialist epidemiologist, Prof Peter N Thomson of the University of Pretoria and it will also be conducted by Prof Thompson for the 2014 audit.

CPD forms and records must be submitted to Ms Sonia Nkwana at meetings@savc.org.za within thirty days of receipt of notification for the 2013 CPD cycle.

The 2014 selection and call by Council will be conducted shortly after 1 April 2014. Randomly selected members and those members who defaulted in the previous cycle i.e. either non-compliance with the regulations or non-submission will be included in the annual audits.

Please contact Mrs Dinamarie Stoltz at: legaldirector@savc.org.za should you require any explanation with regard to the interpretation of the regulations pertaining to CPD.