

Frequently Asked Questions - (updated June 2017)

(A number of the questions and answers have been altered/updated and a number of new issues covered.)

Regardless of how thoroughly we prepare guidelines for FIAP Distinctions there will always be what we could call ‘grey’ areas. These are caused by a number of problems, which can include among others:-

a) The complexity of the rules regarding Patronage and Distinctions.

(Amendments to rules brought out to cater with the attempts, by some salon organisers, to get round the spirit of the Patronage rules can also sometimes cause anomalies.)

b) Problems relating to translation of FIAP documents into English.

(There are many examples, ranging from minor grammatical issues and differences in cultures and ways of presenting issues, through to cases where mistaken translation has resulted in the totally wrong meaning being conveyed in the English versions. These are progressively being dealt with, but the process will take time.)

c) Applicants’ difficulties with the software used in the application process

(Not everyone is as comfortable with data processing on a computer as others.)

d) Conflicting or inaccurate advice obtained on social media, fellow club members or elsewhere.

(Unfortunately, amongst all the genuinely helpful, there will always be the ill informed who are equally willing to air their views and opinions, which can be misleading and/or confusing.)

In an effort to deal with these problems we have set out below answers to a number of issues that have given rise to queries in the past. In making use of the information given below please be aware that in respect of the answer’s, and indeed all other information and documents touching on these issues, which are on the PAGB website:-

a) PAGB does not does not apply any additional criteria over and above FIAP’s stated criteria.

b) When relevant, or wherever there has been any doubt, the matter has been referred to FIAP for clarification to ensure that the information and answers are correct.

The Questions and answers are divided into two groups, ‘About the Criteria’ and ‘About the Application Forms’. It is possible that there may be some overlap between the two.

ABOUT THE CRITERIA

1. Question

I have just received a report card, which indicates that I have achieved the criteria for my next award. As I am within the timetable you supplied can I register for the next distinction?

Answer:-

Not yet I’m afraid. No account will be taken of any results provided by ‘Report Cards’, email or web site notifications, because they are not reliable and are subject to errors. Any results from salons will not be recognised towards a FIAP Distinction until FIAP have received the relevant “Salon Report File” from the salon. Without it your claims on your application form cannot be verified. Therefore you must not attempt to register until the relevant “Salon Report Files” have been received by FIAP.

You can easily check as to whether FIAP have received the required file by go to:-

<http://patronages.fiap.net/salons.html>

Check out the relevant listing and you will find a field for each event provided for the purpose. Unless “Yes” is entered you cannot use its results for your application.

Please do not treat this stipulation lightly. Whilst there is a requirement under FIAP’s Patronage Rules for the “Salon Report File” to be submitted within a certain time frame, it is quite common for there to be up to and over a 3month delay, and occasionally longer. FIAP will not grant future patronage if the file is not submitted, but if a salon is not being organised again the next year there is little FIAP can do about it.

2. Question

I have gained my AFIAP, which is dated 1st June 2017. I understand that there must be 12 months between applications. Does this mean I cannot apply for EFIAP in 2018?

Answer:- (overleaf)

Answer:-

No. It means that FIAP will not issue the next distinction before 12 months has elapsed, ie: any application by you for EFIAP will not be granted before 1st June 2018. PAGB are only allowed to submit one batch of applications per year. In view of this PAGB maintains the same final date for application each year, so as to ensure that you are able to make applications on a yearly basis, if you have reached the applicable criteria. You may therefore apply for EFIAP in the 2018 batch of applications.

This advice is valid throughout the range of Distinctions, so it is possible to progress through from AFIAP to EFIAP Diamond 3 in successive years. This does not apply in respect of MFIAP for which different rules apply.

3. Question:-

Can you advise me, if a panel/portfolio of 4 pictures is accepted in an exhibition, are all 4 pictures counted or do you just count it as one?

Answer:

A panel or portfolio of pictures counts as ONE acceptance. The separate titles within the panel will not count as different titles and you cannot use such acceptances to count towards the number of titles you have gained. If you wish to include a Portfolio acceptance in a distinction application then you will have to submit copies of all the images in the Portfolio with your Portfolio CD in a separate folder.

4. Question:-

If I receive acceptances for the same image in colour and also in mono will this count as one or two titles for the purposes of assessing FIAP criteria?

Answer:-

No it counts as only ONE title. In the same way that an image used in say an Open Section and then a Nature Section (or any other section for that matter) is counted as one title, the same applies for one used in Monochrome and Colour sections. This is in line with the requirement that once accepted an image must keep the same title for life; no image can have more than one title.

This can conflict with PSA's rules and one 'work around' used by exhibitors is to add the word "mono" as a suffix to the end of the title when a mono version is entered into a salon. It appears PSA will accept this and if /when applying for an award from FIAP, you delete the suffix there is no problem.

5. Question:-

Following on from 3 above I have two pictures that are very similar. Will FIAP accept these as different images?

Answer:-

There is no definitive answer to this one. The manipulation of images to create multiple titles can create problems. FIAP state that if more than one image comes from the same original file, a relatively minor change will not qualify as a different image for their purposes. A clear and substantial montage would be accepted as a different image but merely shuffling around content or minor changes will not. The mere application of a filter or simply cropping will not create a different image. You will have to accept that there is no clearly definable dividing line and use your commonsense.

The best advice is that you do not try to push the boundaries. This applies especially if your total of titles is close to the minimum requirement, when any such similar images will obviously be looked at far more closely than if you have plenty of titles to spare. It is a question of judgement and you must remember that FIAP expect you to earn your award by taking pictures, not merely fiddling around on the computer.

6. Question:-

If a Circuit has component salons from more than one country, do these component salons count as 'different countries' for AFIAP and EFIAP and 'different countries' for awards at EFIAP levels?

Answer:-

This is where things begin to get a bit complicated. The simple answer is that it depends on where the individual components were actually judged. If each component salon is physically judged and exhibited in the country being attributed to it then the answer is YES. If however this is not the case and the judging of the various salons in the circuit takes place in only one location then the answer is NO. (continued overleaf)

To cater for this the new Patronage web site at <http://patronages.fiap.net/salons.html> now provides you with an answer TO AN EXTENT. If you open the appropriate lists and check them you will find that the attributed country is now listed. In the case of the Chronological List it is the last word on each line of entry. However because of changes to the way the information is listed over recent years you may have to hunt round a bit for the information. If you can't find the answer the only advice that I can give to you is:- Do not rely on Circuits using multiple countries for your count of different countries, unless you are sure.

7. Question:-

Could you please clarify one thing for me? I understand about all circuits counting as one Salon. However if I entered, say Northern Counties for 6 years, would this count as one or six Salons?

Answer:

Different years of the same event are different salons for this purpose, so your example would count as six.

8. Question:-

Can you clarify the rules regarding applicants for EFIAP who are looking forward in the future to working towards EFIAP Bronze? I know that there have been changes, but which acceptances and awards can I use?

Answer:-

When applying for any EFIAP Levels Distinction you cannot count or use any titles that were used for either your AFIAP or EFIAP distinctions. Additionally you cannot use any awards or acceptances that were gained before the date on your EFIAP Certificate.

9. Question:-

I have EFIAP Bronze and have enough acceptances etc. to apply for EFIAP Gold. Can I apply for it now?

Answer:-

No. The rules are quite clear. You must apply for each level in sequence and there must be a minimum 12month gap between each application. Under FIAP rules PAGB are only allowed to send in one batch of applications a year, but we keep that submission to the same date each year, therefore you will always be able to go onto the next higher award the following year. (see question 2 above)

10. Question:-

If I obtain the bronze with award winning images from England, Wales and Scotland (for example); can my awards for silver (with different images) come from England, Wales, Scotland and France?

Answer:-

Yes, but do be aware of the rule regarding circuits with salons supposedly in different countries-(see 5 above).

11. What is the position with carry forward acceptances and awards between different EFIAP Levels distinctions?

Answer:

You should consider the results you get after the date of your EFIAP certificate as a single pool. You could in theory gain all the acceptances and awards from the requisite countries needed to progress from Bronze to Platinum in one year. You could then in any combination dip into the pool of results each year for four years to obtain the awards, one each year. Remember though each portfolio must contain different images to any other.

12. Having gained Bronze I am now working towards Silver. In my list of acceptances for bronze there were some acceptances that also gained awards and which I did not use in my Bronze Portfolio. Can I use them towards my Silver portfolio?

Answer:

Yes you can, provided they are from titles that have not been used in your earlier portfolio. As per Q.11 above, it is just one big pot of work from Bronze to Platinum. This of course carries through to Platinum with the only proviso being that at each level the Portfolio titles must not have been used before, and nor should identical or very similar images be used for subsequent portfolios.

13. Question:-

I have gained my Bronze and will hopefully go for my Silver later this year. When I prepare my Form C for Silver I know that the acceptances I got for Bronze count towards the criteria for Silver, but do I have to include them on my Form C for Silver?

Answer:-

Yes you must. When preparing your Silver (or beyond) Form C, think of that form as a completely new isolated application. It must contain in itself all the necessary results to meet the required criteria. Please also bear in mind that you cannot simply add the new results after the old ones, everything must be in the correct alphabetical order, with new Title numbers etc.

14. Question:-

Having got Bronze can I add new acceptance/ awards onto titles I used for bronze when working towards Silver.

Answer:-

Yes, as mentioned before it is just one big pot available for you to dip into as you need to.

15. Question:-

I am working towards an award and wondered if there was any benefit in exceeding the required criteria or should I only include up to the criteria on the dossier form?

Answer:-

It is always better to have an excess over the required criteria and, without going into too much detail, the more the better, but do not include so many that you are approaching or exceeding the criteria for the next Distinction upwards. Remember that you do not lose an acceptance for EFIAP by using them for AFIAP, they can all carry forward. Additionally because of 'question 6' above there is nothing lost in including all you have for EFIAP. Once into Levels it is all one pool from Bronze to Platinum so again nothing is lost there. The same applies to Diamond Applications.

16. Question:-

Is an AWARD anything over an acceptance? Some Salons use slightly different terminology, eg; Salon Praise

Answer:-

Any award, from whatever source and however it is described, counts. The only exception is in respect of an award that is not open to all entrants, for example- in Northern Counties there are "Northumbria Trophies" which are restricted to NCPF entrants. In consequence they do not count as awards for FIAP distinctions

17. Question:-

I need 2 awards for my application. I have just received the results from a salon and have got an unexpected award. Unfortunately, in the results they have put my country as Uruguay. I have written to them to ask them to correct it in the catalogue. If they don't, will that count against me?

Answer:-

There should be no problem provided you do things correctly. You have done the right thing in requesting the correction; however you must request that they notify both FIAP and PSA of the correction. If they fail to do this or to respond, send a second message requesting the action and confirmation and copy it to FIAP and PSA. Be sure to keep copies of your correspondence to submit with your application.

18. Question:-

I am preparing my application for AFIAP, and whilst I do have two photos which have gained awards, I have sufficient other results not to have to use them for this application. What would you advise?

Answer:-

Bearing in mind that when you apply for EFIAP you can use all or any part of the work that you declared at AFIAP there is no reason in the rules why you should not declare them in your AFIAP application if you wish; with one proviso. That is, if you wish to use them in your EFIAP Portfolio as the required two award winners, then they must not be included in your portfolio of five images that you submit with your AFIAP application. This is because the images in a portfolio must not have been used, be similar to or resemble any that you have include in any earlier successful portfolio.

19. Question:-

Is it acceptable for example for England to be used as an awarded 'country' for say Bronze, but then using a different awarded image, also gained in England to be used for Silver?

Answer:-

Yes that is acceptable. Any given country can be used in any number of applications for different levels.

20. Question:-

I noticed that I had inadvertently given two totally different images the same title. I know that this is my fault but can I use both images in my submission? If so could I differentiate between the different titles?

Answer:-

I am afraid that the rule is that each image must have a different title. Therefore you must submit only one image with any particular title. Which you decide to abandon is your choice, but one must be dropped.

21. Question:-

Can you clarify one of the requirements for AFIAP - the reference to 'over periods of not less than 12 months? Do I have to show acceptances spanning a period of time greater than 12 months (ie: first and last acceptance of my submission must be 12 months apart), or is it only that the first acceptance must be greater than 12 months old at the time of application?

The rule is simply that the first acceptance must have been received at least 12 months before FIAP will consider your application, nothing else.

22. I have gained my Platinum and am looking toward Diamond 1 etc. I know that the Diamond distinctions take into account only awards and that they must be gained after the date on my Platinum Certificate, but can those awards come from titles that I have already used for the Bronze to Platinum distinctions.

Answer:-

The way that the rules are written indicates yes. The provision for the results for EFIAP levels to have to be gained after the date of your EFIAP Certificate applies, across the board for all EFIAP Levels distinctions, including the Diamond distinctions. There is no other provision in this respect, so don't go looking for one.

ABOUT THE APPLICATION FORMS

23. Question:-

I have received my 'Applications Package' but when I open the Excel File there is only Page A, where are the others?

Answer:-

The additional pages ARE there. It is most likely that you are not using Excel properly. Once the file is open, check the window that you can see Page A in; look toward the top right corner of that window (NOT the top right of the screen) and you will see the usual three icons for minimising, maximising and closing the file. Click on the middle square icon to maximise the display and you will see the A.B C tabs appear miraculously at the left hand foot of the now maximised window. Each tab opens the relevant page.

24. Question:-

I am trying to match the FIAP No's that are listed on the FIAP web site to the Salons that I am listing for my awards application. However I find that in a number of cases, especially in relation to Circuits, the number allocated on the web site does not agree with that in the relevant catalogue. What do I do?

Answer:- *(overleaf)*

Answer:-

Yes this does occur. You should use the number that is listed on the FIAP web site, because that is what FIAP have listed and will be checking against. However, be careful because I see numerous examples where the wrong number has been quoted by the applicant; for example numbers from other patronage organisations. Remember that the accuracy of this number is vital because FIAP's Salon data base against which your application is checked. It only displays the FIAP salon Number and NOT the Salon or Circuit name. If you get it wrong you could lose that acceptance or award from your application.. To confirm accuracy Use the FIAP web site at:- <http://patronages.fiap.net/salons.html>

25. Question

I am applying for EFIAP having gained AFIAP. When I complete my form C do I need to include those acceptances gained for AFIAP as well as the new ones for EFIAP?

Answer:-

Yes you do. Your application for EFIAP must include ALL the qualifying 250 acceptances from the 50 different images. In other words regard the EFIAP application as totally separate from your AFIAP one.

Please Note:- this applies throughout the distinction structure right up to EFIAP Platinum. All acceptances used for previous successful distinction applications must be included on subsequent applications.

26. Question:-

Shall I list all my successes? Or list the first successes up to the number required for AFIAP with a few extras to make sure? I have achieved 266 acceptances, 56 different images, 37 salons, 22 countries, 28 prints and 23 images with more than three acceptances. I am considering entering them ALL up in my dossier for AFIAP.

Answer:-

Due to the introduction of the FIAP Salon Database and a number of other factors I have been forced to revise my advice on this point. I recommend that you include all titles, acceptances and awards that are applicable to your application, but do not include so many that you approach or exceed the criteria for the next distinction upwards. That way you will cover for any problems and, don't forget if you are close to or just on the criteria, not only can any error invalidate your application, but by it's very nature such an application will attract closer scrutiny.

27. Question:-

I have been lucky enough to win an award, but the salon has got the title completely wrong and has declined to alter it. What can I do?

Answer:-

First of all it is your responsibility to ensure that any entries in a catalogue (printed or CD) are correct and you should do this as soon as you receive it. If there are errors you should immediately notify the salon and ask them to submit a correction to their patrons, especially FIAP and PSA; they are required to do this by the terms of the patronage. You should also ask them to copy such correspondence to yourself. You can then attach a copy to any future application to clarify matters. (continued overleaf)

*If it is your fault that the error was made and the salon is not helpful then, **provided it is an isolated case**, I would be prepared to accept the use of an 'alternate title' as per the guidelines you will receive when you register to apply for an award. But please attach any relevant emails to your application.*

Finally, if the salon refuses to co-operate without good reason, then you should immediately email the information to the FIAP Patronage Officer and to the relevant PSA officer. I doubt they will be impressed by the salon in these circumstances. Keep a copy to go with any future application for an award.

28. Question

I was reading the Validation Requirements in the pack that you sent across. There is a box where it asks the photographer to certify that the Photographs used in this Portfolio are different from any of those used in any earlier successful FIAP distinction applications. Does this mean that any images I use as part of an AFIAP submission will not be able to be used towards a future EFIAP submission?

Answer:

No that only refers to the images in portfolios; each successive portfolio must consist of different images.

29. Question:-

When you complete the thumbnails for the Contact Sheet to go with the application, do you need to do the prints as well as the PDI's? Some of the prints go back a long way and were taken from medium format slides/negatives. Also what happens if I do not still have one some the prints or slides?

Answer:-

With old prints, if you have them, a scan duly reduced will do; with slides, you can either scan them or, as in the past, send me copy of each slide, duly titled (which I will return promptly). In respect of missing prints or slides, then providing you are sufficiently over the criteria, not claiming something you cannot prove will be the only way forward.

30. Question:-

In my previous application I listed my titles in alphabetical order. I also have my list of titles in alphabetical order for my next application. Do I just add them after the previous list or do I need to integrate them with that list, so that all the titles are in alphabetical order?

Answer:-

Each application is a fresh application and is checked by FIAP as such. Therefore the Titles/Acceptances must be merged together in one alphabetical listing please. In any case as you may have further acceptances for a title used at a previous application, separate lists would be impractical.