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Pennsylvania Laws and Rules for Engineers

by

Mark Ludwigson



Pennsylvania Laws and Rules for Engineers
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Course Outline:

Pennsylvania Statutes
Registration Law
Pennsylvania Code
49 Pa. Code §37
State Board
Practice of Professional Engineering
Sign and Seal Requirements
Continuing Education
Helpful References
Examination



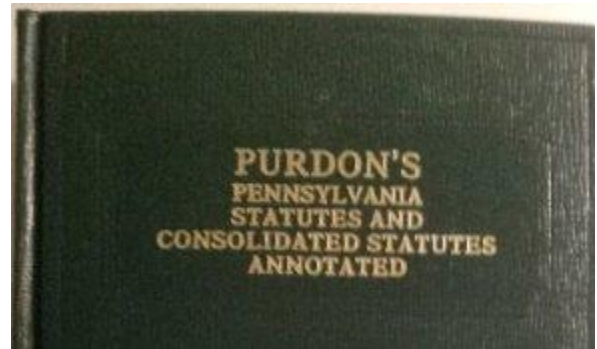
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Pennsylvania Statutes

State laws are enacted by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, made up of the State Senate and House of Representatives. When a bill has passed in both houses, it is transmitted to the Governor for signature and then becomes law. If the Governor vetoes the bill, the General Assembly must override a veto with a two-thirds vote in both the Senate and the House for the bill to become law.

After a bill is passed as law, it becomes an Act of the General Assembly and is assigned an act number. These acts are referred to as “statutes”. The Legislative Reference Bureau publishes the statutes in daily pamphlets. The pamphlet law number (P.L.) refers to the page number where an act begins.

Some of the statutes have been organized by subject matter and officially codified for ease of use. These are called the "consolidated" statutes and are published in the set of **Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes**. Statutes not yet consolidated use an unofficial codification scheme and are referred to as **Pennsylvania Statutes**, Pennsylvania Unconsolidated Statutes, or Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated.



The act related to engineering was first passed in 1945 as the “Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law” and Act of May 23, 1945, P.L. 913, No. 367, Cl. 63. The act has been modified several times including in 2024. The act has not yet been officially consolidated. However, it has been unofficially codified as Chapter 5 under Title 63, “Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)”. This can be cited as follows:

63 Pa. Stat. Ch. 5

63 P.S. Ch. 5.

See the “Helpful Resources” section for the websites to view the latest laws, rules, and the Board website.



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Registration Law

The one act/statute dedicated to the practice of engineering in Pennsylvania is entitled “Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law” (Registration Law) and cited as Act of May 23, 1945, P.L. 913, No. 367, Cl. 63. The act is unconsolidated and has been unofficially codified as 63 Pa. Stat. Ch. 5. In this course, the act is referred to as the “Registration Law”.

**Engineer,
 Land Surveyor
 And Geologist
 Registration Law
 Act of May 23, 1945,
 P.L. 913, No. 367 Cl. 63**

The act contains general requirements for professional engineers, land surveyors, and geologists. It also gives authority to the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists (Board) to manage licensing and professional conduct.

The following are all the sections of the “registration law” act, with bold items being of particular importance for practicing professional engineers. Unofficially, the sections are labeled as §131 to §158 under Title 63, “Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)”.

Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law

- Section 1. Short Title.
- Section 2. Definitions.**
- Section 3. Practice of Engineering, Land Surveying or Geology Without Licensure and Registration Prohibited.**
- Section 4. General Powers of Board.
- Section 4.1. State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists.
- Section 4.2. Procedure for Licensing as Professional Engineer.
- Section 4.3. Procedure for Licensing as Professional Land Surveyor.
- Section 4.4. Procedure for Licensing as Professional Geologist.
- Section 4.5. Continuing Professional Competency Requirements.**
- Section 5. Exemption from Licensure and Registration.
- Section 6. Practice by Firms and Corporations.
- Section 7. Seal of Registrants.**
- Section 8. Procedure for the Suspension and Revocation of Licenses and Registrations; Appeals.



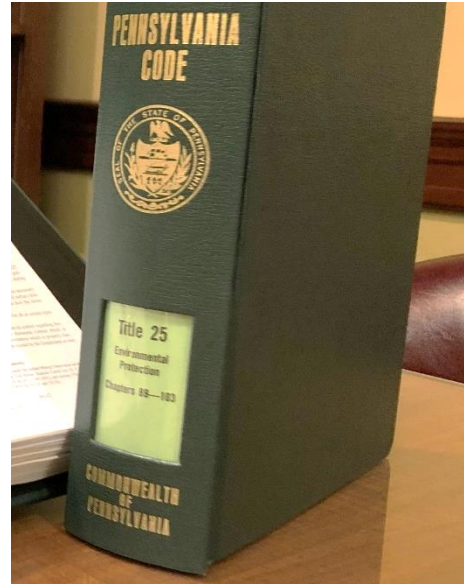
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- Section 9. Fees.
- Section 10. Status of Existing Licensees and Registrants Preserved.
- Section 10.1. Temporary and Automatic Suspensions.
- Section 10.2. Reporting of Multiple Licensure.
- Section 11. Penalties.
- Section 11.1. Injunction Against Unlawful Practice.
- Section 11.2. Investigative Subpoena.
- Section 12. Repeal.
- Section 13. Effective Date.

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Pennsylvania Code

State laws are often high-level and lack details required for implementation. The General Assembly delegates state agencies to manage the implementation of laws and to create rules and regulations that complement the laws. The compilation of agency rules is called the Pennsylvania Code. These codes are enforceable just like state laws.



Pennsylvania Code (Pa. Code) is a collection of “titles”, each in a different area of government. Title 49 is “Professional and Vocational Standards”, with Chapter 37 entitled “State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists”. This chapter contains important requirements to guide the regular practice of engineering, surveying, and geology.

See below for a code organization tree with 49 Pa. Code §37 in **purple**.





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49 Pa. Code §37

The following are all the sections of chapter 37 of title 49 of the Pennsylvania Code, written as 49 Pa. Code §37, with bold items being of particular importance for practicing professional engineers.

CHAPTER 37. STATE REGISTRATION BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS AND GEOLOGISTS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

37.1. Definitions.

37.2. Rules governing Board activities and proceedings.

ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE

37.11. Meetings of the Board.

37.12. Election of Board officers.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

37.16. General information; application and examination.

37.17. Schedule of fees.

37.18. Reactivation of licensure status.

37.19. Biennial renewal of licensure status.

37.20. Licensure by endorsement.

37.20a. Provisional endorsement license.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

37.31. Requirements for certification as an engineer-in-training and for licensure as a professional engineer.

37.32. References for certification as an engineer-in-training or licensure as a professional engineer.

37.33. Grandfather requirements for certification as an engineer-in-training and for licensure as a professional engineer.

37.33a. Grandfather requirements for licensure as a professional engineer without certification as an engineer-in-training.

37.34. Branches of engineering.



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REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

- 37.36. Requirements for certification as a geologist-in-training and for licensure as a professional geologist.
- 37.36a. Requirements for licensure as a professional geologist without certification as a geologist-in-training.
- 37.37. References for licensure as a professional geologist.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

- 37.47. Requirements for certification as a surveyor-in-training and for licensure as a professional land surveyor.
- 37.48. References for certification as a surveyor-in-training or licensure as a professional land surveyor.
- 37.49. Grandfather requirements for licensure as a professional land surveyor.

REGISTRATION NUMBER AND SEAL

- 37.56a. Definitions.**
- 37.57. Registration number.**
- 37.58. Seal.**
- 37.59. Use of seal.**
- 37.60. Digital signature and seal.**

TEMPORARY PERMIT TO PRACTICE ENGINEERING OR SURVEYING

- 37.61. Temporary practice.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OF NAME

- 37.71. Form of application.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

- 37.81. Misconduct.**
- 37.82. Complaints.
- 37.83. Hearing examiners.

EXCEPTIONS

- 37.101. Exceptions to the hearing examiner's decision.
- 37.102. Appeal from the Board decision.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

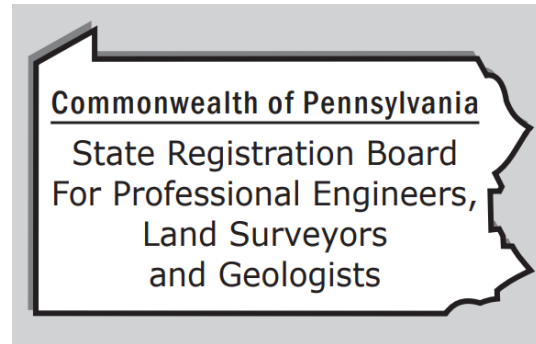
- 37.111. Continuing Education.**



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State Board

The state agency for professional engineering is the “State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists” (Board) hereafter referred to as the Board. The Board oversees over 50,000 licensed professions including engineers, land surveyors, and geologists. There are over 30,000 professional engineers in PA. The board is given authority to manage and further regulate professional engineering, per Registration Law. The Board can make modifications to 49 Pa. Code §37.



The board falls under the “Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs” of the Department of State.

Board Announcements

The board also issues statements and updates that highlight rule changes and other news items. These announcements are posted on the board website:

<https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/dos/department-and-offices/bpoa/boards-commissions/engineers-land-surveyors-geologists/announcements.html>

List of Announcements (Sept 2024):

- Engineer/Survey Work Experience No Longer Coupled with Training Certificate
- EIT Certificate Reminder
- Seal Information
- ASBOG Professional Geologists Exam Resource Page
- Continuing Education Provisions (PDF)
- 50 State Comparison Report: A Comparison of State Occupational Licensure Requirement and Processes
- Act 6 of 2018 Notice to All Licensees, Registrants, Certificate Holders & Permit Holders (PDF)
- Notice - Act 65 Of 2023 Expungement Provisions (PDF)
- Retired-Status FAQ (PDF)



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Practice of Professional Engineering

Definition

The following is a copy-paste of the relevant statutes and regulations that define the practice of professional engineering:

Registration Law

Section 2. Definitions.--As used in this act--

(a) (1) "Practice of Engineering" shall mean the application of the mathematical and physical sciences for the design or analysis of public or private buildings, structures, machines, equipment, processes, works or engineering systems, and the consultation, investigation, evaluation or surveys, construction management, modification and alteration, planning and inspection in connection therewith, the performance of the foregoing acts and services being prohibited to persons who are not licensed under this act as professional engineers unless exempt under other provisions of this act.

(2) The term "Practice of Engineering" shall also mean and include related acts and services that may be performed by other qualified persons, including but not limited to, municipal planning, incidental landscape architecture, teaching, construction, maintenance and research but licensure under this act to engage in or perform any such related acts and services shall not be required.

(3) The foregoing shall not be deemed to include the practice of architecture as such, for which separate registration is required under the act of December 14, 1982 (P.L.1227, No.281), known as the "Architects Licensure Law."

(4) The "Practice of Engineering" shall not preclude the practice of the sciences which shall include but not be limited to: soil science, geology, physics and chemistry.

(b) "Inspection" shall mean the acts and services performed in the practice of engineering during the construction, development, production or functioning of the things designed: Provided, That performance of such acts and services shall not be construed as a guarantee of satisfactory performance by others, or an assumption of financial liability for defects or deficiencies in the work of others.

...

(e) "Professional Engineer" means an individual licensed and registered under the laws of this Commonwealth to engage in the practice of engineering. A professional engineer may not practice land surveying unless licensed and registered as a



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professional land surveyor as defined and set forth in this act; however, a professional engineer may perform engineering land surveys.

Surveyors and Geologists

There are separate and distinct licenses for professional engineers, professional land surveyors and professional geologists. A professional engineer may also be a professional land surveyor or professional geologist (dual-licensed). Otherwise, a professional engineer is not to practice land surveying or geology work.

Disciplines

The State of Pennsylvania does not have a separate licensure for structural engineering. Engineering discipline names are NOT listed on seals or certificates. The following code lists recognized branches of engineering as it relates to acceptable examination topics for initial registration and licensure. Once granted a professional engineering license, an engineer can practice in other branches in which there is proven proficiency.

49 Pa. Code §37

§ 37.34. Branches of engineering.

(a) The Board recognizes the following as major branches of engineering practice and may eliminate or add other branches of engineering practice it deems necessary in the interest of the profession.

- (1) Aeronautical/aerospace engineering.
- (2) Agricultural engineering.
- (3) Chemical engineering.
- (4) Civil engineering.
- (5) Electrical engineering.
- (6) Industrial engineering.
- (7) Manufacturing engineering.
- (8) Mechanical engineering.
- (9) Metallurgical engineering.
- (10) Mining/mineral engineering.
- (11) Nuclear engineering.
- (12) Petroleum engineering.
- (13) Fire protection engineering.
- (14) Sanitary engineering.
- (15) Structural engineering.
- (16) Control systems engineering.



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(b) A candidate who has passed an examination in one of the major branches of engineering listed in subsection (a), or in other branches of engineering as are subsequently recognized by the Board, will be granted registration as a professional engineer. The professional engineer may then practice any branch of engineering in which the professional engineer has proven proficiency by reason of education and experience, and in which the professional engineer is willing to accept full legal, financial and professional responsibility. A professional engineer may not be limited to the practice of any one major branch of engineering because the professional engineer has passed a written examination based upon the major branch of engineering, subject to this chapter and the provisions of the act relating to Code of Ethics.

Responsible Charge

Professional engineering work should have one or more professional engineers in “responsible charge” of each portion of the design. This phrase is defined below and in the official rules and in a National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) reference document.

Registration Law

Section 2. Definitions.--As used in this act--

...

(i) "Responsible Charge" means a position that requires initiative, skill and independent judgment, and implies such degree of competence and accountability gained by technical education and experience of a grade and character as is sufficient to qualify an individual to personally and independently engage in and be entrusted with the work involved in the practice of engineering or land surveying. This term does not include positions which require routine performance of subprofessional work such as auxiliary survey personnel (unless acting as chief of party) and drafting personnel.

49 Pa. Code §37

37.81. Misconduct.

...

Misconduct in the practice of engineering, land surveying or geology includes the following:

...



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(4) Delegating responsible charge to an individual who the professional engineer, professional land surveyor or professional geologist knows or has reason to know is not qualified by training or experience to personally and independently engage in and be entrusted with the work involved in the practice of engineering, land surveying or geology.

NSPE Position Statement No. 10-1778

- Defines “**responsible charge**” as the direct control and personal supervision of engineering work.
- The professional engineer in **responsible charge** is actively engaged in the engineering process, from conception to completion.
- Engineering decisions must be personally made by the professional engineer or by others over which the professional engineer provides supervisory direction and control authority.
- Reviewing drawings or documents after their completion without involvement in the design and development process appears not to satisfy the definition of **responsible charge**.



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Sign and Seal Requirements

Pennsylvania engineering seal and signature requirements are found in 49 Pa. Code §37.56 to §37.60. Here are a few highlights that may differ from requirements in other states:

- Typical seal features are shown on right
- Outer diameter should be 1.75"
 - Impressed (pocket seal) may be 1.5"
- Sign near or across the seal, but don't obscure the registration number
- Signing with the date or expiration number are NOT required
- Acceptable forms of signatures:
 - Hand signed with impressed or ink stamp seal
 - Digital/electronic signature
 - Verifiable seal image
 - Verifiable signature
 - 3rd party verification & qualified electronic signature (QES) NOT required
 - No changes allowed after signing
 - A printed hard copy shall show the same digital signature and seal as the electronic original
- For multipage drawing sets, reports or calculations, instead of signing each sheet, the first page can be signed and sealed.



Statutes and Regulations

The following is a copy-paste of the relevant statutes and regulations:

Registration Law

Section 7. Seal of Registrants.--(a) Each person, registered under this act, shall obtain a seal of a design authorized by the board which shall bear the registrant's name and number and the legend "Registered Professional Engineer," "Registered Professional Land Surveyor" or "Registered Professional Geologist." Such seal, or a facsimile imprint of same, shall be stamped on all plans, specifications, plats and reports issued by a professional engineer, professional land surveyor or professional geologist.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to use such seal during the period the license or registration of the holder thereof has been suspended or revoked, or to use a seal of any design not approved by the board.

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49 Pa. Code §37

§ 37.56a. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this section and § § 37.59 and 37.60 (relating to use of seal; and digital signature and seal), have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Digital seal—An electronic image attached to or logically associated with a document and executed or adopted by a licensee with the intent to seal the document.

Digital signature—An electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or logically associated with a document and executed or adopted by a licensee with the intent to sign the document.

Electronic—Relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic or similar capabilities.

Handwritten signature—The scripted name or legal mark of an individual, written by that individual and executed or adopted with the present intention to authenticate a writing in a permanent form.

Sole control—A situation in which only the registrant decides when and where the signature and seal are applied.

Verification—Confirmation that a signature and seal are actually from the registrant whose name and registration number appears on the document.

§ 37.58. Seal.

(a) A registrant shall obtain, at the registrant's own expense, a seal in the identical design authorized by the Board. The following are Board authorized seals for "Registered Professional Engineer" (Design A), "Registered Professional Land Surveyor" (Design B) and "Registered Professional Geologist" (Design C):



(b) The seal shall contain the legend "Registered Professional Engineer," "Registered Professional Land Surveyor" or "Registered Professional Geologist" and the registrant's



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name and registration number together with a reference to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(c) The seal shall be 1 3/4 inch in diameter. The diameter of a pocket seal may be reduced to 1 1/2 inch if the design is in the same relative proportions in subsection (a).

(d) A registrant may use a metal seal, rubber stamp, computer image which is a facsimile of the seal or digital seal, if the registrant first obtains a seal in accordance with this section.

§ 37.59. Use of seal.

The following rules govern the proper use of a registrant's seal:

(1) A registrant may use the registrant's seal and signature only when the work being sealed and signed was prepared by the registrant or under the registrant's complete direction and control.

(2) When a registrant issues final or complete documents to a client for the client's records, or when a registrant submits final or complete documents to public or governmental agencies for final review, the seal and signature of the registrant who prepared or who directed and controlled the preparation of the documents, along with the date of issuance, shall be prominently displayed on the first page of all documents. The seal on the first page of a final or complete document shall be impressed, stamped or digital. Facsimile or digital seals shall appear on all subsequent pages of plans or plats.

(3) When multiple registrants prepare or direct and control the preparation of documents, each registrant's seal and signature shall appear on the first page of the documents, or on the first page of the identifiable portion or section of the documents, which were prepared or directed and controlled by that registrant, if the respective registrants' direction and control can be reasonably segregated.

(4) When a registrant's signature is applied, it shall be applied near or across the seal, but not in a location that obliterates the registration number.

(5) A registrant may not affix or permit a seal and signature to be applied to a document after the expiration of the registrant's licensure status, or for the purpose of aiding or abetting another person to evade or attempt to evade a provision of the act or this chapter.

(6) In the case of a temporary permit issued to an engineering, land surveying or geology registrant of another state, the registrant shall use the seal of the registrant's home state and shall affix his signature and a copy of the temporary permit to work performed in this Commonwealth.

(7) When a registrant seals and signs engineering, surveying or geology documents, one of the following methods must be used:

(i) Physical placement of a seal and a handwritten signature in permanent ink containing the name of the registrant.

(ii) Digital placement of a seal and a handwritten signature in permanent ink containing the name of the registrant.

(iii) Digital placement of a seal and a digital signature containing the name of the registrant.



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§ 37.60. Digital signature and seal.

(a) Documents that are signed using a digital signature must have an electronic authentication process attached to or logically associated with the electronic document. The digital signature must be:

- (1) Unique to the registrant.
- (2) Capable of verification.
- (3) Under the sole control of the registrant.
- (4) Linked to a document in such a manner that the digital signature is invalidated if any data in the document is changed.

(b) Documents that are sealed with a digital seal must have an electronic authentication process attached to or logically associated with the electronic document. The digital seal must be:

- (1) Unique to the licensee.
- (2) Capable of verification.
- (3) Under the sole control of the licensee.
- (4) Linked to a document in such a manner that the digital seal is invalidated if any data in the document is changed.

(c) A hard copy printed from the transmitted electronic file shall bear the facsimile of the digital signature and seal and be a confirmation that the electronic file was not altered after the initial digital signing of the file. Alterations to the file shall cause the signature and seal to be voided.



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Continuing Education

Per 49 Pa. Code §37, the following continuing professional competency is required every 2-year renewal period, where a PDH is a professional development hour:

- Total 24 PDH
- The Board does NOT pre-approve providers or specific courses
- Courses must “maintain, improve or expand skills and knowledge obtained prior to initial licensure, including law and ethics applicable to the profession, or develop new and relevant skills and knowledge. No credit shall be given for a course in practice building or office management.”
- For dual licensees (engineer & surveyor or geologist) must complete 24 PDH for each profession
- A maximum of 12 PDH can be carried forward
- Retain PDH records for 5 years
- Renews September 30 of odd years

Statutes and Regulations

Here is a copy-paste of the relevant statutes and regulations:

Registration Law

Section 2. Definitions.

(o) "Activity" shall mean any qualifying activity with a clear purpose and objective which will maintain, improve or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to a licensee's professional practice.

(p) "College or Unit Semester Hour" or "College or Unit Quarter Hour" shall mean credit for courses in programs approved by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology or the National Association of State Boards of Geology or other related college courses.

(q) "Continuing Education Unit" shall mean a unit of credit customarily used for continuing education courses.

(r) "Course" shall mean any qualifying course with a clear purpose and objective which will maintain, improve or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to a licensee's professional practice.



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(t) "Professional Development Hour" or "PDH" shall mean fifty minutes of instruction or presentation relevant to professional practice or any equivalent.

...

Section 4.5. Continuing Professional Competency Requirements.

(a) In order to help safeguard life, health and property and to promote the public welfare, the practice of professional engineering, professional land surveying and professional geology in this Commonwealth requires continuing professional competency.

(b) Except as otherwise provided under subsection (g), each licensee shall be required to meet the continuing professional competency requirements of this section as a condition for licensure renewal. Continuing professional competency obtained by a licensee should maintain, improve or expand skills and knowledge obtained prior to initial licensure, including law and ethics applicable to the profession, or develop new and relevant skills and knowledge. No credit shall be given for a course in practice building or office management.

(c) Each licensee shall be required to obtain twenty-four PDH units during the biennial renewal period. If a licensee exceeds the requirement in any renewal period, a maximum of twelve PDH units may be carried forward into the subsequent renewal period. PDH units may be earned as follows:

- (1) Successful completion of college courses relevant to professional practice.
- (2) Completion of continuing education courses relevant to professional practice.
- (3) Completion of distance learning courses, if the courses relate to professional practice and the PDH units awarded are verifiable and measurable by the actual hours of instruction.
- (4) Completion of seminars, employer-sponsored courses, workshops or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions or conferences relevant to professional practice.
- (5) Teaching, presenting or instructing in any of the activities listed in clauses (1), (2), (3) and (4).
- (6) Authoring published papers, articles or books relevant to professional practice.
- (7) Obtaining patents relevant to professional practice.

(d) (1) Except as provided in clause (2), units of other types of credit shall be converted to PDH units as follows:



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- (i) One college or unit semester hour shall equal forty-five PDH units.
 - (ii) One college or unit quarter hour shall equal thirty PDH units.
 - (iii) One continuing education unit shall equal ten PDH units.
 - (iv) One hour of professional development in course work, seminars or professional, technical presentations made at meetings, employer-sponsored courses, conventions or conferences shall equal one PDH unit.
 - (v) Each published paper, article or book shall equal ten PDH units.
 - (vi) Each patent obtained shall equal ten PDH units.
- (2) Teaching any of the activities listed in clause (1)(i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) shall equal double the amount of PDH units provided for in those subclauses. Teaching credit shall be awarded for teaching a course or seminar but shall not be awarded to full-time faculty members in the performance of their duties at their employing institutions.
- (e) The board shall not require courses to be preapproved. The board may preapprove course providers. The board shall have final authority regarding approval of courses, credit, PDH value for courses and other methods of earning credit. Credit determination for activities listed in subsection (d)(1)(v) and (vi) shall be the responsibility of the licensee. The board shall accept credits earned in other jurisdictions if the activity otherwise complies with this section.
- (f) The licensee shall be responsible for maintaining records to be used to support credits claimed. Required records shall include all of the following:
- (1) A log showing the type of activity claimed, sponsoring organization, location, duration, instructor's or speaker's name and PDH credits earned.
 - (2) Attendance verification records in the form of completion certificates or other documents supporting evidence of attendance.
- (g) (1) A licensee may request exemption from the requirements of this section for any of the following reasons and to the extent specified in this subsection:
- (i) A licensee serving on temporary active duty in the armed forces of the United States for a period of time exceeding one hundred twenty consecutive days in a year shall be exempt from obtaining the professional development hours required during that year.
 - (ii) A licensee experiencing physical disability, illness or other extenuating circumstances as reviewed and approved by the board may be exempt. Supporting documentation must be furnished to the board.



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(iii) A licensee who lists his occupation as retired on the board-approved renewal form and certifies to the board that he no longer engages in the practice of his licensed profession shall be exempt from the requirement set forth in subsection (a), and the board shall issue him a retired-status license. If the licensee intends to return to active practice, then the licensee must complete the number of professional development hours required for each year exempted, not to exceed the annual requirement for two years. An individual who holds a retired-status license shall hold himself out to others as a retired licensee, which includes using this designation in advertising and signatures.

(2) An individual applying for initial licensure and registration shall be exempt from the requirement set forth in subsection (a) for the licensure period immediately following initial licensure and registration.

(h) As part of the process to reactivate a license, a licensee must obtain all delinquent PDH units, except that under no circumstance shall a licensee be required to obtain more than the biennial renewal requirement.

49 Pa. Code §37

§ 37.111. Continuing education.

(a) During each biennial renewal period, a licensee shall complete 24 PDH units of continuing education. A licensee who holds more than one license from the Board shall complete the required amount of continuing education to renew each license. A licensee who completes a continuing education activity applicable to more than one class of license may apply the credit to each license held by the licensee for which the course is applicable. Continuing education credit will not be given for a course in practice building or office management.

(b) Except as necessary to comply with § 37.18(1) (relating to reactivation of licensure status), carried over from the prior biennium as permitted by section 4.5(c) of the act (63 P. S. § 151.5(c)), to correct a deficiency as required under subsection (d) or as otherwise ordered by the Board in a disciplinary action, continuing education may satisfy the requirement of subsection (a) only for the biennium during which it was completed. A PDH unit may not be used to satisfy the requirement of subsection (a) for more than one biennium. Unless otherwise excused by the Board, continuing education completed to reactivate the license as provided in § 37.18(1), to correct a deficiency as required under subsection (d) or as otherwise ordered by the Board in a disciplinary action is in addition to the continuing education requirement for the biennium during which that activity is completed. A licensee may not receive credit for more than one presentation of a particular course or other specific activity in a given renewal period.



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(c) The requirement of subsection (a) will first take effect during the October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2011, biennial renewal period. A licensee who corrects all deficiencies in continuing education during the 2009-2011 renewal cycle by April 1, 2012, will not have a disciplinary sanction imposed as provided in subsection (d) for having failed to complete the required amount of continuing education by September 30, 2011.

(d) Unless otherwise excused by the act or this chapter, failure to complete the minimum required amount of continuing education during the applicable renewal period will subject the licensee to discipline under section 11(b) of the act (63 P. S. § 158(b)) in accordance with the schedule of civil penalties in § 43b.13a (relating to schedule of civil penalties—engineers, land surveyors and geologists). Within 6 months after the issuance of a citation under § 43b.13a for failure to complete the required amount of continuing education, the licensee shall make up the deficiency and provide proof of the entire required amount of continuing education in section 4.5(f) of the act. In addition to any civil penalty assessed under this subsection, failure to complete the required amount of continuing education and to provide the Board with proof of completion of the required amount of continuing education within 6 months after the issuance of a citation under § 43b.13a for failure to complete the required amount of continuing education shall subject the licensee to disciplinary action under section 4(g) of the act (63 P. S. § 151(g)). This subsection does not apply to a licensee who permitted the license to expire at the conclusion of the biennial renewal period for which the licensee did not complete the required amount of continuing education and did not practice the profession prior to reactivating that license under § 37.18(1) upon a demonstration that the licensee subsequently completed all required deficient continuing education.

(e) A licensee seeking exemption from the continuing education requirements as provided in section 4.5(g)(1)(ii) of the act based upon physical disability, illness or other extenuating circumstances shall submit the request with all supporting documentation to the Board. The request must explain why the licensee is not able to complete mandatory continuing education on time and why exempting the licensee will not harm the public interest. The Board may take up to 90 days to rule upon a request for exemption. An exemption may include extending the deadline by which the required continuing education must be completed. The Board will consider a request for exemption from a licensee who has renewed the license, but a request for exemption may not be used to avoid a disciplinary sanction under subsection (d).

(f) The Board will audit licensees to verify compliance with continuing education requirements. A licensee who is being audited shall fully respond to each request for information within 30 days of the request or other time specified in the request.

(g) Each licensee shall maintain records verifying completion of continuing education for 5 years after completion of the activity. In any audit or disciplinary proceeding, the Board may infer from a licensee's failure to maintain records as provided in this subsection that the licensee did not complete the required continuing education.



Pennsylvania Laws and Rules for Engineers
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Helpful References

State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists

General website: <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/dos/department-and-offices/bpoa/boards-commissions/engineers-land-surveyors-geologists.html>

License renewal: <https://www.pals.pa.gov/#!/page/default>

49 Pa. Code §37: <https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pacode?file=/secure/pacode/data/049/chapter37/chap37toc.html>

Registration Law,
63 Pa. Stat. Ch. 5: <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dos/department-and-offices/bpoa/engineers/Board-Document-Law.pdf>

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/LI/uconsCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&yr=1945&sessInd=0&smthLwInd=0&act=0367>

[https://govt.westlaw.com/pac/Browse/Home/Pennsylvania/UnofficialPurdonsPennsylvaniaStatutes?guid=N8C097F267C0946D19C9D1BAB8AB648E6&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/pac/Browse/Home/Pennsylvania/UnofficialPurdonsPennsylvaniaStatutes?guid=N8C097F267C0946D19C9D1BAB8AB648E6&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default))