



Georgia Rules and Regulations

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Department 180

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

Chapter 180-1. ORGANIZATION

Rule 180-1-.01. Organization

General organization and conduct of Board affairs shall be as stated in Georgia Code 43-15.

Chapter 180-2. APPLICATIONS

Rule 180-2-.01. General

- (1) All applications shall be made to the Board upon the forms prescribed by the Board. Applications made otherwise will not be accepted.
- (2) An application will not be considered on file or complete, until the Board has received all data pertinent to the application. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the Board receives all necessary data, including the established fee, reference forms, education transcripts, and other required documents.
- (3) Application forms may be obtained from the Georgia Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, Professional Licensing Board Division, 237 Coliseum Drive Macon, Georgia 31217-3858.

Rule 180-2-.03. Board Action on Applications

- (1) Notice of the Board's action approving or rejecting an application will be given to an applicant, by first-class mail.
- (2) In the event the Board makes a preliminary determination that grounds may exist for rejection of an application under O.C.G.A. 43-15-15(b), it will give notice of that determination to the applicant, by certified mail, return receipt requested. The applicant so notified may request a hearing before the Board in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.
- (3) In the event the Board rejects an application on any ground other than those set forth in O.C.G.A. 43-15-15(b) or 43-15-19, no formal hearing will be permitted before the Board. The Board may, in its sole discretion and upon the applicant's written request, permit an applicant an informal conference with the Board or with a designated member thereof for the purpose of permitting the applicant to explain, but not to supplement, his/her application. No recording of such a conference will be permitted.
- (4) In the event the Board rejects an application based on insufficient experience and/or education, the applicant should not file a new application until such time as the minimum period of deferment has expired. [A period of deferment may be imposed by the Board in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-15-15(c)]. However, the applicant may file prior to the end of the deferment period if; in the applicant's opinion, there have been substantive changes in the rate in which experience has been

earned or education obtained. The new information may be filed either as a new application or as a supplement to the original application. In either case, the required fee shall accompany each application submitted.

- (5) For applications requiring that the applicant be examined, experience will be considered through the date on which such application was notarized. Experience earned between the date the application was filed and date of the next examination will be considered valid only if the applicant remains in the same, equivalent or higher position in which he/she was employed at the time of filing and may only be claimed when the applicant files a new application or supplemental application as applicable. It is the responsibility of the applicant to keep the Board informed of substantive changes in job duties and responsibilities.
- (6) The Board will provide reasonable accommodation to a qualified applicant with disability in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The request for an accommodation by an individual with a disability must be made in writing and received in the Board office by the application deadline along with the appropriate documentation, as indicated in the Request for Disability Accommodation Guidelines.

Rule 180-2-.04. Examinations, General

- (1) Examinations will be held at such times and places as the Board directs. The Board shall determine the passing grade on examinations. All examinations shall be approved by the entire Board.
- (2) With exception of a locally prepared examination on hydrology and the legal aspects of land surveying in Georgia, all examinations will be in accordance with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).
- (3) Written examinations may be taken only after the applicant has met the other minimum requirements as set forth in O.C.G.A. 43-15-8 and 43-15-9 and has been approved by the Board for admission to the examination as follows:
 - (a) Fundamentals of Engineering. Consists of an eight-hour examination on the fundamentals of engineering. Passing this examination qualifies the examinee for an engineer-in-training certificate, provided he has met all other requirements for certification by this Chapter.
 - (b) Principles and Practice of Engineering. Consists of an examination on applied engineering as determined by the Board. Passing this examination qualifies the examinee for registration as a professional engineer, provided he has met the other requirements for registration required by this Chapter.
 - (c) Fundamentals of Land Surveying. Consists of an eight-hour examination on the elementary disciplines of land surveying. Passing this examination qualifies the examinee for a land surveyor-in-training certificate provided he has met all other requirements for certification of this Chapter.
 - (d) Principles and Practice of Land Surveying and the Laws of Georgia. The examination is administered in three parts. One part (the national land surveying examination) tests the

applicant's understanding of the theory and practice and land surveying. A second part focuses on the application of hydrology to land surveying. The third part tests the applicant's knowledge of the law of Georgia as it applies to land surveying. An applicant must obtain a passing score in each of the three parts in order to pass the examination.

- (4) After administration of an examination, the contents of the examination will be treated as confidential and will not be disclosed, except in such circumstances and under such conditions as may be approved by the Board. No reuse, copying or reproduction in any manner of any portion of the examination materials is permitted without the Board's permission.
- (5) The Board will not conduct with examinees reviews of any portion of any examination. Further, the Board will not permit an examination to be re-scored.

Rule 180-2-.05. Temporary Permits

The Georgia Law covering the issuing of Temporary Permits under the provisions of Georgia Code Section [43-15-21](#) is interpreted by the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors to include the following:

- (1) The Board, or its delegate, in its sole discretion may issue a temporary permit to a person who is not a resident of and who has no established place of business in this state, or who has recently become a resident thereof, to permit him, in accordance with the conditions of the temporary permit, to practice, or offer to practice engineering in this state if:
 - (a) An application for a certificate of registration has been filed with the board and the fee required by this chapter has been paid;
 - (b) The applicant is legally qualified to practice such profession in the state or country of the applicant's residence or former residence; and
 - (c) The requirements and qualifications for obtaining a certificate of registration in that jurisdiction are not lower than those specified in this chapter.
- (2) Temporary permits under this code section shall be only considered and granted for a single project stipulated by the applicant to be of one year's duration or less, or subsection of a single project of one year's duration or less, as determined by the board to be within the applicant's area of expertise and experience.
- (3) An application under subsection (1) of this Code Section shall be made to the board in writing, containing such information and in the form and manner as shall be prescribed by the board including the following:
 - (a) The identity of the project and a brief description of the engineering services for the project intended to perform by the recipient of the requested temporary permit; and
 - (b) The applicant's proposed role and responsibilities for the project services to be provided

under the requested temporary permit; and

- (c) The applicant's statement as to the duration of the engineering services and the period required to complete the project.
- (4) The temporary permit shall continue only for such time as the board requires for the consideration of the application for registration or for a maximum of one (1) year, whichever occurs first. The temporary permit shall contain such conditions with respect to the scope of permission granted as the board deems necessary or desirable.
- (5) Plans specifications, and reports issued by a person holding a temporary permit shall bear his/her signature and a stamp containing his/her name, business address, and "Georgia Professional Engineer Temporary No. ____." The signature and stamp shall be affixed only in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b) of Code Section [43-15-22](#).
- (6) A person who has obtained a temporary permit and practices in accordance therewith is deemed to be a professional engineer for purpose of this chapter, but a temporary permit shall not be deemed to be a registration under any provision of this chapter, including, by way of illustration and not limitation, Code Section [43-15-23](#).

Chapter 180-3. QUALIFICATIONS: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER AND ENGINEER-IN-TRAINING.

Rule 180-3-.01. Education

As used in O.C.G.A. 43-15-8 and 43-15-9, the following terms have the meanings indicated:

- (a) "Engineering curriculum of not less than four years from a school or college approved by the Board," as used in O.C.G.A. 43-15-8(1)(A), means the engineering curricula of schools, colleges, and universities in the United States and its territories which at the time of the applicant's graduation are curricula accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (A.B.E.T.). Unless the Board determines otherwise, in a case where the curriculum in question was dropped from the accreditation list but was reaccredited within a period of five years, the Board may approve the curriculum as though there was no lapse in accreditation.
- (b) "Engineering curriculum of not less than four years" as used in O.C.G.A. 43-15-8(2)(A), includes engineering curricula in schools or colleges which are not accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (A.B.E.T.) but which may be approved by the Board in individual cases upon review of the applicant's educational transcript.
- (c) "In a curriculum of four or more years in engineering technology . . . from a school or college approved by the Board," as used in O.C.G.A. 43-15-8(2)(A), means engineering technology curricula in schools or colleges in the United States and its territories which, at the time of the applicant's graduation, are curricula accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (A.B.E.T.). Those curricula may be accepted by the Board, in individual cases, upon review of the applicant's educational transcript.

- (d) "In a curriculum of four or more years in engineering technology or . . . related science curriculum from a school or college approved by the Board" as used in O.C.G.A. 43-15-8(2)(A), means a four-year curriculum leading to a bachelor of science degree in chemistry, physics, mathematics, and similar related science curriculum of the military service academies of the United States. Those curricula may, in individual cases, be accepted by the Board upon review of the applicant's educational transcript.

Rule 180-3-.02. Experience

In evaluating experience offered as qualifying experience under O.C.G.A. 43-15-8, 43-15-9, and 43-15-10, the Board will take into consideration the following six (6) factors:

- (a) Prior Education. The Board will take into consideration the applicant's education at the time the pertinent experience was acquired with the basic view that prior education determines the value of the experience.
- (b) Kind of Experience. The experience should involve the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical, and engineering sciences; the preparation of engineering data; the organization and implementation of testing procedures or methodologies for the collection of engineering data; the preparation of engineering data; the interpretation of engineering data; and the involvement in engineering during construction by the design engineer to verify his/her engineering design.
- (c) Quality. The experience should, by progression in difficulty and magnitude, demonstrate that the applicant has acquired ability to design and apply engineering principles and that his/her judgment may be trusted on projects involving public health and safety.
- (d) Scope. The experience should demonstrate sufficient breadth and scope within the field selected rather than narrowly focused technical skill within the field.
- (e) Progression. The record of work experience should indicate progression from initial work of simple character to recent work of greater difficulty, complexity and responsibility.
- (f) Capacity and Viewpoint. The record of experience should indicate that the applicant has attained to a considerable degree those attributes of clear thinking and analysis essential to competence.

Rule 180-3-.03. Advanced

The Board may also accept as meeting the educational requirements of O.C.G.A. 43-15-8(1)(A), graduation from a four-year engineering curriculum of a school or college not appearing on the most recently published list of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (A.B.E.T.). The applicant, subsequent to graduation from such a curriculum, must have completed at least one additional year of study in engineering subjects in a program in which either the undergraduate or advanced degree was approved by the A.B.E.T. at the time of the applicant's study. That year's study must have resulted in the conferring of an advanced degree such as a masters degree or a doctors

degree with a major in engineering. All curricula pertaining to an applicant shall be approved by the Board.

Rule 180-3-.04. Evaluation of Foreign Education

- (1) Any applicant desiring educational credit for an engineering degree from a foreign institution must submit an evaluation of such education to the Board. Such evaluation must be in a form prescribed by the Board and must be performed by an agency approved by the Board.
- (2) Approved special evaluation forms and instructions may be obtained from Engineering Credentials Evaluation International (ECEI) at their website WWW.ECEI.ORG.
- (3) Advanced post-graduate degrees to be accepted for educational credit must be in the same branch of engineering and current experience in which the applicant plans to practice in the state of Georgia and be from a school or college whose undergraduate curriculum is Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accredited in the applicant's discipline at the time of the applicant's study.

Chapter 180-5. FEES

Rule 180-5-.01. Fees

Fees may be imposed, revised or changed at the discretion of the Board. A copy of the schedule of fees published by the Board may be obtained upon request.

Chapter 180-6. RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Rule 180-6-.01. General

- (1) In order to safeguard the life, health, property and welfare of the public and to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills, and practice in the professions of engineering and land surveying, the following Rules of Professional Conduct are promulgated in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-15-6(1). The following rules shall be binding upon every individual who possesses a certificate or a certificate of registration issued by the Board and upon every firm, professional corporation, association, governmental agency, partnership, corporation or other legal or commercial entity offering engineering or land surveying services to the public and to all personnel of such firm, corporation, partnership, association, or entity who act in its behalf in the practice of engineering or land surveying in this state.
- (2) The Rules of Professional Conduct as promulgated herein are an exercise of the police power vested in the Georgia Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors by virtue of the acts of the legislature. By that investment, the said Board is authorized to establish conduct, policy, and practices in accordance with the powers hereinabove stated.
- (3) All persons registered under O.C.G.A. Chapter 15, Title 43, are charged with having knowledge of the existence of these Rules of Professional Conduct and shall be deemed to be familiar with

their several provisions and to understand them. Such knowledge shall encompass the understanding that the practice of engineering or land surveying is a privilege as opposed to a right. The registrant shall be forthright and candid in his/her statements or written response to the Board or its representatives on matters pertaining to professional conduct.

Rule 180-6-.02. Protection of the Public

The engineer or land surveyor shall at all times practice in such a manner as to protect the safety, health and welfare of the public. If a registrant's engineering or land surveying judgment is overruled under circumstances where the safety, health or welfare of the public are endangered, he/she shall inform the proper authorities and his/her employer of the situation as may be appropriate.

Rule 180-6-.03. Rules of Practice

- (1) The engineer or land surveyor shall perform services only in areas of his/her competence. The engineer or land surveyor shall undertake to perform engineering or land surveying assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical field of professional engineering or land surveying involved.
- (2) The engineer or land surveyor may accept an assignment requiring education or experience outside of his/her own field of competence, but only to the extent that his/her services are restricted to those phases of the project in which he/she is qualified. All other phases of such project shall be performed by qualified associates, consultants or employees who shall sign, seal, and be responsible for such other phases or technical segments.
- (3) The professional engineer who develops the design criteria and engineering concept for a project, provides analysis, and is responsible for the preparation of the construction documents shall be responsible for the design of the project within his/her contractual area of engineering services and shall be known as the engineer of record.
- (4) In the event that a professional engineer who is not the engineer of record is used for specific portions of the work, that individual shall be a registered engineer in the State of Georgia and shall seal, sign, and date his/her own reports, calculations, and drawings. He/she shall coordinate his/her work with the engineer of record and shall be responsible to the engineer of record for that specific portion of the project design. He/she shall be known as the specialty engineer.
- (5) The engineer or land surveyor shall not affix his/her signature and/or seal to any engineering or land surveying plan, document, or plat unless such plan, document, or plat is prepared by the registrant or an individual in the employ of the registrant. All plans, documents, and plats prepared by non-registrants must be prepared under the direct supervisory control of the registrant on a daily basis.
- (6) "Direct supervisory control" shall be defined as providing direct input in preparation of engineering or land surveying plans, documents, or plats, consultation, periodic review, and final review of such plans, documents, or plats. "On a daily basis" shall mean supervising

activities at the place of employment where the registrant and the employee spend the majority of the working time as dictated by payroll records including but not limited to social security, workman's compensation, unemployment insurance, etc.

- (7) In the event a question arises as to the competence of an engineer or land surveyor to perform an assignment, the Board may require him/her to submit to an appropriate examination, as determined by the Board. That action by the Board shall be required only if the question cannot be otherwise resolved to the Board's satisfaction.
- (8) Renovation or the retrofitting of a building or structure is considered as the practice of engineering when the work involves the addition or reduction of weight or loading; analysis of structural systems or members; removal or addition of structural elements; analysis of drainage systems on or below the roof surface; changes to the drainage characteristics; or changes required for the building or structure to conform to current jurisdictional building codes. Nothing in this rule is intended to restrict the normal practice by registered architects. Nothing in this rule is intended to restrict the normal practice of roofing contractors insofar as repairing or the replacement of like kind of roofing systems so long as no additional weight is added.

Rule 180-6-.04. Statement and Testimony

- (1) The engineer or land surveyor shall be completely objective and truthful in issuing public statements, reports or testimony. He/she shall include all relevant and pertinent information in those statements, reports or testimony.
- (2) The engineer or land surveyor, when serving as an expert or technical witness before any court, commission, or other tribunal, shall express an opinion only when it is founded upon adequate knowledge of the facts at issue. That expression shall reflect a background of technical competence in the subject matter, and an honest conviction of the accuracy and propriety of his/her testimony.
- (3) No engineer or land surveyor licensed under O.C.G.A. Chapter 15, Title 43, shall issue statements, criticisms, or arguments on engineering or land surveying matters connected with public policy which are inspired or paid for by an interested party or parties unless he/she has prefaced such comments by explicitly identifying the party on whose behalf he/she is speaking. The engineer or land surveyor must at the same time reveal the existence of any pecuniary interest he/she may have in the matters.

Rule 180-6-.05. Conflict of Interest

- (1) The engineer or land surveyor shall avoid conflicts of interest. The engineer or land surveyor shall conscientiously avoid conflict of interest with his/her employer or client, but, when unavoidable, the engineer or land surveyor shall forthwith disclose the circumstances to his employer or client.
- (2) The engineer or land surveyor shall avoid all known conflicts of interest with his/her employer

or client and shall promptly inform his/her employer of any business association, interests, or circumstances which could influence his/her judgment or the quality of his/her services.

- (3) The engineer or land surveyor shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services on the same project or for services pertaining to the same project unless the circumstances are fully disclosed to and agreed to by all interested parties.
- (4) The engineer or land surveyor shall not solicit or accept financial or other valuable considerations, directly or indirectly, from material or equipment suppliers, or their representatives, for specifying their products.
- (5) The engineer or land surveyor shall not solicit or accept gratuities, directly or indirectly, from contractors, their agents, or other parties in connection with work for which he/she is responsible.
- (6) The engineer or land surveyor in public service as a member, advisor, or employee of a governmental body or department shall not participate in considerations or actions with respect to matters involving him/her or his/her organization's private or public engineering or land surveying practices.
- (7) The engineer or land surveyor shall not solicit or accept an engineering or land surveying contract from a governmental body on which a principal or officer of his/her organization serves as a member.

Rule 180-6-.06. Conduct

- (1) The engineer or land surveyor shall solicit or accept professional employment only on the basis of his/her qualifications and competence for proper accomplishment of the work. No engineer or land surveyor may provide a fee proposal to a potential client until he/she (a) established or reviewed the scope of services for the project, (b) determined that, based on his/her review of the scope of services, that he/she is competent to provide the professional services required, and (c) made his/her qualifications known to the prospective client. On proposals including more than one engineer or land surveyor, each individual shall be responsible for complying with this rule for his/her respective portion of the proposal. The engineer or land surveyor shall not offer to pay, either directly or indirectly, any commission, political contribution, gift, or other consideration in order to secure work, exclusive of securing salaried positions through employment agencies.
- (2) The engineer or land surveyor shall not falsify or permit misrepresentation of his/her or his/her associate's academic or professional qualifications. He/she shall not misrepresent or exaggerate his/her degree of responsibility for prior assignments in brochures or other presentations for the solicitation of employment. He/she shall not misrepresent pertinent facts concerning employers, employees, associates, joint ventures, or his/her or their past accomplishments with the intent and purpose of enhancing his/her qualifications or work.

Rule 180-6-.07. Ethics

- (1) The engineer or land surveyor shall associate only with reputable persons or organizations. The engineer or land surveyor shall not knowingly associate with or permit the use of his/her name, or firm name, in a business venture by any person or firm which he/she knows, or has reason to believe, is engaging in business or professional practices of a fraudulent or dishonest nature.
- (2) If the engineer or land surveyor has knowledge or reason to believe that another person or firm may be in violation of any of these provisions or of O.C.G.A. 43-15, he/she shall promptly present such information to the Board in writing and shall cooperate with the Board in furnishing such further information or assistance as may be required by the Board.

Rule 180-6-.08. Convictions

A violation of O.C.G.A. Chapter 15, Title 43, or of the rules of another jurisdiction, if for a cause which in the State of Georgia would constitute a violation of O.C.G.A. 43-15 or these rules, shall be grounds for a charge of violation of these rules.

Rule 180-6-.09. Certification

- (1) The term "Certification" as used in Rule [180-6-.09\(2\) and \(3\)](#) and relating to professional engineering or land surveying services, as defined in O.C.G.A. 43-15-2(6) and (11), shall mean a signed statement based upon facts and knowledge known to the registrant and is not a guarantee or warranty, either expressed or implied.
- (2) When an engineer or land surveyor is presented with a certificate to be signed or sealed, he or she should carefully evaluate that certification to determine if the certification:
 - (a) relates to matters which are within the technical competence of the engineer or land surveyor;
 - (b) involves matters which are within the scope of services actually provided by the engineer or land surveyor or;
 - (c) relates to matters which were prepared under the supervision, direction and control of the engineer or land surveyor.
- (3) Engineers or land surveyors who sign or seal certification not meeting criteria in subsection (2) are subject to discipline pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-15-19(a)(5).

Chapter 180-8. RENEWAL OF LICENSE

Rule 180-8-.01. Reinstatement of Expired License

- (1) A certificate of registration which has been administratively revoked for having been expired for greater than four (4) years may be reinstated at the discretion of the Board.
- (2) The applicant must complete the reinstatement application and include a summary of all

experience since the date of original Georgia licensure as a Professional Engineer or Land Surveyor with accompanying experience endorsements for each engagement from professionals who are familiar with the experience provided.

- (3) Applicant must include the reinstatement application fee, and upon final Board review, all other fees as provided to reinstate license registration.

Rule 180-8-.02. Inactive Licensure Status

In accordance with Chapter 295-15 of the Rules and Regulations of the Division Director regarding Inactive Status Licensing, a registrant may apply for inactive licensure status under the following conditions:

- (1) A registrant who is over the age of 65 and retired; or who may become disabled may apply to the Board for inactive status by submitting the required application and paying the proper fees.
- (2) While on inactive status, a registrant is exempt from payment of the biennial renewal fee and continuing education requirements.
- (3) An inactive registrant may not practice professional engineering or land surveying in this State.
- (4) In order to reactivate an inactive license, the registrant must submit a completed application, show compliance with continuing education requirements as set forth in Rule [180-11-.08](#), and submit the reactivation fee as set forth by the Board. The Board must approve the application before the license is reactivated.

Rule 180-9-.01. Procedural Rules

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors adopts by reference as its permanent rules, Chapter 295-3 through 295-13, Rules and Regulations of the Office of the Division Director, Professional Licensing Boards, relative to Procedure for Hearing before several Professional Licensing Boards.

Chapter 180-10. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Rule 180-10-.01. Corporate Practice: Professional Engineering

- (1) As used in O.C.G.A. § [43-15-23\(c\)](#), the phrase "responsible charge" means the independent control, direction and supervision, by the use of initiative, skill and independent judgment of the practice of professional engineering as defined in O.C.G.A. § [43-15-2\(11\)](#).
- (2) In order to be considered eligible for a certificate of authorization, any individual who is in responsible charge of the practice of professional engineering for the firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership or association or other entity shall be a full-time employee of the firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association or other entity,

regularly engaged in the practice of professional engineering. Such individual shall not be:

- (a) available to perform engineering services only on a part-time, independent contractor basis at the call of such firm, corporation, partnership, association or other business entity; or
 - (b) available on an if-and-when needed consulting basis; or,
 - (c) not actively practicing professional engineering with such firm, corporation, partnership, association or other business entity.
- (3) The practice of professional engineering for any firm, corporation, partnership, association or other business entity shall not be considered to be under the direction of a professional engineer unless such professional engineer bears a continuing bonafide relation thereto and has such authority from the governing body of such business entity as would result in its being legally liable for all such professional engineer's professional acts and judgments.

Rule 180-10-.02. Corporate Practice: Land Surveying

- (1) As used in O.C.G.A. § 43-15-23.1(c), the phrase "responsible charge" means the independent control, direction and supervision, by the use of initiative, skill and independent judgment of the practice of land surveying as defined in O.C.G.A. § [43-15-2\(6\)](#).
- (2) In order to be considered eligible for a certificate of authorization, any individual who shall be in responsible charge of the practice of land surveying for the firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association or other entity shall be a full-time employee of the firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association or other entity, regularly engaged in the practice of professional land surveying. Such individual shall not be:
 - (a) available to perform land surveying services only on a part-time, independent contractor basis at the call of such firm, corporation, partnership, association or other business entity; or
 - (b) available on an if-and-when needed consulting basis; or,
 - (c) not actively practicing land surveying with such firm, corporation, partnership, association or other business entity.
- (3) The practice of land surveying for any firm, corporation, partnership, association or other business entity shall not be considered to be under the direction of a land surveyor unless such land surveyor bears a continuing bonafide relation thereto and has such authority from the governing body of such business entity as would result in its being legally liable for all such land surveyor's professional acts and judgments.

Chapter 180-11. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY

Rule 180-11-.01. Introduction

Beginning January 1, 1997, as stated in O.C.G.A. 43-15-6(b), ". . . which begins after the 1996 renewal cycle," every registrant shall meet the continuing professional competency requirements of these rules for professional development as a condition for licensure renewal.

Rule 180-11-.02. Definitions

Terms used in this section are defined as follows:

- (a) Professional Development Hour. A contact hour (nominal) of instruction or presentation. The common denominator for other units of credit. The numerical unit of measure used in calculating compliance with this Chapter is a Professional Development Hour or PDH. All units and hours attributed to the courses and activities acceptable in satisfying this Chapter's requirement are translated into PDH's by operation of Rule [180-11-.04](#) of this Chapter.
- (b) Course/Activity. Any qualifying course or activity with a clear purpose and objective which will maintain, improve, or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the land surveyor's or professional engineer's practice.
- (c) Continuing Education Course/Unit.
 - 1. Continuing Education Course. A course, seminar, workshop or other professional or technical presentation or activity taken or attended for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or expanding the skills and knowledge relevant to the registrant's practice.
 - 2. Continuing Education Unit. The unit of measure attributed to Continuing Education Courses is a Continuing Education Unit or CEU. Ten (10) hours of class in a Continuing Education Course equals one (1) Continuing Education Unit.
- (d) College Courses/Unit Measure.
 - 1. College Course. When used in this Chapter, a College course is a technical course in a curriculum which has been accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, or a technical course that is specifically relevant to engineering or surveying, which is offered by a college, university, or other institution.
- (e) College/Unit Semester/Quarter Hour. A College/Unit Semester/ Quarter Hour is a unit of measure attributed by the offering college, university, or institution, to a particular course, which is translated into PDH's by operation of Rule [180-11-.04](#) of this Chapter.
- (f) Registrant. When used in this Chapter, a person who is licensed as either a professional engineer or a land surveyor is deemed to be a registrant.
- (g) Dual Registrant. When used in this Chapter, a person who is licensed as both a professional engineer and a land surveyor is deemed to be a dual registrant.
- (h) Board. The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.
- (i) Sponsor. A sponsor is an organization, college, university, institution, or individual which

provides a course/activity for which the professional engineer or land surveyor seeks to obtain Professional Development Hour credit.

- (j) Successful Completion of a Course/Activity. Satisfactory completion of a course/activity taken for the purpose of obtaining PDH's means fulfilling the course or activity's requirements and obtaining a certificate of completion or its equivalent.

Rule 180-11-.03. Requirements

- (1) Professional Engineers. Every professional engineer is required to obtain thirty (30) PDH's each twenty-four (24) month (Biennial) renewal period. If a professional engineer exceeds the requirements in any biennial renewal period, a maximum of fifteen (15) PDH's may be carried forward into the subsequent renewal period.
- (2) Land Surveyors. Every land surveyor is required to obtain fifteen (15) PDH's each twenty-four (24) month biennial renewal period. In addition, every land surveyor must ensure that, once every five (5) years, at least six (6) PDH's in "Minimum Technical Standards" be included in their PDH's acquired. If a land surveyor exceeds the requirements in any biennial period, a maximum of seven and one-half (7.5) PDH's may be carried forward into the subsequent renewal period.
- (3) Dual Registrants. The person with a dual license is required to obtain thirty (30) PDH units for a twenty-four (24) month (Biennial) renewal period. If a dual registrant exceeds the requirement in any Biennial renewal period, a maximum of fifteen (15) PDH's may be carried forward into the subsequent renewal period. At least one-third (1/3) of the PDH's in a renewal period must be obtained in engineering, and one-third (1/3) in surveying. The remaining units may be in either field, at the discretion of the registrant.
- (4) PDH's may be earned as follows:
 - (a) Successful completion of college courses.
 - (b) Successful completion of continuing education courses.
 - (c) Successful completion of correspondence, televised, videotaped, audiotaped, and other short courses/tutorials taken for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or expanding the skills and knowledge relevant to the land surveyor's or professional engineer's practice.
 - (d) Presenting or attending seminars, in-house courses, workshops, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions or conferences which are relevant to the land surveyor's or professional engineer's practice.
 - (e) Teaching or instructing in any area relevant to the land surveyor's or professional engineer's practice.
 - (f) Authoring published papers, articles, or books in any area relevant to the land surveyor's or professional engineer's practice.

- (g) Active participation in professional or technical societies. (For professional engineers only).
- (h) Receiving patents in any area relevant to the land surveyor's or professional engineer's practice.

Rule 180-11-.04. Units

The conversion of other units of credit to Professional Development Hours is as follows:

- (1) One (1) college or unit semester hour: 45 PDH
- (2) One (1) college or unit quarter hour: 30 PDH
- (3) One (1) Continuing Education Unit: 10 PDH
- (4) One (1) Hour of professional development in coursework, seminars, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions, conferences, or examination preparation.
- (5) For teaching of professional development coursework as in [180-11-.04](#), apply a multiple of two (2). Teaching credit valid for teaching a course or seminar for the first time only. Teaching does not apply to full-time faculty.
- (6) Authorizing published papers, articles, or books in any area relevant to the land surveyor's or professional engineer's practice: 10 PDH
- (7) Active participation in professional and technical society (for professional engineers only): 2 PDH
- (8) Each patent in any area relevant to the land surveyor's or professional engineer's practice: 10 PDH

Rule 180-11-.05. Determination of Credits

The Board has the final authority regarding:

- (a) Approval of courses, classes, seminars, meetings, and all other methods of satisfying the requirements of this Chapter; and
- (b) The number of PDH's allocated to each course, class, seminar, meeting, and any other method of satisfying the requirements of this Chapter.

Rule 180-11-.06. Recordkeeping

To ensure compliance of continuing education, the Board shall randomly audit a number of registrants.

Georgia Statutes and Regulations for Professional Engineers

Registrants licensed by way of examination or comity, shall be exempt from continuing education requirements for their first renewal period. Maintaining records to be used to support PDH's Claimed, is the responsibility of the registrant. Records required include:

- (a) A log showing the type of activity, sponsoring organization, location, duration, instructor's or speaker's name, and PDH's earned.
- (b) Attendance verification records in the form of completion certificates, or other documents supporting evidence of attendance; or records as maintained by professional organizations, or other similar repositories designated by the Board.
- (c) The log and records described in Rule [180-11-.06\(a\) and \(b\)](#) must be maintained for a period of four years and copies may be requested by the Board for audit verification purposes.

Rule 180-11-.07. Exemptions

A registrant is exempt from the professional development education requirements under any of the following circumstances:

- (1) Registrants licensed by way of examination or comity, shall be exempt for their first renewal period.
- (2) A professional engineer serving on temporary duty in the armed forces of the United States for a period of time exceeding one hundred twenty (120) consecutive days shall be exempt from obtaining 15 of the professional development hours required during that biennial period in which the majority of the days of duty fall. Likewise, a land surveyor shall be exempt from obtaining 7.5 professional development hours during that biennial period.
- (3) Registrants experiencing physical disability, illness, or other extenuating circumstances as approved by the Board may be exempt. Supporting documentation must be furnished to the Board.
- (4) Registrants over the age of 65 who have applied for an inactive license, who list their occupation as "Retired" or "Inactive" on the Board-approved renewal form, and who further certify that they are no longer receiving any remuneration from providing professional engineering or land surveying services shall be exempt from professional development hours. In the event such a person elects to return to active practice of professional engineering or land surveying, professional development hours must be earned as described in " [180-11-.08](#) Reinstatement" before returning to active practice.
- (5) Individuals who qualify for exemption by way of paragraph (4) above may continue to use the words Professional Engineer (or P.E.), or Land Surveyor (or L.S.) as appropriate, after their names as long as they continue to fall under the restrictions specified and are not actively practicing engineering or land surveying.

Rule 180-11-.08. Reinstatement

A registrant may bring an inactive or suspended (provided all other conditions of the suspension are filled) license to active status by obtaining all delinquent PDH's. A MINIMUM OF 15 PDH's are required for each year in an inactive or suspended status for professional engineers and 7.5 PDH's for land surveyors, up to a maximum of 30 PDH's for professional engineers and 15 PDH's for land surveyors.

Rule 180-11-.09. Comity/Out-of-Georgia Resident

The Board shall recognize the continuing education requirements imposed by other states to the extent that such continuing education courses meet the requirements imposed by the Board. Comity/Out-of-Georgia residents will be required to keep recordkeeping as listed under Rule [180-11-.06](#).

Rule 180-11-.10. Forms

Included with all license renewal applications will be a continuing education summary log form that the registrant must use to summarize the professional development hours for which he/she has requested credit during the current biennial period. In order to ensure compliance with O.C.G.A. 43-15-6(b), the Board shall audit some registrants at a later date and will instruct them to submit this form to the Board office, signed and certified. The form must supply sufficient detail relevant to continuing education hours claimed in order to permit the Board to complete its audit.

Chapter 180-12. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Rule 180-12-.01. Description

The seal authorized by the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors for registrants may be of the crimp type and/or rubber stamp facsimile or may be computer generated. The seal design is to be circular in form, the diameter of the outer circle being 1 1/2 inches, and the diameter of the inner circle being one inch. The registration seal design will be furnished to each registrant as part of the licensure process.

Rule 180-12-.02. Sealing of Documents

- 1) The term, "documents," as used herein shall mean engineering and/or land surveying work issued in the form of plans, drawings, maps, surveys, reports, specifications, design information, and calculations, including such work issued in digital form. This Rule shall not apply to recordable property plats governed under O.C.G.A. 15-6-67(b)(2)(E).
- 2) The term "issued" as used herein shall mean documents in the final form which bear the seal and signature of the registrant.
- 3) The registrant shall seal and sign all original final documents which are issued to a client or any public agency. The sealing of documents by the registrant shall certify that the work was performed by the registrant or under the direct supervisory control of the registrant on a daily basis. For engineering documents, the date of signature shall be placed immediately under the seal and signature.

- 4) No registrant shall issue an incomplete, preliminary, in-progress, or for-review document or any type unless such document displays the date of issue and a notation in bold lettering, such as "PRELIMINARY," "NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION," "NOT FOR RECORDING PURPOSES," or "FOR REVIEW ONLY," which clearly identifies the purpose for which the document is issued.
- 5) Seals, signatures, dates, and/or other notations required by this Rule shall be placed on original documents such that the seal, signature, date and/or notations, will be reproduced when copies are made.
- 6) Documents containing more than one sheet shall be sealed and signed on the first or title page by all registrants responsible for the work therein. Each drawing sheet, whether bound or unbound, shall be sealed and signed by the registrant(s) responsible for the work on that sheet. If a document is sealed and signed by more than one registrant, the portion of the work for which each registrant is responsible shall be clearly noted.
- 7) Each document that is sealed and signed by a registrant shall contain the name, address, and contact information of the firm or sole practitioner certifying the work.
- 8) Documents as defined in Paragraph (1) that are transmitted electronically beyond the direct control of the licensee shall have the computer-generated seal removed from the original file, unless signed with an electronic signature as defined in Paragraph (9) of this Rule. After removal of the seal the electronic media shall have the following inserted in lieu of the signature and date: "This document originally issued and sealed by (name of sealer), (license number), on (Date of sealing). This medium shall not be considered a certified document." Hardcopy documents containing the original seal, signature and date of the licensee may be duplicated by photocopy or electronic scanning processes and distributed either in hardcopy or electronic medium. The scanned digital files of certified documents are not subject to the requirements of this Paragraph. The electronic transmission beyond the direct control of the licensee of CAD, vector or other files subject to easy editing are subject to the requirements of this paragraph. Easy editing is based on the file consisting of separate elements that can be individually modified or deleted. 9) Documents to be electronically transmitted beyond the direct control of the licensee that are signed using an electronic signature shall contain the authentication procedure in a secure mode and a list of the hardware, software and parameters used to prepare the document(s). Secure mode means that the authentication procedure has protective measures to prevent alteration or overriding of the authentication procedure. The term "electronic signature" shall be an electronic authentication process that is attached to or logically associated with an electronic document. The electronic signature shall be:
 - a) Unique to the licensee using it;
 - b) Capable of verification;
 - c) Under the sole control of the licensee; and
 - d) Linked to a document in such a manner that the electronic signature is invalidated if any data in the document is changed.

TITLE 43. PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES
CHAPTER 15. PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

§ 43-15-1. Purpose of chapter

This chapter is enacted to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 1; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 2; Code 1933, § 84-2101, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1.

§ 43-15-2. Definitions

As used in this chapter, the term:

(1) "Board" means the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

(2) "Certificate" means any certificate issued under Code Section 43-15-8 or 43-15-12.

(3) "Certificate of registration" means any certificate issued under Code Section 43-15-9, 43-15-13, or 43-15-16.

(4) "Current certificate of registration" means a certificate of registration which has not expired or been revoked and the rights under which have not been suspended or otherwise restricted by the board.

(5) "Engineer-in-training" means an individual who meets the qualifications for and to whom the board has duly issued an engineer-in-training certificate.

(6) "Land surveying" means any service, work, or practice, the adequate performance of which requires the application of special knowledge of the principles of mathematics, the related physical and applied sciences, and the requirements of relevant law in the evaluation and location of property rights, as applied to:

(A) Measuring and locating lines, angles, elevations, natural and manmade features in the air, on the surface of the earth, in underground works, and on the beds of bodies of water, for the purpose of determining and reporting positions, topography, areas, and volumes;

(B) Establishing or reestablishing, locating or relocating, or setting or resetting of monumentation for any property, easement, or right of way boundaries, or the boundary of any estate or interest therein;

(C) The platting and layout of lands and subdivisions thereof, including alignment and grades of streets and roads, excluding thoroughfares;

(D) The design, platting, and layout, incidental to subdivisions of any tract of land by a land surveyor, of:

(i) Grading plans and site plans;

(ii) Erosion and sediment control plans, including detention ponds, provided that no impoundment shall be designed on a live (perennial) stream; provided, further, that such detention ponds:

(I) Contain no more than five acre-feet of water storage at maximum pool (top of dam) or are no more than ten feet in height for a dry storage pond;

(II) Are no more than six feet in height for a permanent (wet) storage pond; or

(III) Contain no more than three acre-feet of water storage at maximum pool (top of dam) if the height is more than ten feet but less than 13 feet for a dry storage pond;

(iii) Storm water management plans and facilities, including hydrologic studies and temporary sediment basins, provided that the contributing drainage area shall not be larger than 100 acres; and

(iv) Extension of existing water distribution piping and gravity sewers, eight inches in diameter or smaller, provided that off-site length shall not exceed 1,000 feet, the design and construction of which shall conform to the local government ordinances and regulations, and such extensions shall be subjected to the review and approval of a local government which has been delegated approval authority by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources;

(E) Conducting horizontal and vertical control surveys, layout or stake-out of proposed construction, or the preparation of as-built surveys which relate to property, easement, or right of way boundaries;

(F) Utilization of measurement devices or systems, such as aerial photogrammetry, geodetic positioning systems, land information systems, or similar technology for evaluation or location of property, easement, or right of way boundaries; or

(G) The preparation and perpetuation of maps, record plats, drawings, exhibits, field notes, or property descriptions representing these services.

(7) "Land surveyor" means an individual who is qualified to engage in the practice of land surveying and who possesses a current certificate of registration as a land surveyor issued by the board. A person shall be construed to practice or offer to practice land surveying within the meaning of this chapter who by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, cards, or in any other way represents or holds himself or herself out as able or qualified to perform or who does perform any of the services defined as land surveying.

(8) "Land surveyor-in-training" means an individual who meets the qualifications for and to whom the board has duly issued a certificate as a land surveyor-in-training.

(9) "Person" means an individual and any legal or commercial entity, including, by way of illustration and not limitation, a partnership, corporation, association, or governmental agency.

(10) "Professional engineer" means an individual who is qualified, by reason of knowledge of mathematics, the physical sciences, and the principles by which mechanical properties of matter are made useful to man in structures and machines, acquired by professional education and practical experience, to engage in the practice of professional engineering and who possesses a current certificate of registration as a professional engineer issued by the board.

(11) "Professional engineering" means the practice of the art and sciences, known as engineering, by which mechanical properties of matter are made useful to man in structures and machines and shall include any professional service, such as consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, designing, or responsible supervision of construction or operation, in connection with any public or private utilities, structures, buildings, machines, equipment, processes, works, or projects, wherein the public welfare or the safeguarding of life, health, or property is concerned or involved, when such professional service requires the application of engineering principles and data and training in the application of mathematical and physical sciences. A person shall be construed to practice or offer to practice professional engineering, within the meaning of this chapter who by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or in any other way represents or holds himself out as a professional engineer or engineer or as able or qualified to perform engineering services or who does perform any of the services set out in this paragraph. Nothing contained in this chapter shall include the work ordinarily performed by persons who operate or maintain machinery or equipment.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 2; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 4; Code 1933, § 84-2103, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1991, p. 1133, § 1; Ga. L. 1992, p. 3297, § 1; Ga. L. 2003, p. 817, § 1.

§ 43-15-3. Creation of board; members

(a) A State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors is created whose duty it shall be to administer this chapter.

(b) The board shall consist of six professional engineers, two land surveyors, and a member appointed from the public at large who has no connection with the professions of engineering and land surveying, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor for a term of five years. Of the professional engineers appointed to the board, one shall be a structural engineer, one shall be a mechanical engineer, one shall be an electrical engineer, two shall be civil or sanitary engineers, and one shall be from any discipline of engineering. Each member of the board shall be a citizen of the United States and a resident of this state.

(c) Each member shall hold office until his successor has been duly appointed and qualified. All successors shall be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment.

(d) A vacancy on the membership of the board shall be filled by appointment by the Governor, in

the same manner as the original appointment to the position vacated, for the unexpired term.

(e) Professional engineers appointed to the board shall have been engaged in the practice of engineering in their respective disciplines for at least 12 years and shall have been in responsible charge of important engineering work in their respective disciplines for at least five years. Land surveyors appointed to the board shall have been engaged in the practice of land surveying for at least 12 years and shall have been in responsible charge of important land surveying work for at least five years. Responsible charge of engineering or land surveying teaching may be construed as responsible charge of important engineering or land surveying work, respectively.

(f) Each member of the board shall be reimbursed as provided for in subsection (f) of Code Section 43-1-2.

(g) The Governor may remove any member of the board for misconduct, incompetency, neglect of duty, or for any other sufficient and just cause.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 3; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 5; Ga. L. 1972, p. 222, § 2; Code 1933, § 84-2104, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Code 1933, § 84-2104.1, enacted by Ga. L. 1980, p. 968, § 1; Ga. L. 1988, p. 309, § 2; Ga. L. 1990, p. 1491, § 1; Ga. L. 1994, p. 97, § 43.

§ 43-15-4. Adoption of rules and regulations; meetings; seal; division director as secretary of board

(a) The board shall adopt all necessary rules, regulations, and bylaws, not inconsistent with this chapter and the Constitution and laws of this state or of the United States, to govern its times and place of meetings for organization and reorganization, for the holding of examinations, for fixing the length of terms of its officers, and for governing all other matters requisite to the exercise of its powers, the performance of its duties, and the transaction of its businesses. The board shall adopt an official seal.

(b) The board shall meet at such times as the business of the board shall require, as the board or its chairman may determine, but shall hold one annual meeting each year at which time the board shall elect a chairman and a vice chairman.

(c) The board shall be assigned to the office of the division director for those purposes described in Chapter 1 of this title.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 8; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 11; Code 1933, § 84-2105, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1984, p. 1146, § 1; Ga. L. 2000, p. 1706, § 19.

§ 43-15-5. Duty of board to maintain records

The board shall keep records of its proceedings.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 7; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 10; Code 1933, § 84-2108, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1.

§ 43-15-6. General powers of board; injunctions; continuing education

(a) In carrying out this chapter, in addition to other powers conferred upon it under this chapter, the board shall have the power:

(1) To adopt and enforce regulations implementing this chapter, including regulations governing the professional conduct of those individuals registered by it;

(2) Under the hand of its chairman or his or her delegate and the seal of the board, to subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance and to require thereby the production of books, papers, documents, and other things relevant to such investigation in order to investigate conduct subject to regulation by the board; the chairman or the member of the board who is his or her delegate may administer oaths to witnesses appearing before the board; and the board may secure the enforcement of its subpoenas in the manner provided by Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act"; and

(3) To maintain in its name an action for injunctive or other appropriate legal or equitable relief to remedy violations of this chapter and, in pursuing equitable remedies, it shall not be necessary that the board allege or prove that it has no adequate remedy at law.

(b) In addition to other powers conferred upon the board under this chapter, the board shall through rules and regulations require each person seeking renewal of a certificate of registration as a professional engineer or a land surveyor to complete board approved continuing education of not more than 30 hours biennially for professional engineers and not more than 15 hours biennially for land surveyors. The board shall be authorized to approve courses offered by institutions of higher learning or offered by other institutions or organizations. The board shall randomly audit some applications for renewal of a certificate of registration to enforce compliance with this subsection. The continuing education requirements adopted by the board shall recognize the continuing education requirements imposed by other states to the extent that such continuing education courses meet the requirements imposed by the board. The board shall be authorized to waive the continuing education requirements in cases of hardship, disability, or illness or under such other circumstances as the board deems appropriate. The board shall waive the continuing education requirement for individuals over the age of 65 who have retired from active practice and who apply for an inactive license and for individuals over the age of 65 who are engaged in the active practice of their profession who have had a valid active license for the previous 25 consecutive years. The requirement for continuing education including the exemptions provided for in this subsection shall apply to each licensing renewal cycle which begins after the 1996 renewal cycle.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 12; Code 1933, § 84-2106, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1995, p. 860, § 1; Ga. L. 2001, p. 296, § 1.

§ 43-15-7. Unlawful practice as a professional engineer or land surveyor

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person other than a professional engineer to practice or to offer to practice professional engineering in this state.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person other than a land surveyor to practice or to offer to practice land surveying in this state.

HISTORY: Code 1933, § 84-2102, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1.

§ 43-15-8. Engineer-in-training certificate; eligibility

To be eligible for certification as an engineer-in-training, an applicant must meet the following minimum requirements:

(1)(A) Graduate in an engineering curriculum of not less than four years from a school or college approved by the board; and

(B) Pass a written examination in fundamental engineering subjects (engineer-in-training examination);

(2)(A) Graduate in an engineering curriculum of not less than four years or in a curriculum of four or more years in engineering technology or related science, from a school or college approved by the board; and

(B) Pass a written examination in fundamental engineering subjects (engineer-in-training examination); or

(3)(A) Acquire not less than eight years of experience in engineering work of a nature satisfactory to the board; and

(B) Pass a written examination in fundamental engineering subjects (engineer-in-training examination).

HISTORY: Code 1933, § 84-2110, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1982, p. 3, § 43; Ga. L. 2002, p. 415, § 43.

§ 43-15-9. Professional engineer certificate of registration; eligibility

To be eligible for a certificate of registration as a professional engineer, an applicant must meet the following minimum requirements:

(1)(A) Obtain certification by the board as an engineer-in-training under paragraph (1) of Code Section 43-15-8;

(B) Acquire a specific record of not less than four years' experience in engineering work of a character satisfactory to the board which indicates the applicant is competent to practice professional engineering; and

(C) Subsequently pass a written examination in the principles and practice of engineering (professional engineer's examination);

(2)(A) Obtain certification by the board as an engineer-in-training under paragraph (2) of Code Section 43-15-8;

(B) Acquire a specific record of not less than seven years' experience in engineering work of

a character satisfactory to the board which indicates the applicant is competent to practice professional engineering; and

(C) Subsequently pass a written examination in the principles and practice of engineering (professional engineer's examination);

(3)(A) Obtain certification by the board as an engineer-in-training under paragraph (3) of Code Section 43-15-8;

(B) Acquire a specific record of not less than seven years' experience in engineering work of a character satisfactory to the board which indicates the applicant is competent to practice professional engineering; and

(C) Subsequently pass a written examination in the principles and practice of engineering (professional engineer's examination); or

(4)(A) Graduate in an engineering or related science curriculum of not less than four academic years;

(B) Acquire a specific record of not less than 16 years' experience in engineering work, of which at least eight years have been in responsible charge of important engineering work of a character satisfactory to the board, which indicates the applicant is competent to practice professional engineering; and

(C) Subsequently pass a written examination in the principles and practice of engineering (professional engineer's examination).

HISTORY: Code 1933, § 84-2111, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1984, p. 1146, § 2; Ga. L. 1999, p. 81, § 43; Ga. L. 2002, p. 415, § 43.

§ 43-15-10. Evaluation of engineering experience

(a) For the purpose of determining whether an applicant has acquired the experience required under Code Section 43-15-8 or 43-15-9:

(1) Responsible charge of engineering teaching may, in the board's sole discretion, be considered as responsible charge of engineering work;

(2) The satisfactory completion of each academic year of an approved course in engineering or engineering technology in a school or college approved by the board, without graduation, may be considered as equivalent to a year of engineering experience;

(3) Partial credit may be granted by the board for the successful completion of one or more scholastic years of a four-year engineering curriculum in a school or college not approved by the board or in a curriculum in related science in a school or college approved by the board. The degree of credit shall be determined by the board upon consideration of the mathematics, science, and engineering courses completed by the applicant;

(4) No applicant shall receive experience credit for more than four years of undergraduate

education; and

(5) The satisfactory completion of graduate study in an approved engineering curriculum may, in the board's sole discretion, be credited for not more than one year's experience.

(b) The execution, as a contractor, of work designed by a professional engineer or the supervision of the construction of such work as foreman, inspector, or superintendent shall not be deemed to be engineering experience unless such work involves the application of engineering principles and the applicant presents evidence of additional engineering experience of a character satisfactory to the board and indicating the applicant is competent to be placed in responsible charge of engineering work.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 13; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 20; Code 1933, § 84-2112, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1.

§ 43-15-11. Professional engineer's examination

An applicant for the professional engineer's examination shall designate the special branch of engineering in which the applicant proposes to engage. The scope of the professional engineer's examination administered to him shall be prescribed by the board with respect to that branch of engineering, with special reference to the applicant's ability to design and supervise engineering work so as to ensure the safety of life, health, and property.

HISTORY: Code 1933, § 84-2113, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1.

§ 43-15-12. Land surveyor-in-training certificate; eligibility

To be eligible for certification as a land surveyor-in-training, an applicant must meet the following minimum requirements:

(1)(A) Earn a bachelor's degree in a curriculum approved by the board; or

(B) Earn an associate degree, or its equivalent, in a curriculum approved by the board and acquire not less than two years of combined office and field experience in land surveying of a nature satisfactory to the board; or

(C) Earn a high school diploma, or its equivalent and acquire not less than four years' experience in land surveying of a nature satisfactory to the board; and

(2) Acquire a minimum of 15 quarter hours' credit, or its equivalent, in land surveying subjects in a course of study approved by the board; provided, however, that on and after January 1, 1995, the minimum requirement shall be 20 quarter hours' credit, five of which shall be in hydrology; and

(3) Subsequently pass the board's written examination in the fundamentals of land surveying (land surveyor-in-training examination).

HISTORY: Code 1933, § 84-2114, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1981, p. 763, § 1; Ga. L. 1992, p. 3297, § 2.

§ 43-15-13. Land surveyor certificate of registration; eligibility

To be eligible for a certificate of registration as a land surveyor, an applicant must meet the following minimum requirements:

(1)(A) Obtain certification as a land surveyor-in-training under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and paragraph (3) of Code Section 43-15-12;

(B) Acquire a specific record of the equivalent of not less than four years of combined office and field experience in land surveying with a minimum of three years' experience in responsible charge of land surveying projects under the supervision of a registered land surveyor or such other supervision deemed by the board to be the equivalent thereof; and

(C) Subsequently pass a written examination on the principles and practices of land surveying and the laws of this state relating to land surveying (land surveyor examination);

(2)(A) Obtain certification as a land surveyor-in-training under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) and paragraph (3) of Code Section 43-15-12;

(B) Acquire an additional specific record of the equivalent of not less than four years of combined office and field experience in land surveying which, together with the qualifying experience under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of Code Section 43-15-12, includes not less than four years' experience in responsible charge of land surveying projects under the supervision of a registered land surveyor or such other supervision deemed by the board to be the equivalent thereof; and

(C) Subsequently pass a written examination on the principles and practices of land surveying and the laws of Georgia relating to land surveying (land surveyor examination); or

(3)(A) Obtain certification as a land surveyor-in-training under subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) and paragraph (3) of Code Section 43-15-12;

(B) Acquire an additional specific record of not less than four years of experience in land surveying which, together with the qualifying experience under subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of Code Section 43-15-12, includes not less than six years' experience in responsible charge of land surveying under the supervision of a registered land surveyor or such other supervision deemed by the board to be the equivalent thereof and of a grade and character satisfactory to the board indicating that the applicant is competent to practice land surveying; and

(C) Subsequently pass a written examination on the principles and practices of land surveying and laws of this state relating to land surveying (land surveyor examination).

HISTORY: Code 1933, § 84-2115, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1981, p. 763, § 2; Ga. L. 1992, p. 3297, § 3; Ga. L. 2002, p. 415, § 43.

§ 43-15-14. Examinations

Board approval of an applicant for examination entitles the applicant to admission to the next four consecutive examination offerings without reapplication. Following the first offering to which the applicant is entitled to admission, the applicant shall not be admitted to any of the succeeding three examination offerings except upon payment of a fee for each examination, to be determined by the board. Admission to any future examinations will be at the discretion of the board which may require the applicant to file a new application. An examination offering occurs regardless of whether the applicant attends.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 15; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 24; Ga. L. 1958, p. 358, § 1; Code 1933, § 84-2116, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1.

§ 43-15-15. Applications for certificates

- (a) Applications for certificates and for certificates of registration shall be made under oath to the board and shall contain such information in the form and manner as shall be prescribed by the board. The application shall be accompanied by a fee in an amount prescribed by the board.
- (b) No individual shall be eligible for a certificate or a certificate of registration under this chapter who is not of good character and reputation.
- (c) If the board denies an application on the ground that the applicant lacks the requisite experience to admit him to the examination, the board may impose on the applicant a period of deferment on the filing of a new application, during which period the board shall not be required to accept for filing a new application by the applicant. The period of deferment shall not exceed the time reasonably required to acquire the requisite experience.
- (d) An application shall contain the names of not less than five persons, not related to the applicant by blood or marriage, of whom at least three shall be professional engineers or land surveyors having personal knowledge of the experience on which the applicant predicates his qualifications.
- (e) Experience required under this chapter shall be of a character and nature approved by the board and consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 14; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 22; Code 1933, § 84-2109, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1984, p. 1146, § 3.

§ 43-15-16. Registration by comity

- (a) The board may, in its discretion, upon application therefor and the payment of a fee prescribed by the board, issue a certificate of registration as a professional engineer to any individual who holds a certificate of qualification or registration issued to him by proper authority of the National Council of Engineering Examiners or of any state or territory or

possession of the United States if the requirements of the registration of professional engineers under which the certificate of qualification or registration was issued do not conflict with this chapter and are of a standard not lower than that specified in this chapter or if the applicant held such certificate on or before July 1, 1956. The fact that the statute under which the individual was issued a certificate of qualification or registration in another state does not provide that the required written examination be passed subsequent to the acquisition of the required experience shall not be deemed as a conflict with, or lower than, the Georgia requirements, provided that the written examination and the amount of experience required for registration are substantially equivalent to the Georgia requirements.

(b) The board may, in its discretion, upon application therefor and the payment of a fee prescribed by the board, issue a certificate of registration as a land surveyor to any person who holds a certificate of registration to practice land surveying issued by a state or territory or possession of the United States obtained:

- (1) By written examination of not less than eight hours in duration prior to July 1, 1968;
- (2) By written examination of not less than 16 hours in duration prior to July 1, 1978; or
- (3) Under qualifications comparable to those prescribed by this chapter; and

in addition passes a written examination on the laws of Georgia relating to land surveying (land surveyor examination).

HISTORY: Code 1933, § 84-2117, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1984, p. 1146, § 4.

§ 43-15-17. Issuance, expiration, and renewal of certificates and certificates of registration

(a) Certificates and certificates of registration shall be issued to applicants who successfully complete the respective requirements therefor upon the payment of fees prescribed by the board.

(b) Certificates of registration shall be renewable biennially. Renewal may be effected for the succeeding two years by the payment of the fee prescribed by the board. Certificates of registration may be renewed subsequent to their expiration upon the payment of accumulated unpaid fees and of a penalty in an amount to be determined by the board. A certificate of registration which has been expired for a period of greater than four years shall be automatically revoked.

(c) The division director shall give notice by mail to each person holding a certificate of registration under this chapter of the date of the expiration of the certificate of registration and the amount of the fee required for renewal, at least one month prior to the expiration date; but the failure to receive such notice shall not avoid the expiration of any certificate of registration not renewed in accordance with this Code section.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, §§ 16, 17; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, §§ 25, 27, 28; Ga. L. 1956, p. 691, § 1; Ga. L. 1958, p. 358, § 2; Ga. L. 1972, p. 222, § 9; Code 1933, § 84-2118, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 2000, p. 1706, § 19.

§ 43-15-18. Effect of certificate of registration

(a) In the case of a registered professional engineer, the certificate of registration shall authorize the practice of professional engineering. In the case of a registered land surveyor, the certificate of registration shall authorize the practice of land surveying. A certificate of registration shall show the full name of the registrant, shall have a serial number, and shall be signed by the chairman of the board and the division director under the seal of the board.

(b) The issuance of a certificate of registration by the board shall be evidence that the person named therein is entitled to all the rights and privileges of a registered professional engineer or a registered land surveyor, as the case may be, as long as the certificate remains unrevoked, unexpired, or unaffected by other discipline imposed by the board.

HISTORY: Code 1933, § 84-2120, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 2000, p. 1706, § 19.

§ 43-15-19. Revocation, suspension, or denial of certificates or certificates of registration; reprimands

(a) The board shall have the power, after notice and hearing, to deny any application made to it, to revoke or suspend any certificate or certificate of registration issued by it, or to reprimand any person holding a certificate or certificate of registration issued by it, upon the following grounds:

- (1) Commission of any fraud or deceit in obtaining a certificate or certificate of registration;
- (2) Any gross negligence, incompetency, or unprofessional conduct in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying as a registered professional engineer or land surveyor;
- (3) Affixing a seal to any plan, specification, plat, or report contrary to Code Section 43-15-22;
- (4) Conviction of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude in the courts of this state, the United States, or of any state or territory of the United States or the conviction of an offense in another jurisdiction which, if committed in this state, would be deemed a felony. "Conviction" shall include a finding or verdict of guilt, a plea of guilty, or a plea of nolo contendere in a criminal proceeding, regardless of whether the adjudication of guilt or sentence is withheld or not entered thereon pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42 or any comparable rule or statute; or
- (5) Any violation of this chapter or any rule or regulation promulgated by the board pursuant to the powers conferred on it by this chapter.

(b) "Unprofessional conduct," as referred to in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section, includes a violation of those standards of professional conduct for professional engineers and land surveyors adopted by the board pursuant to the power conferred upon it to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the duties and powers conferred on it by this chapter.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 22; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 34; Ga. L. 1972, p. 222, § 13; Code 1933, § 84-2126, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1982, p. 3, § 43.

§ 43-15-20. Reissuance of certificates and certificates of registration; fee

(a) The board, in its sole discretion, may reissue a certificate or a certificate of registration to any person whose certificate or certificate of registration has been revoked or may terminate any suspension imposed by it upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the board and upon the payment of a fee prescribed by the board.

(b) A new certificate or certificate of registration to replace any certificate lost, destroyed, or mutilated may be issued subject to the rules of the board upon the payment of a fee prescribed by the board.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 22; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 36; Code 1933, § 84-2128, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1992, p. 3297, § 4.

§ 43-15-21. Temporary permit

(a) The board, or its delegate, in its sole discretion, may issue a temporary permit to a person who is not a resident of and who has no established place of business in this state, or who has recently become a resident thereof, to permit him, in accordance with the conditions of the temporary permit, to practice or offer to practice engineering in this state if:

(1) An application for a certificate of registration has been filed with the board and the fee required by this chapter has been paid;

(2) The applicant is legally qualified to practice such profession in the state or country of the applicant's residence or former residence; and

(3) The requirements and qualifications for obtaining a certificate of registration in that jurisdiction are not lower than those specified in this chapter.

(b) An application under subsection (a) of this Code section shall be made to the board in writing, containing such information and in the form and manner as shall be prescribed by the board.

(c) The temporary permit shall continue only for such time as the board requires for the consideration of the application for registration. The temporary permit shall contain such conditions with respect to the scope of the permission granted as the board deems necessary or desirable.

(d) Plans, specifications, plats, and reports issued by a person holding a temporary permit shall bear his signature and a stamp containing his name, business address, and "Georgia Professional Engineer Temporary Permit No. .". The signature and stamp shall be affixed only in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b) of Code Section 43-15-22.

(e) A person who has obtained a temporary permit and practices in accordance therewith is

deemed to be a professional engineer for purposes of this chapter, but a temporary permit shall not be deemed to be a registration under any provision of this chapter, including, by way of illustration and not limitation, Code Section 43-15-23.

HISTORY: Code 1933, § 84-2122, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1984, p. 1146, §§ 5, 6.

§ 43-15-22. Registrant required to obtain seal; inscription; purpose; fraudulent use of seal

(a) Every engineer and land surveyor registered under this chapter shall, upon receipt of a certificate of registration, obtain a seal of the design authorized by the board, bearing the registrant's name, certificate number, and the legend "Registered Professional Engineer," or "Registered Land Surveyor," in accordance with the certificate of registration.

(b) Plans, specifications, plats, and reports issued by a registrant shall be stamped or sealed and countersigned by the registrant; but it shall be unlawful for the registrant or any other person to stamp or seal any document with such seal after the certificate of the registrant named thereon has expired, or has been revoked, or during the period of any suspension imposed by the board. No plans, specifications, plats, or reports shall be stamped with the seal of a registrant unless such registrant has personally performed the engineering or land surveying work involved or, when the registrant has not personally performed the engineering or land surveying work reflected in any plan, specification, plat, or report, such registrant has affixed his or her seal thereto only if such document has been prepared by an employee or employees under the registrant's direct supervisory control on a daily basis and after the registrant has thoroughly reviewed the work embodied in such document and has satisfied himself or herself completely that such work is adequate.

(c) No registrant shall affix his seal to any plan, specification, plat, or report unless he has assumed the responsibility for the accuracy and adequacy of the work involved.

(d) Any registrant who has affixed his or her seal to any plan, specification, plat, or report prepared by another person not under the registrant's direct supervisory control on a daily basis, and without having thoroughly reviewed such work, shall be deemed to have committed a fraudulent act of misconduct in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 16; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 26; Ga. L. 1972, p. 222, § 8; Code 1933, § 84-2121, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1992, p. 3297, § 5.

§ 43-15-23. Practice of professional engineering by or through firm, corporation, or other entity

(a) The practice of or offer to practice professional engineering, as defined in this chapter, by individual professional engineers registered under this chapter through a firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or other entity offering engineering services to the public or by a firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or other entity offering engineering services to the public through individual registered professional engineers as agents, employees, officers, members, or partners is permitted subject to the provisions of this chapter; provided, however, that one or more of the principals, officers, members, or partners of said firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association,

or other entity and all personnel of such firm, corporation, partnership, association, or entity who act in its behalf as professional engineers in this state shall be registered as provided in this chapter; and further provided that said firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or entity has been issued a certificate of authorization by the board as provided in this chapter.

(b) A firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or other entity desiring a certificate of authorization shall file with the board an application upon a form to be prescribed by the board and accompanied by the registration fee prescribed by the board.

(c)(1) A corporation or professional corporation shall file with the board, using a form provided by the board, the names and addresses of all officers and board members of the corporation, including the principal officer or officers duly registered to practice professional engineering in this state and of an individual or individuals duly registered to practice professional engineering within this state who shall be in responsible charge of the practice of professional engineering in this state by said corporation.

(2) A partnership shall file with the board, using a form provided by the board, the names and addresses of all partners of the partnership, including the partner or partners duly registered to practice professional engineering in this state and of an individual or individuals duly registered to practice professional engineering in this state who shall be in responsible charge of the practice of professional engineering in this state by said partnership.

(3) Any firm, limited liability company, association, or entity which is not a corporation, professional corporation, or partnership shall file with the board, using a form provided by the board, the names and addresses of all principals or members of the firm, association, or entity duly registered to practice professional engineering in this state who shall be in responsible charge of the practice of professional engineering in this state by said firm, association, or other entity.

(4) The forms provided in paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection must accompany a biennial renewal fee prescribed by the board. In the event there shall be a change in any of these persons, such change shall be designated on the same form and filed with the board by the firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or entity within 30 days after the effective date of the change.

(d)(1) After all of the requirements of this Code section have been complied with, the board shall issue to such firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or other entity a certificate of authorization.

(2) The board may refuse to issue a certificate if any facts exist which would entitle the board to suspend or revoke an existing certificate or if the board shall determine that any of the officers, directors, principals, members, agents, or employees of the entity to be licensed are not persons of good character.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 19; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 29; Ga. L. 1972, p. 222, § 10; Code 1933, § 84-2123, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1982, p. 2269, § 1; Ga. L. 1990, p. 1491, § 2; Ga. L. 1993, p. 123, § 32.

§ 43-15-23.1. Land surveying firms, corporations, or other entities; application; fee; certificate of authorization

(a) The practice of or offer to practice land surveying, as defined in this chapter, by individual land surveyors registered under this chapter through a firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or other entity offering land surveying services to the public or by a firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or other entity offering land surveying services to the public through individual registered land surveyors as agents, employees, officers, members, or partners is permitted subject to the provisions of this chapter; provided, however, that one or more of the principals, officers, members, or partners of said firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or other entity and all personnel of such firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or entity who act in its behalf as land surveyors in this state shall be registered as provided in this chapter; and further provided that said firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or entity has been issued a certificate of authorization by the board as provided in this chapter.

(b) A firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or other entity desiring a certificate of authorization shall file with the board an application upon a form to be prescribed by the board and accompanied by the registration fee prescribed by the board.

(c)(1) A corporation or professional corporation shall file with the board, using a form provided by the board, the names and addresses of all officers and board members of the corporation, including the principal officer or officers duly registered to practice land surveying in this state and of an individual or individuals duly registered to practice land surveying within this state who shall be in responsible charge of the practice of land surveying in this state by said corporation.

(2) A partnership shall file with the board, using a form provided by the board, the names and addresses of all partners of the partnership, including the partner or partners duly registered to practice land surveying in this state and of an individual or individuals duly registered to practice land surveying in this state who shall be in responsible charge of the practice of land surveying in this state by said partnership.

(3) Any firm, limited liability company, association, or entity which is not a corporation, professional corporation, or partnership shall file with the board, using a form provided by the board, the names and addresses of all principals or members of the firm, association, or entity duly registered to practice land surveying in this state who shall be in responsible charge of the practice of land surveying in this state by said firm, association, or other entity.

(4) The forms provided in paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection must accompany a biennial renewal fee prescribed by the board. In the event there shall be a change in any of these persons, such change shall be designated on the same form and filed with the board by the firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or entity within 30 days after the effective date of the change.

(d)(1) After all of the requirements of this Code section have been complied with, the board

shall issue to such firm, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, association, or other entity a certificate of authorization.

(2) The board may refuse to issue a certificate if any facts exist which would entitle the board to suspend or revoke an existing certificate or if the board shall determine that any of the officers, directors, principals, members, agents, or employees of the entity to be licensed are not persons of good character.

(3) Every firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity which performs or offers to perform surveying services shall have a resident registered land surveyor in responsible charge in each separate branch office in which surveying services are performed or offered to be performed. A resident means a registrant who spends the majority of his or her normal working time at his or her place of business. The registrant can be the resident licensee at only one place of business at one time.

HISTORY: Code 1981, § 43-15-23.1, enacted by Ga. L. 1990, p. 1491, § 3; Ga. L. 1992, p. 3297, § 6; Ga. L. 1993, p. 123, § 33.

§ 43-15-24. Construction of structures jeopardizing health, safety, or welfare; exceptions; record of building permits

(a) It shall be unlawful for this state or any of its political subdivisions such as a county, municipality, or school district, or agencies thereof, or for any private or commercial entity to engage in the construction of any work or structures involving professional engineering which by the nature of their function or existence could adversely affect or jeopardize the health, safety, or welfare of the public unless the plans and specifications have been prepared under the direct supervision or review of and bear the seal of, and the construction is executed under the direct supervision of or review by, a registered professional engineer or architect.

(b) Nothing in this Code section shall be held to apply to any construction, including alterations, of which the completed cost is less than \$100,000.00 or which is used exclusively for private or noncommercial purposes, or to private residences, or to noncommercial farm buildings, or to residence buildings not exceeding two stories in height, excluding basements.

(c) Any county, municipality, or other governing body in this state that issues building permits is required to maintain a permanent record of the permit application and issuance thereon, which record shall indicate the name of the professional engineer or architect, if any, that has sealed the plans, specifications, plats, or reports pursuant to which said building permit is issued, said record to include details on the size, type of building or structure, use for said building or structure, and estimated cost of construction.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 19; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 30; Ga. L. 1972, p. 222, § 11; Code 1933, § 84-2124, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1982, p. 2483, §§ 1, 2; Ga. L. 1994, p. 97, § 43.

§ 43-15-25. Procedure for filing charges against certificate holder

(a) Any person may prefer charges of fraud, deceit, gross negligence, incompetency, or unprofessional conduct against any person holding a certificate or certificate of registration. Such charges shall be in writing, shall be sworn to by the person making them, and shall be filed with the board.

(b) All such charges, unless dismissed by the board as unfounded or trivial, shall be acted upon by the board.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 22; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 35; Code 1933, § 84-2127, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1.

§ 43-15-26. Cease and desist orders; civil penalties for violation of order

(a) After notice and hearing, the board may issue an order prohibiting any person from violating Code Section 43-15-7 and may fine such person at least \$100.00 but not more than \$5,000.00 per violation.

(b) The violation of any order of the board issued under subsection (a) of this Code section shall subject the person violating the order to an additional civil penalty not in excess of \$100.00 for each transaction constituting a violation of such order. The board may maintain an action in the superior courts of this state in its own name to recover the penalties provided for in this Code section.

HISTORY: Code 1933, § 84-2107, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1997, p. 527, § 1; Ga. L. 1999, p. 81, § 43.

§ 43-15-27. Enforcement of chapter

(a) It shall be the duty of all duly constituted law enforcement officers of this state and of the political subdivisions of this state to enforce this chapter and to prosecute any person violating this chapter.

(b) The Attorney General or his designated assistant shall act as legal adviser to the board and render such legal assistance as may be necessary in carrying out this chapter.

(c) Except as provided in Code Section 25-2-14, it shall be the duty of all public officials charged with the responsibility of enforcing codes related to construction to require compliance with Code Section 43-15-24 before engineering plans, drawings, and specifications are approved by construction. Except as provided in Code Section 25-2-14, no construction which is subject to Code Section 43-15-24 and which requires the service of an engineer shall be built without such approval prior to construction.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 23; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 37; Code 1933, § 84-2129, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1982, p. 2271, § 1.

§ 43-15-28. Applicability of the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act."

The board shall exercise the powers and duties conferred upon it in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act."

HISTORY: Code 1933, § 84-2130, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1.

§ 43-15-29. Exceptions to operation of chapter

(a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as excluding a qualified architect registered in this state from such engineering practice as may be incident to the practice of his profession or as excluding a professional engineer from such architectural practice as may be incident to the practice of professional engineering.

(b) The following persons shall be exempt from this chapter:

(1) A person working as an employee or a subordinate of a person holding a certificate of registration under this chapter or an employee of a person practicing lawfully under Code Section 43-15-21, provided such work does not include final design decisions and is done under the supervision of, and responsibility therefor is assumed by, a person holding a certificate of registration under this chapter or a person practicing lawfully under Code Section 43-15-21;

(2) Officers and employees of the government of the United States while engaged within this state in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying for such government;

(3) All elective officers of the political subdivisions of the state while in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying in the performance of their official duties; and

(4) Officers and employees of the Department of Transportation, except as required by Title 46, while engaged within this state in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying for such department.

(5) Any defense, aviation, space, or aerospace company. As used in this paragraph, the term "company" shall mean any sole proprietorship, firm, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, joint stock association, corporation, or other business entity and any subsidiary or affiliate of such business entity; and

(6) Any employee, contract worker, subcontractor, or independent contractor who works for a defense, aviation, space, or aerospace company that is not required to be licensed under the provisions of this chapter pursuant to paragraph (5) of this subsection and who provides engineering for aircraft, space launch vehicles, or other defense, aviation, space, or aerospace-related products or services, or any components thereof.

(c) This chapter shall not be construed as requiring registration for the purpose of practicing professional engineering or land surveying by an individual, firm, or corporation on property owned or leased by such individual, firm, or corporation unless the same involves the public safety or public health or for the performance of engineering which relates solely to the design or fabrication of manufactured products.

(d) This chapter shall not be construed to prevent or affect the practice of professional engineering and land surveying with respect to utility facilities by any public utility subject to regulation by the Public

Service Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Power Commission, or like regulatory agencies, including its parents, affiliates, or subsidiaries; or by the officers and full-time permanent employees of any such public utility, including its parents, affiliates, or subsidiaries, except where such practice involves property lines of adjoining property owners, provided that this exception does not extend to any professional engineer or land surveyor engaged in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying whose compensation is based in whole or in part on a fee or to any engineering services performed by the above-referenced utility companies not directly connected with work on their facilities.

(e) This chapter shall not be construed to affect the lawful practice of a person acting within the scope of a license granted by the state under any other law.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 20; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 32; Ga. L. 1972, p. 222, § 12; Code 1933, § 84-2125, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1999, p. 81, § 43.

§ 43-15-30. Unlawful acts

(a) Any person who violates Code Section 43-15-7 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) Any person presenting or attempting to use as his own the certificate of registration or the seal of another obtained under this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(c) Any person who gives any false or forged evidence of any kind to the board or to any member thereof in obtaining a certificate or certificate of registration shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(d) Any person who falsely impersonates any other registrant or any person who attempts to use an expired or revoked certificate of registration shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(e) Each day or occurrence shall be considered a separate offense.

(f) Any person offering services to the public who uses by name, verbal claim, sign, advertisement, directory listing, or letterhead the words "Engineer," "Engineers," "Professional Engineering," "Engineering," or "Engineered" shall be guilty of a misdemeanor unless said person has complied with the provisions of this chapter.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1937, p. 294, § 23; Ga. L. 1945, p. 294, § 40; Code 1933, § 84-2131, enacted by Ga. L. 1975, p. 1048, § 1; Ga. L. 1982, p. 2271, § 2.

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