



**FBPE**  
FLORIDA BOARD OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

# Connection

*Linking You With the Florida Board's Latest Engineering News and Information*

October 2020

**NOTICE:** In an effort to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the FBPE office is closed, and our staff is working remotely, with limited time in the office and on modified schedules. The processing of applications and mail continues.

Phone calls to the FBPE office may not be returned immediately. We encourage you to search [our comprehensive website](#) for answers to your questions. If you cannot find the information you are looking for, please email [board@fbpe.org](mailto:board@fbpe.org).

## Renew Early and Save \$10

Professional Engineers who renew their Florida licenses early can save \$10 on the renewal fee.

Complete your renewal between Monday, Nov. 2, 2020, and Friday, Jan. 15, 2021, and pay \$88.75, rather than the usual \$98.75 fee. (Totals include a mandatory fee to combat unlicensed activity.)

Both attestations questions in the renewal process must be answered for your renewal to be complete and to take advantage of the discount.

The discount is to encourage PEs to renew early and not wait until the last minute. After Jan. 15, 2021, the renewal fee returns to \$98.75.

The discounted rate does not apply to delinquent licenses. For information on renewing your delinquent license, visit [the License Renewal page](#) on the FBPE website.

Don't forget, your PE license will expire on Feb. 28, 2021, and you will no longer be able to sign and seal engineering documents beginning March 1, 2021. Also, your continuing education must be completed by Feb. 28, 2021.



## From the Executive Director: FBPE's Outreach Goes Virtual

By **Zana Raybon**, FBPE Executive Director & FEMC President

With the fall semester getting underway at Florida's colleges of engineering and engineering technology, the Florida Board of Professional Engineers' [outreach efforts](#) also got underway. But this year things are very different because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead of visiting university students in classrooms, we are attending virtually, just as the students are.

I discussed the benefits of Professional Engineer licensure and the steps necessary to achieve it during two recent presentations.

The fall's first presentation, on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020, was to students in the pre-senior design and professional issues class, taught by Dr. Hafiz Ahmad, PE, at Florida State University, Panama City. Following the presentation, I fielded questions from the students.

The next day, I participated in the second 2020-21 Student Strategic Summit, hosted by the [Florida Engineering Society's Florida Engineers in Education](#) group. FEE chair Dr. Matthew Trussoni of the University of Miami and vice chair Dr. Charles Davis of Valencia College led the summit. Around two dozen students participated. FES has posted [a recording of the session online](#).

We have other outreach presentations scheduled throughout the fall semester, and will be scheduling presentations in the spring.

If any university engineering class or group is interested in having a virtual visit to discuss PE exams and licensure, please contact [publicinfo@fbpe.org](mailto:publicinfo@fbpe.org).

As you are probably aware, FBPE's outreach isn't the only aspect that has gone virtual. FBPE and Florida Engineers Management Corporation board and committee meetings are being held using the Zoom video platform. All of the meetings are open to the public and are listed on [our online calendar](#). If you wish to attend a meeting virtually, please email [board@fbpe.org](mailto:board@fbpe.org) for details.

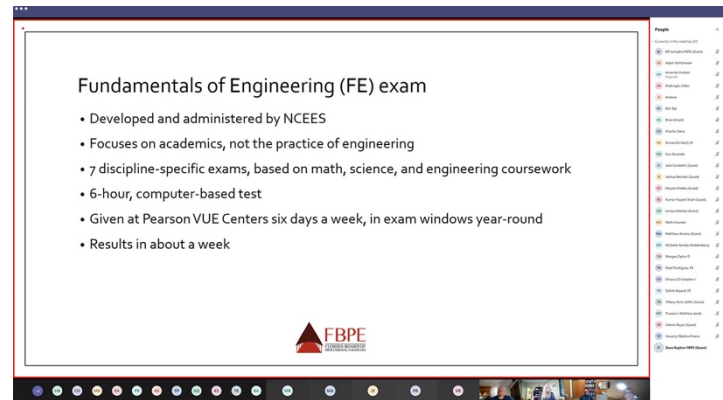
## Chairs Corner: Rule Changes for SI Certification

By BABU VARGHESE, PE, SI, CGC, CCC, FBPE Chair (2020)

The certification requirements for the Special Inspector of Threshold Buildings (SI) have gone through a rigorous rule-making process. Though the requirements for the SI certification were not changed, a new class of certification was introduced called SI (Limited). This was necessitated due to the demands of various building departments requiring SI certification for concrete-restoration work on threshold buildings, which left many engineers who had decades of experience suddenly out of work.

The definition of threshold buildings as defined by Section 553.71(12), Florida Statutes, remains the same. The statute defines threshold building as "any building which is greater than three stories or 50 feet in height, or which has an assembly occupancy classification as defined in the Florida Building Code which exceeds 5,000 square feet in area and an occupant content of greater than 500 persons." The addition of a new type of certification simply pertains to limiting inspections to restoration of a threshold building.

The Board is glad to craft Rule 61G15-35.0021, Florida Administrative Code, allowing a SI (Limited) certification to perform inspections on the alteration, restoration, repair, and rehabilitation of threshold buildings. However, those with the limited certification are not permitted to do the inspections on new construction of threshold buildings.



Before the rule was adopted by the Board, it went through the entire rule-making process, moving through the FBPE Rules Committee, Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC), and a public meeting that included participation from professional associations and other interested parties.

The genesis of this problem was when the Florida Building Commission issued declaratory statement DS2014-061 about four years back, indicating that an existing threshold building undergoing concrete restoration or other repairs required threshold inspection. Since then, building officials across Florida, especially in South Florida, started requiring threshold inspections for all kinds of repair work involving threshold buildings.

Several engineers complained to the Board that this requirement by building officials caused them to lose their livelihoods. Many others applied for the Special Inspector certification. Though the Board sympathized with these engineers, the Board was in fact helpless in solving this problem for the past four years due to the following reasons: The statute did not allow for a new category of Special Inspectors who only perform inspections of restoration work, nor could the Board lower the standards required for the Special Inspector's certification, which is an important aspect of construction to ensure life safety.

The 2019 House Bill 827, by amending Section 553.79, F.S., by requiring the enforcing agency to require substantial work performed on all new and existing threshold buildings, regardless of whether work done as new construction, repair, or restoration, be subject to inspections by a Special Inspector. In order to implement this statutory change, the Board has created a new class of certification called Special Inspectors of Threshold buildings (Limited), also referred to as Threshold Inspectors (Limited) or SI (Limited). The Threshold Inspector (Limited) can only perform inspections on the restoration or repair of threshold buildings and is not permitted to inspect new construction of threshold buildings.

The qualifying criteria for SI (Limited) is somewhat identical to SI except that the experience garnered from design and inspection of component design, such as pre-stressed or post-tensioned concrete, balconies, exterior walls, etc., will be acceptable for SI (Limited). The SI (Limited) certification can be upgraded to SI, once the qualifying experience is met and a new application with that experience is filed. Upon approval of the SI certification, the old SI (Limited) certification will be voided.

### *Application Forms*

The Special Inspector applications have been revised substantially to address a few of the shortcomings the Board has noticed over the years. In the past, the applicants have been self-certifying their experience. Though the Special Inspector of record's name may have been on the form, that person may not have seen or been aware of the applicant making the claim. This might have led to embellishments, such as claiming excessive time and other non-verifiable events. The new application for both SI and SI (Limited) requires the Engineer of Record or a colleague (in the event the applicant is the Engineer of Record) and the SI of record to certify each experience form. This new procedure falls more in line with the current PE application process, where the employment is verified by a supervisor.

The new application also has an expanded section that lays out the criteria that qualifies the building as a threshold type. The different items in this section paint a visual image of the building, allowing the reviewer to have a feel for the size of the building and the time claimed for design or inspection experience.

### *Pitfalls in completing the application*

The most common issues that applicants make, which prevent them from getting the approval or it being delayed or denied, are an incomplete application, missing supporting documentation, or failure to follow the instructions on the application.

Though the instructions on each page of the SI experience form stress that experience is recognized (either for design or inspection) only when that experience involves “all components” of the building, many applicants still try to claim the experience when just one component, such as post-tension floor design, is involved. But for SI (Limited), experience in just one aspect of any of the component design of a threshold building is acceptable.

Another common mistake that applicants make is to have overlapping experience. It is normal for an engineer to work on two projects during a month. But it is not acceptable to claim experience of one month for each project. This is called “double dipping.” Use judgement to allocate time appropriately to each project. After all, we are counting months of experience and not days.

A spreadsheet called the “experience calculator” is provided on the FBPE website along with the application form, because of the persistent problems we have seen in this area. The applicant is encouraged to use the experience calculator, which will highlight the overlapping months of experience, so that the applicant can identify any problems prior to submitting the application.

Misidentifying the threshold building is another mistake. For example, incorrectly claiming experience on a one-story, million-square-foot, furniture showroom, which may have an occupant load of 500. This is not a threshold building since it does not have assembly classification. No experience will be credited for the design or inspection experience for either of the certification applications.

The Board hopes that the two pathways of certification, which were not available in the past, will help applicants obtain the appropriate certification according to their expertise.

## **Log into Your Account Now in Preparation for Renewal**

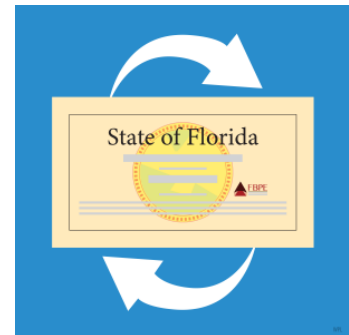
It's a good idea to log into your [DBPR online account](#) at [myfloridalicense.com](http://myfloridalicense.com) in the next few weeks, before the renewal period starts.

You want to ensure that you can access your account — and troubleshoot any problems that you may encounter — before trying to renew your Professional Engineer license.

Here are some common problems, and their solutions:

**You are asked for an activation code.** Your activation code is the last four digits of your Social Security Number (SSN). If you cannot access your account by using this information, contact the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:850-521-0500).

**A message says that your email address is associated with another account.** Contact the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:850-521-0500) to verify the email address on file with your account. If the email associated with your account is no longer valid, we can reset your account so that a new email address can be linked to your record. But you will not be able to use the existing email address again with your account.



**You forgot your password.** If you attempt to sign into your account and have forgotten your password, select “Forgot My Password.” You will be prompted to “Create a New Password” by answering your security question. After creating a new password, you should be able to access your account.

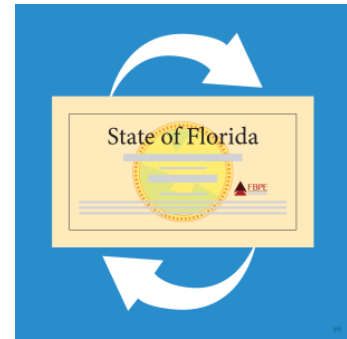
**You forgot the answer to the security question associated with your account.** Contact the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:8505210500) or email [renewal@fbpe.org](mailto:renewal@fbpe.org). Once FBPE has retrieved the information, an email will be sent to you with the answer to your security question. However, it may take up to 24 hours to process your request. If you are sending a request to retrieve your answer, you must include your name, license number, and the email address linked to your account to complete the request.

If you run into any other errors, contact the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:8505210500) for assistance.

## Licensure Renewal Information and Tips

All current Professional Engineer licenses are set to expire, Feb. 28, 2021. Beginning Monday, Nov. 2, 2020, online license renewal will officially open for the 2021-23 biennium.

To assist you in renewing your license, FBPE is providing you with general information, helpful hints, and basic instructions for accessing your account and renewing your license online. We have also included information about license status changes and continuing education requirements. Please read the information very carefully prior to renewing your license. If you have any issues accessing your account, please call the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:8505210500) and select “Renewal” for assistance.



### General Renewal Information

**Renewal Fee:** You can save \$10 if you renew your Professional Engineer license before Jan. 15, 2021. Renewal fees include a \$5 unlicensed activity fee, which FBPE must charge pursuant to [Chapter 497.140, Florida Statutes, Fees](#). (If your license is currently delinquent, your renewal fee will be \$222.50.) If you fail to renew by the deadline of Feb. 28, 2021, you must pay a \$25 delinquent fee. Renewal fees are:

**\$88.75:** Discounted renewal fee for current and active licenses, *applies Nov. 2, 2020, through Jan. 15, 2021.*

**\$98.75:** Regular renewal fee for current and active licenses, applies Jan. 16 through Feb. 28, 2021.

**\$123.75:** Renewal fee and delinquent fee, applies after Feb. 28, 2021.

**Engineering Companies:** Following a change in the Florida statutes in 2019, companies offering engineering services in Florida are no longer required to hold Certificates of Authorization. Instead, any company offering engineering services in Florida must have a licensed Professional Engineer qualify them; qualified business organizations do not need to be renewed every two years. For more information, see the [Engineering Firms](#) page under the *Licensure* section on the FBPE website.

**Online Printing of Licenses:** PE licenses are *only* available through your account at [myfloridalicense.com](http://myfloridalicense.com). Licenses cannot be mailed. Check your licensure record prior to renewal to ensure that the email address and other information associated with your license is current and accurate. If any information is dated or incorrect, you risk not getting important notices from the Board.

**Continuing Education Requirements:** Professional Engineers licensed in Florida are required to obtain 18 continuing education hours to renew their licenses. For more information about the CE requirement, visit the [Continuing Education](#) section of FBPE’s website. Exceptions to the CE requirement include:

**Some New Licensees:** If you passed your Principles & Practice exam in April 2019 or October 2019, and Florida is your first state of PE licensure, you are only required to pay the fee to renew your license. You do not need to complete the 18 hours of continuing education for this renewal cycle. However, effective with the 2023-2025 biennium, you must complete your continuing education hours and pay the renewal fee to renew your license.

**Inactive Licensees:** If your license is currently “inactive” and you want to become “active,” you can renew your license at [myfloridalicense.com](http://myfloridalicense.com) and pay the renewal fee (see above). Once that is complete, contact the Board office at  [\(850\) 521-0500 ext. 113](tel:8505210500), to find out how to complete the status change. You may be required to show that you have completed the 18 hours of CE if your license has been “inactive” for more than a year.

**Attestation Statements:** Each licensee must attest to the accuracy of their licensure information, the completion of CE for the renewal period, and the reporting of any disciplinary action taken against your license in another jurisdiction. Your license will not renew until you have provided a response to these statements.

**Receipts:** You should receive an automatic email from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation licensing system confirming that your renewal application has been received. This email will contain an Online Payment Summary in the form of a PDF attachment. This serves as a receipt.

**Replacement Certificates:** Replacement wall certificates (not licenses) for PEs can be ordered for \$25. Please allow four to six weeks for printing and mailing of a replacement certificate. (PE licenses are available *online only*.)

### *License Issues & Status Changes*

**Delinquent/Active License:** If your license has a status of *delinquent/active* and you wish to renew your license, you *must* complete 18 hours of continuing education, including one hour of Florida laws and rules from a Board-approved provider, and one hour of professional ethics; and four hours related to your area of practice; and 12 hours related to any topic pertinent to the practice of engineering.

You also must pay a \$25 delinquent fee, as well as the fee for the past renewal cycle and the fee for the current renewal. If you do not renew before Feb. 28, 2021, your license will become *null and void*.

**Null & Void License:** If your license is *delinquent* and you do not renew in this renewal cycle, your license status will become *null and void* on March 1, 2021. A license status of *null and void* means that your PE license is no longer valid. To have your license reinstated, you must complete an application, meet the requirements, and pay a \$155 fee. The reinstatement application and other information is available on the [Change of Status & Other FBPE Applications](#) page in the *Licensure* section of the FBPE website.

**License Status Change:** To change the status of your PE license (to active or inactive), please use the *Change of Status Application* on the [Change of Status & Other FBPE Applications](#) page in the *Licensure* section of the FBPE website. Complete details and fees are available on that page.

**Military Status:** Pursuant to Section 455.02(1), F.S., any member of the U.S. Armed Forces may request that their PE license be placed in a military status, without paying dues or fees or performing any other act such as continuing education. This status will be in effect as long as the service member is on active duty and for a period of six months after discharge from active duty, if they are not engaged in the licensed profession or vocation in the private sector for profit.

If you are a Professional Engineer licensed in Florida and meet these requirements, you must inform the Board and provide the military orders placing you on active duty. Once you are discharged from active duty, you must notify the Board within six months of discharge and submit a Form DD-214. No continuing education or fee is required to return your license to a current and active status. If you have any questions regarding an active military status, please contact the Board office at [renewal@fbpe.org](mailto:renewal@fbpe.org) or call [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:850-521-0500) and select "Renewal."

## FBPE COVID-19 Updates Online

FBPE's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Updates page](#) provides news regarding the effects of the pandemic on license, board and committee meetings, examinations, and other information pertinent to Professional Engineers in Florida. The page is updated as necessary.

## NCEES COVID-19 Updates Online

Likewise, NCEES is updating [its COVID-19 page on its website](#) as needed with information regarding exams and other topics.

## 2020 FEMC Annual Report Highlights

The [Florida Engineers Management Corporation](#) produces an annual report as required by [Section 471.038, Florida Statutes](#).

The report is submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, and the Florida Legislature by Oct. 1 each year. It reports on the status of the corporation, including information concerning FEMC programs and funding, as well as information regarding licenses and complaints handled by FEMC.

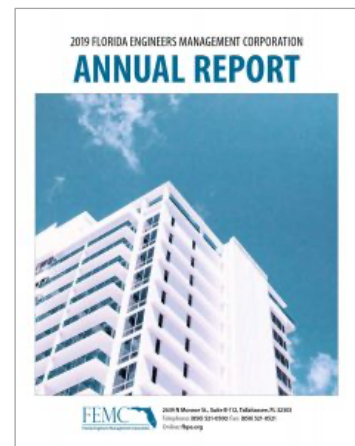
Below are some highlights from the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019-20 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020):

**34** – Number of FBPE Board, FEMC Directors, and committee meetings administered

**40,786** – Average number of licensees and others receiving FBPE's [Connection newsletter](#) each quarter

**690,000** – Number of pageviews of the FBPE website

**1,500** – Approximate number of engineering students reached by **11** outreach visits to discuss engineering exams and licensure at universities and companies/organizations (before the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed travel)



## LICENSURE STATISTICS

- 3,185 – Applications received for licensure as Professional Engineers
- 3,527 – Applications for licensure approved (includes applications received prior to FY19-20)
- 76 – PE licenses renewed
- 1,239 – Examinees passed the computer-based Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam
- 695 – Applications approved for the October 2019 Principals & Practice of Engineering (PE) exam, with 326 passing (The April 2020 exam was canceled due to the pandemic.)
- 284 – Certificates of Authorization\* issued for firms to provide engineering services in Florida
- 54 – Certificates of Authorization\* renewed
- 11 – Certifications issued for Special Inspectors of threshold-type buildings
- 63 – Days on average to issue a license

## LEGAL STATISTICS

- 451 – Complaints regarding engineering practice received, of which 372 were found to be legally sufficient
- \$69,416.10 – Fines and Costs imposed
- 27 – Administrative Complaints filed in cases where the Probable Cause Panel found reason to believe a violation of the *Florida Engineering Practice Act* had occurred
- 27 – Final Orders issued against Professional Engineers
- 34 – Cases dismissed with a finding of no probable cause
- 26 – Cases dismissed with a letter of guidance
- 0 – Licenses revoked
- 0 – Voluntary Licensure Relinquishments
- 6 – Licenses suspended
- 3 – Licenses restricted
- 11 – Reprimands issued
- 7 – Probations issued
- 8 – Project reviews
- 10 – Engineers ordered to successfully complete course in Engineering Professionalism and Ethics
- 15 – Engineers ordered to successfully complete the Board's *Study Guide on Laws and Rules*

In addition to [FEMC Annual Reports](#), copies of [FEMC's Quarterly Reports](#) are also available online.

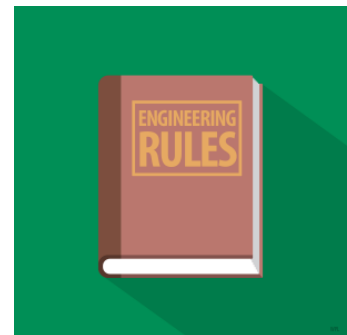
\* Certificates of Authorization were replaced with a registry of Qualified Business Organizations as of Oct. 1, 2019. For more information, please see the [Engineering Firms](#) page.

## Understanding the Responsibility Rules

By SCOTT DRURY, PE

During my tenure as a member of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers over the past few years, I have become increasingly aware that many engineers do not realize that [Division 61G15, Florida Administrative Code](#), contains various sections related to “responsibility rules” for the practice of engineering in Florida.

In both formal and informal settings, I have heard various responses about the responsibility rules. I have seen Professional Engineers who have been previously disciplined





for not following the responsibility rules in front of the Board again for similar violations. I have seen Professional Engineers with 30-plus years of experience practicing in Florida ask, “So, where would I find these rules?” Others do not believe these rules apply to them or to their situations. Engineering firms that work across multiple states may have company standards that do not meet the specific requirements of Florida. Therefore, in this article we will explore why Florida has responsibility rules, and why it is important to know what they are and to abide by them in our engineering practice.

The responsibility rules are found in Chapters 61G15-30 through 61G15-36, F.A.C. The purpose of the responsibility rules is defined in 61G15-30.001, F.A.C.:

*(1) The Board has adopted these responsibility rules pursuant to section 471.033(2), Florida Statutes, to safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the public by promoting proper conduct in the practice of engineering and due care and regard for acceptable engineering principles and standards. The Board considers that professional engineers may avoid disciplinary actions by observing the procedures set forth herein. Failure to comply with these rules may be considered as noncompliance with subsection 61G15-19.001(4), F.A.C., unless the deviation or departure therefrom is justified by the specific circumstances of the project in question. Furthermore, these rules are intended to apply as general guidelines where no contractual relationship exists between the parties addressed herein. These rules are not intended to take precedence over contractual relationships developed between the parties addressed herein, so long as those contractual relationships do not violate Chapter 471, F.S., or the stated purpose of these responsibility rules. These responsibility rules shall apply to every person holding a license as a professional engineer, and every qualified engineering business organization, as appropriate. A professional engineer’s practices, education, training, experience, qualifications, technical competence, conduct, and responsibilities in connection with his authorized engineering practice, services, and creative work are subject to regulation solely by the Board of professional engineers, the courts, and local jurisdictions.*

Let’s break this purpose down into a few key pieces:

1. The Board has statutory authority to safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the public through regulating engineering in Florida.
2. Section 471.033(2), F.S., requires the Board to create rules to define what acts or omissions could constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

*(2) The board shall specify, by rule, what acts or omissions constitute a violation of subsection (1).*

3. Failure to comply with the responsibility rules may be considered non-compliance and can result in disciplinary action.
4. The responsibility rules apply to every Professional Engineer and qualified engineering business offering engineering services in Florida.

In other words, the responsibility rules establish a minimum professional standard of care in the practice of engineering. A professional standard of care is typically “the standard provided by a reasonably prudent professional in that line of work.” The responsibility rules were created to further develop this definition, so that both the public and Professional Engineers would be aware of this minimum professional standard of care.

Many people have said something similar to this: “The project got through permitting. I complied with the requirements of \_\_\_\_\_ code. Why do I have to look at another set of requirements? The Board should just let us follow those requirements without giving us their own.” This gives a negative connotation to the rules.

Keep in mind, these various codes and standards (Florida Building Code, AASHTO, or countless others) are not regulated by the Board; instead they are regulated by other regulatory boards, commissions, or national professional societies. It is unreasonable to expect that the Board could define the minimum standard of care in each of these codes and standards. The last sentence of Rule 61G15-30.001(1), F.A.C., states:

*A professional engineer’s practices, education, training, experience, qualifications, technical competence, conduct, and responsibilities in connection with his authorized engineering practice, services, and creative work are subject to regulation solely by the Board of professional engineers, the courts, and local jurisdictions.*

In order to regulate this responsibly, the responsibility rules were developed by committee, adopted by the Board, and subjected to legislative oversight. The committees consisted of several Board members and various Professional Engineers, licensed contractors, permitting officials, or other subject-matter experts. In other words, a lot of thought went into these rules, and many eyes looked over these rules before they were officially adopted.

However, I want to challenge each of you in two specific ways regarding the responsibility rules:

**KNOW WHAT THEY SAY.** It is difficult to abide by the rules if you do not know what the rules are. You must know the rules and stay current with them. Technically, in the next few months, Professional Engineers will be renewing their licenses in Florida, which will require at least 1 hour of continuing education in Florida laws and rules. Given that the requirement is only for 1 hour, many of the possible courses are focused on changes, assuming that you were fully aware of the other requirements. If you are not familiar with the responsibility rules, you may consider reading through them after you complete your 1-hour course.

Chapter 61G15-30, F.A.C., covers general responsibility rules common to all engineers. Subsequent chapters cover specific disciplines or acts of engineers, such as structural engineering (61G15-31), fire protection engineering (61G15-32), electrical engineering (61G15-33), mechanical engineering (61G15-34), threshold building inspections (61G15-35), and product evaluation (61G15-36). While most engineers do not practice each of these types of engineering, each engineer is required to comply with the common requirements and any other requirements in their specific areas of practice.

**LOOK AT THEM FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.** As you read this next example, I am aware that not all of you hold the same faith as me. But, hopefully you may appreciate the analogy. As a Christian, I have read or heard people talk about the Ten Commandments a lot. However, I did not have the same appreciation for them until a pastor once challenged me to look at the Ten Commandments from a different point of view. Instead of reading them as negative (such as, “Thou shalt not steal”), try reading them as positive (such as, “We will respect the property of others”). Instead of simply being a restriction from living life, I was able to view these rules as a freedom to how I can live my life while trying my best to honor these commandments.

The same can apply to the responsibility rules. Instead of looking at them as a negative (“I have to do all of this or risk getting disciplined”), look at them from a positive perspective (“My engineering services will meet all requirements, and I will avoid disciplinary action”).

Instead of guessing what the minimum standard of care is or trying to guess what a “reasonable professional” would do, you can feel confident that by following these rules, you will avoid disciplinary action.

As a Professional Engineer who follows the framework in Florida’s laws and rules, you can feel confident that the services you provide to your clients meet the minimum accepted standards for practicing engineering in Florida, and by doing so, you are safeguarding the life, health, property, and welfare of the public through your work.

### *About the Author*

*Scott R. Drury, PE, is a licensed Professional Engineer in Florida with expertise in both mechanical and fire protection engineering, and is a certified Commissioning Authority (CxA), Certified Firestop Inspector, and LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP BD+C). He is the senior associate for H2Engineering Inc. with offices in Tallahassee and Gainesville, Fla. Mr. Drury began serving on the Board in February 2018 and is chair of its Mechanical Rules Committee.*

## **PE Exams Moving to Computer-based Testing Early**

By NCEES

NCEES is fast-tracking the move to computer-based testing (CBT) for two of the [Principles & Practice of Engineering \(PE\)](#) exams as part of its response to COVID-19.



### *The PE Civil exam*

The PE Civil exam is moving to computer-based testing, with appointments available year-round at Pearson VUE test centers beginning April 1, 2022.

The exam will be offered for the last time in pencil-and-paper format in October 2021. Registration for the April 2022 CBT exam will open Nov. 1, 2021.

NCEES originally planned to complete the PE Civil exam’s transition to CBT format in 2023 but fast-tracked the change as part of its response to COVID-19. After the April 2020 pencil-and-paper exam administration was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, NCEES added an extra day to the October 2020 administration and began exploring the possibility of moving the PE Civil exam to CBT earlier than planned.

“Under the current COVID-19 guidelines, fewer examinees can be in the exam room at the same time, so we began discussions with Pearson VUE about transitioning the PE Civil exam from 2023 to an earlier date,” explained NCEES Chief Officer of Examinations Tim Miller, PE. “This new format will give examinees more flexibility about when and where they take the exam.”

### *The PE Electrical and Computer exam*

The PE Electrical and Computer: Power exam is moving to computer-based testing at Pearson VUE test centers beginning Dec. 1, 2020.

NCEES originally planned to complete the PE Electrical and Computer: Power exam's transition to CBT format in April 2021. The date was moved to December 2020 to better accommodate examinees. As part of this change, NCEES canceled the October 2020 pencil-and-paper administration for the PE Electrical and Computer: Power exam and opened registration for the exam in August. Everyone who had registered for the October exam was notified and given a refund so that they could immediately register for the CBT version of the exam.

The PE Electrical and Computer exam is offered in three disciplines: Power; Computer Engineering; and Electronics, Controls, and Communications.

The Computer Engineering discipline and the Electronics, Controls, and Communications discipline will move to CBT after the October 2020 pencil-and-paper exam administration. However, these two disciplines — which have a lower volume of examinees — will be offered annually beginning October 2021 rather than year-round.

For more information about the transition of NCEES licensing exams to CBT format, visit [ncees.org/cut](https://ncees.org/cut).

### *Regional PE Civil exam scheduled for January*

To accommodate as many pencil-and-paper examinees as safely as possible, NCEES has added a regional exam administration on Jan. 26, 2021, for PE Civil examinees only.

Registration for the regional PE Civil exam administration will open Nov. 1, 2020, and close at 3:00 p.m. EST Dec. 13, 2020.

The exam will be administered in the cities listed below. (Exam sites are subject to change.)

- Phoenix, AZ
- Pomona, CA
- Denver, CO
- Orlando, FL
- Topeka, KS
- Minneapolis, MN
- Raleigh, NC
- Cleveland, OH
- Salem, OR
- Houston, TX
- Salt Lake City, UT
- Seattle, WA

Additional cities may be added before registration opens. Information will be posted at [ncees.org](https://ncees.org) as it is available.

## **Special Recognition: Congratulations, Examinees**

FBPE applauds all of the candidates that successfully passed engineering exams in the past quarter. We wish them much success as they move towards the next step in their engineering careers. [See the complete list online.](#)

## Legal Department: Latest Engineer Discipline

Pursuant to Rule 61G15-37.001(11), Florida Administrative Code, the Florida Engineers Management Corporation is required to post all Final Orders involving active disciplinary cases to the website until the terms of the final order are completed, or until the licensee becomes inactive, retires, relinquishes the license or permits the license to become null and void. Included in this section are the most recent cases in which final action has been taken by the Board, a brief description of the licensee's violation and discipline as well as a link to the final order. [View actions.](#)

## Mark Your Calendar

We regularly update our calendar to ensure you stay up to date with the latest FBPE and FEMC events. [Check out the calendar on our website.](#)

## FBPE Board Members & FEMC Directors

### FBPE Board Members

*Babu Varghese*, PE, SI, CGC, CCC; Chair  
*C. Kevin Fleming*, PE; Vice Chair  
*Dylan Albergo*, PE  
*Scott Drury*, PE  
*Pankaj (PJ) Shah*, PE  
*Vacancy*, Education  
*Vacancy*, Engineer  
*Vacancy*, Engineer  
*Vacancy*, Engineer  
*Vacancy*, Public  
*Vacancy*, Public  
*Zana Raybon*; Executive Director

### FEMC Directors

*Stephen Kowkabany*, PE; Chair  
*Art Nordlinger*, PE; Vice Chair  
*Barney T. Bishop III*  
*Safiya Brea*, PE  
*Donald Goddeau*, PE  
*Satya Lory*, PE  
*John Stewart*  
*Zana Raybon*; FEMC President  
*John Rimes*, Esq.; FEMC Vice President  
*Rebecca Sammons*; FEMC Secretary  
*Michele Morris*; FEMC Treasurer