



FBPE
FLORIDA BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Connection

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

October 2022

PE Licensure Renewal Opens Nov. 1, 2022

You cannot renew your Professional Engineer license before Nov. 1.

Chair's Corner: Good Character in Challenging Circumstances

By Scott Drury, PE, FBPE Chair (2022)

There are various stereotypes about engineers, such as lacking social and communication skills, being overly critical about everything, and not having creativity or flexibility when looking at everyday problems that do not require a Professional Engineer to solve.

I will admit it... people sometimes think that I fit these stereotypes. Even when I hold back on my criticism or simplify my solutions, I hear things like "You are such an engineer." If only they knew what I was holding back or really thinking...



One of the requirements to be certified for licensure as a Professional Engineer in Florida is to be of good moral character. Although there are various definitions of what "good moral character" is, one of the simplest I found was on [Wikipedia](#), which is summarized here:

"Good moral character is an ideal state of a person's beliefs and values that is considered most beneficial to society and can include consideration of honesty, trustworthiness, diligence, reliability, respect for the law, integrity, candor, discretion."

At some point in our professional careers, most of us will be challenged by someone who does not trust our professional opinions, who disagrees with our recommendations, or who accuses us of something that does not demonstrate good moral character... whether it is true or not. And, if any of you are like me, these types of situations cause you grief because this now threatens your professional reputation.

The real question is how do we respond to these situations? Do you become overly defensive and draw a line in the sand? Or, do you take a deep breath, look in the mirror, and figure out how to resolve the problem? We need to be able to compromise where we can, and not compromise where we cannot. We need to communicate well. And, as much as possible, we need to extend some grace in the way we do all of this.

There are times when I know I am right because I have evaluated something to the nth degree and I proposed the best solution for the situation based on that evaluation. There are other times when I think I am right, but my evaluation did not consider certain points of view. In these situations, when I stop and consider these other points of view, I sometimes find some flexibility and can compromise; there are other times when I consider these other points of view and find that my recommendation is still the right one and I cannot compromise.

For an engineering matter that affects the health, safety, and welfare of the public, we need to stand firm in our beliefs and our responsibility to the public. But we need to make sure that we are willing to take criticism, listen to other points of view, and to diffuse these challenging situations as best we can.

It can be difficult, but it is possible to have integrity, candor, and grace at the same time. Doing it this way not only helps your individual circumstance, but it also benefits the welfare of others involved, and may help with the engineering stereotypes. Moreso, it demonstrates your true character.

“Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you are, while your reputation is only what people think you are.”

- John R. Wooden

Renew Early and Save \$10

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

Complete your renewal between Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022, and Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023, and pay \$88.75, rather than the usual \$98.75 fee. (Totals include a mandatory fee to combat unlicensed activity.)

Both attestation 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, 2023, 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.

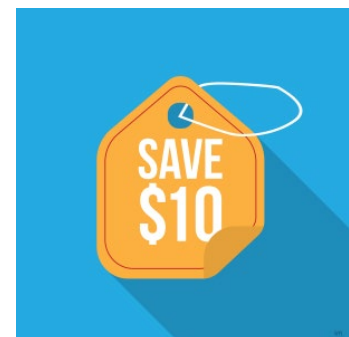
Don't forget, your PE license will expire on Feb. 28, 2023, and you will no longer be able to sign and seal engineering documents beginning March 1, 2023. Also, your continuing education must be completed by Feb. 28, 2023.

Log into Your Account Now in Preparation for Renewal

It's a good idea to log into your [DBPR online account](#) at 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. 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:850-521-0500) or email 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:850-521-0500) for assistance.

Licensure Renewal Information and Tips

Beginning Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022, online license renewal will officially open for the 2023-25 biennium.

All current Professional Engineer licenses are set to expire at midnight Feb. 28, 2023.

Here are hints, information, and basic instructions to help your renewal go smoothly. Also included is information about license status changes and continuing-education requirements.

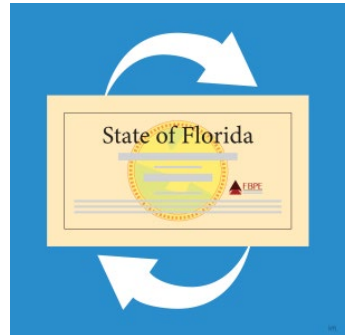
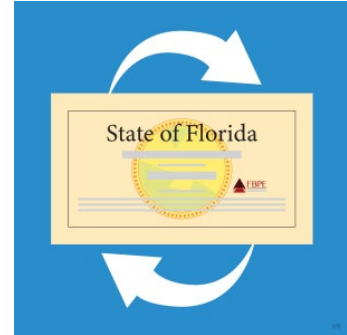
Please read the information very carefully before renewing your license. If you have any issues accessing your account, please call the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:850-521-0500) and select “Renewal” for assistance.

General Renewal Information

Renewal Fee: You can save \$10 if you renew your Professional Engineer license before Jan. 15, 2023. Renewal fees include a \$5 unlicensed activity fee, which FBPE must charge under [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, 2023, you must pay a \$25 delinquent fee.

Renewal fees are:

\$88.75: Discounted renewal fee for *current and active* licenses, *applies Nov. 1, 2022, through Jan. 15, 2023.*



\$98.75: Regular renewal fee for *current and active* licenses, applies Jan. 16 through Feb. 28, 2023.

\$123.75: Renewal fee and delinquent fee, applies after Feb. 28, 2023.

Engineering Companies: Any company offering engineering services in Florida must be registered with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and 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. *Licenses cannot be mailed.* Check your licensure record before renewal to ensure that the email address and other information associated with your license are 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 must take 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](#) during the 2021-23 biennium and Florida is your first state of PE licensure, you only have to pay the fee to renew your license. You are exempt from the required 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 status is currently *inactive* and you want to become *active*, you can renew your license at 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 Questions: 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. While you may be able to complete the renewal process and pay your renewal fee, your license will not renew until you have responded 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, 2023, 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, 2023. 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 are 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: Under [Section 455.02\(1\), F.S.](#), any member of the U.S. Armed Forces may request that their PE license be placed in *military status*, without paying dues or fees or performing any other requirement 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 engineering 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 *military status*, please contact the Board office at renewal@fbpe.org or call [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:8505210500) and select “Renewal.”

PEs Who Haven’t Responded to CE Audit Face Action

More than 100 Professional Engineers licensed in Florida ([see online list](#)) have not responded to the current [continuing-education audit](#) and face having a disciplinary complaint opened against them.

Following [licensure renewal](#) every two years, a sampling of PEs is randomly audited to ensure they are completing the required 18-hours of continuing education. When renewing their license, PEs attest that they have already completed or will complete their continuing education by midnight Feb. 28 of the renewal period.

Under [Rule 61G15-19.004, Florida Administrative Code](#), penalties for a first violation for failing to complete your CE courses — in addition to the costs of the investigation — can range from a Reprimand and a \$1,000 fine to a one-year suspension, a two-year probation, and a \$5,000 fine.

FBPE has attempted to contact each of the PEs multiple times at the email address in their account at myfloridalicense.com. Florida statutes require that PEs licensed in the state keep their contact information up to date with the Board. This includes your email address, mailing address, and place of practice. (See [Section 455.275\(1\), Florida Statutes](#).)

The PEs listed below have until Oct. 20, 2022, to respond to the audit or face possible disciplinary action. If [your name and PE number are on the list](#), please contact Wendy Anderson at wanderson@fbpe.org.

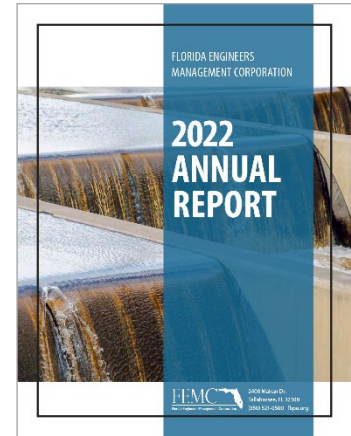


2022 FEMC Annual Report Highlights

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 highlights from the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021-22 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022):



33 – Number of meetings administered for the FBPE Board and committees

43,330 – Average number of licensees and others receiving FBPE’s [Connection newsletter](#) each quarter

227,525 – Approximate number of users of the FBPE website during FY21-22 (a non-licensure renewal year), compared to 256,898 in FY20-21 (a high-traffic renewal year) and 176,766 in FY19-20 (the previous non-renewal period)

1,250 – Approximate number of engineering students, interns, and professionals reached by **6** in-person and **3** virtual university presentations, and **1** in-person presentation to conferences, providing information on engineering exams and professional licensure

Licensure Statistics

410 – Professional Engineer licenses renewed (a non-renewal period)

3,798 – Applications received for PE licensure

3,528 – Applications for PE licensure approved

247 – Applications for PE licensure denied

15 – Certifications issued for Special Inspectors of threshold-type buildings

48 – Days on average to issue a license

924 – Examinees passed the NCEES Principles & Practice of Engineering exam (paper/pencil or CBT) in FY21-22; **794** failed the exam; and **80** did not show to take the exam

1,352 – Examinees passed the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering exam (CBT) in FY21-22; and **1,323** failed the exam

Legal Statistics

213 – Complaints regarding engineering practice processed, of which **137** were found to be legally sufficient

\$106,308.55 – Fines and Costs imposed

92 – Administrative Complaints filed in cases where the Probable Cause Panel found reason to believe a violation of the *Florida Engineering Practice Act* had occurred

80 – Final Orders issued against Professional Engineers

1 – Case tried before an administrative judge at the Division of Administrative Hearings

25 – Cases dismissed with a finding of no probable cause

15 – Cases dismissed with a letter of guidance

- 3 – Licenses revoked
- 2 – Voluntary Licensure Relinquishments
- 5 – Licenses suspended
- 3 – Licenses restricted
- 6 – Reprimands issued
- 9 – Probations issued
- 9 – Project reviews
- 65 – Engineers ordered to successfully complete course in Engineering Professionalism and Ethics
- 66 – 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.

Special Recognition: Congratulations, Examinees

FBPE applauds everyone who 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

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Jeb Mulock, PE
Yassi Myers, PE
John Pistorino, PE
Denise Ramsey, PE
Pankaj (PJ) Shah, PE
Babu Varghese, PE, SI, CGC, CCC
Vacancy
Vacancy
Zana Raybon; Executive Director

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John Rimes, Esq.; FEMC Vice President
Rebecca Sammons; FEMC Secretary
Michele Morris; FEMC Treasurer