



FBPE
FLORIDA BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Connection

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

April 2024

From the Executive Director: Strengthening Ties With the U.K.

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

In February, I had the honor of joining a delegation of U.S. engineering board officials visiting the United Kingdom to see firsthand the opportunities that a memorandum of understanding would open for cooperation between the United States and the United Kingdom.

During roundtable sessions with members of the U.K. Engineering Council, our delegation had the opportunity to learn more about the U.K.'s engineering sector and licensure process. We also were treated to site visits that showcased the innovative capabilities of the U.K. engineering profession.

We learned that the relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom is deep and critical across a multitude of sectors. The British-American partnership is one that promotes our shared values, common prosperity, and mutual security. We are each other's largest investors and foreign job creators. NCEES and the EC-UK would like to take that further, particularly for our shared expertise in professional services.

National and state governments are also looking for ways to strengthen a partnership between the U.S. and the U.K. In June 2023, President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced the Atlantic Declaration for a Twenty-First Century U.S.-U.K. Economic Partnership, to ensure that an alliance is adapted, reinforced, and reimaged for the challenges of this moment.

As part of the Atlantic Declaration, NCEES and the Council began discussions on a mutual recognition agreement, or MRA, for engineering. This follows the success of an MRA on architecture that was concluded last year.

On a state level in November 2023, Gov. Ron DeSantis and U.K. Secretary of State for Business and Trade Kemi Badenoch signed a memorandum of understanding to increase trade and bilateral investment, strengthen business ties and grow academic partnerships between Florida and the United Kingdom.

Essentially, the MRA would offer a streamlined process by which engineers with professional registration/licensure in their home jurisdiction could gain recognition in the host jurisdiction. Specifically, the agreement is intended to provide:

- A streamlined route to the U.K. Chartered Engineer title (CEng) for U.S. Professional Engineers with a state license, and



- A streamlined route to a U.S. member board PE license for Chartered Engineers.

The MRA would cover engineers who have been admitted to any of the following professional registrations:

- A Chartered Engineer, who also holds the title International Professional Engineer (IntPE), awarded by the Engineering Council, and
- A Professional Engineer licensed in a participating U.S. member board, who also holds the title NCEES International Registered Professional Engineer (IRPE).

The next step is to have as many member boards as possible agree to sign onto the MRA. At upcoming NCEES Zone Meetings, there will be a good deal of discussion about the benefits of the MRA, as well as quite a few question-and-answer sessions. NCEES wants member boards to have a clear understanding of how the agreement will work.

Our board members are attending the Southern Zone Meeting in early April in Asheville, N.C. They will have an opportunity to gather as much information as possible to make an informed decision.

Keep in mind that even if a member board agrees to allow licensure via the MRA, it may require changes to state statutes. (For the MRA process to be adopted in Florida, that would be the case.) The first step is a willingness to accept the MRA.

Chair's Corner: Easing Experience Rules for Graduate Students

By **Dylan Albergo, PE**, FBPE Chair (2024)

Five years ago, Gov. Ron DeSantis put out [a call-to-action](#) to the state's professional licensing boards to review their rules and make necessary changes to "keep Florida on a trajectory toward continued prosperity."

The Florida Board of Professional Engineers has taken this call-to-action in earnest and continues to review its rules, ensuring that "unreasonable" or outdated regulation does not impede personal or economic success, as [requested by the governor in 2019](#).

As part of this review, the Board has revised its rule regarding experience equivalence that can be counted while earning a graduate engineering degree on a part-time basis while working full-time.

For this to apply, students must be enrolled fewer than 12 hours per semester while earning their graduate degrees.

The Board changed [Rule 61G15-20.002, Florida Administrative Code](#), effective Jan. 30, 2024, so that applicants for licensure can now count up to 12 months experience equivalence for graduate engineering degrees (master's or doctoral) received while working full-time.

Post-graduate education opportunities have become increasingly more accessible in ways that were not possible in the past. The Board felt that it was necessary to consider the fact that full-time work experience gained while attending graduate school on a part-time basis has become more commonplace.



Prior to this rule change, an applicant seeking licensure who worked for one year while simultaneously earning their master’s or doctorate degree would only be awarded one year of experience. Effective Jan. 30, that same applicant can now claim two years of experience (one year work experience plus one year experience equivalence).

The Board continues to regularly review its rules to ease the burden of regulation while staying “committed to protecting the interest of public health and safety by properly regulating the practice of engineering” as charged in [Chapter 471, Florida Statutes](#).

4 Things to Do Now to Prepare for License Renewal

Are you prepared to renew your Florida Professional Engineer license later this year?

The renewal window opens in November 2024 and closes on Feb. 28, 2025.

Here are four things you can do today to make sure your renewal goes smoothly.

Log Into the Licensure Portal

Head over to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation’s website, myfloridalicense.com, log into your account, and confirm that your PE license is linked to your account.

If it isn’t, follow the instructions on [our PE License Renewal: Step-by-Step page](#) to link your PE license.

You will need access to your account to [renew your PE license](#), as well as to [request a printable copy of your license](#). If you discover that you have misplaced your password or that your account or license is associated with a different email address, contact the Board at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:850-521-0500) for assistance.

Update Your Contact Information

While you are logged into your account, check that your contact information is current.

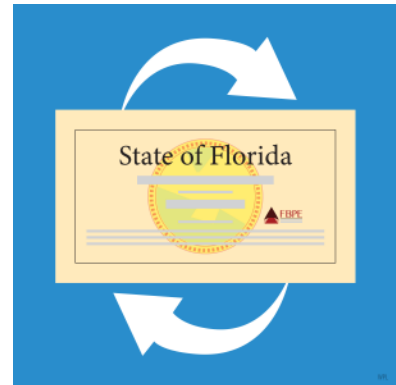
Florida statutes require that PEs licensed in the state keep their contact information up to date with the Board. This includes your email address, mailing address, and place of practice. Notify the Board of any changes within 30 days so that the Board may contact you if necessary. (See [Section 455.275\(1\), Florida Statutes](#).)

You can update your contact information in the licensure portal [by following these steps](#). Or, you can fill out [the Change Contact Information form](#) on our website. (You don’t need to do both.)

If you aren’t receiving emails from FBPE, including the quarterly *Connection* newsletter, you may have unsubscribed. Visit [our Resubscribe to FBPE Emails page](#) to fill out and submit the form to ensure that you receive important information regarding your Florida PE license.

Complete Your Continuing Education

You must have [completed 18 hours of continuing education](#) by the time the next licensure renewal period closes, at midnight Feb. 28, 2025. You have less than a year left to do that.



Keep in mind that of those 18 hours, one hour must relate to the Florida laws and rules of Professional Engineers from a Board-approved provider, and one hour must relate to professional ethics. Four hours must relate to area of practice. The remaining 12 hours may be related to any topic pertinent to the practice of engineering.

Continuing education providers must give you an individual certificate of attendance for each course. You must retain those documents to demonstrate completion of CE requirements for at least two licensure cycles, or four years.

During the licensure renewal process, you must affirm that you have completed or will complete the 18-hours of continuing education prior to the licensure renewal deadline.

The Board may request documentation from you showing that you have met the continuing education requirements. In addition, if you failed to demonstrate CE compliance in the previous renewal period, you will be audited for compliance in the current renewal cycle. If you reactivated a void Florida PE license during the previous renewal cycle, you will also be reviewed for compliance during the current renewal period.

Professional Engineers who fail to produce documentation showing CE compliance when required face potential disciplinary action under [paragraph 61G15-19.001\(6\)\(r\), Florida Administrative Code](#).

Start Reporting Your Continuing Education

Beginning with this renewal period, PEs licensed in Florida must use the [NCEES CPC Tracking system](#) to report their continuing education.

Because too many PEs were failing the continuing education audit, everyone is now required to report their continuing education.

If you registered with NCEES for an exam or created an NCEES Record account anytime since October 2010, you already have an NCEES account. If you don't have a free NCEES account, you will need to create one.

We have [step-by-step instructions on our website](#) that will help you set up a free NCEES account and begin uploading your CE documentation.

As you complete your CE courses, start uploading your documents to your NCEES CPC Tracking account. This will allow FBPE to start verifying completion once renewal closes.

Only Florida laws and rules course results will be directly reported by CE providers. Log into your account at [myfloridalicense.com](#) to confirm that it shows you have completed your Florida laws and rules course. If it does not, please contact your course's provider.

Taking care of these four items now will prepare you for the upcoming license renewal period.

Providers Must Report Laws & Rules Course Completions

Beginning with the current biennium, Board-approved providers of Florida laws and rules courses must report the results of Professional Engineers completing the course.

Certificates must be reported through the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulations' [online provider reporting portal](#) using their DBPR online services account at [MyFloridaLicense.com](#).

Providers must report all completions of any Florida laws and rules course offered since March 1, 2023, and going forward using the reporting portal.

If you don't already have an account, you must create a provider account at [MyFloridaLicense.com](https://myfloridalicense.com). DBPR provides [a PDF with instructions](#) on creating and using the provider account.

Once you have your provider account, you can start uploading electronic attendance files using [DBPR's CE reporting portal](#).

FBPE requests that you forward confirmation emails and your provider information to CEdesk@fbpe.org when you have:

- Opened your provider account with DBPR, and
- Begun reporting continuing education results in the portal.

These new requirement results from changes to the rule regarding Professional Engineers and their continuing education.

Previously, the Florida Board of Professional Engineers randomly audited PEs to confirm completion of their continuing education requirements. But after two renewal periods during which too many PEs were failing the audit, Florida statutes required that PEs must report their certificates. Because the Florida laws and rules course can only be offered by Board-approved providers, those providers must report completions of their course by Florida PEs.

If you have any questions, please contact CEdesk@fbpe.org.

Florida PEs Must Report Criminal Convictions

Professional Engineers licensed in Florida who don't report criminal convictions to the Florida Board of Professional Engineers may face disciplinary action against their license.

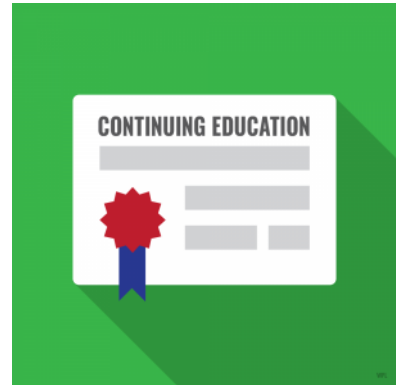
[Section 455.277\(1\)\(t\), Florida Statutes](#), requires licensees to report in writing to the Board "within 30 days after the licensee is convicted or found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction."

PEs must report their conviction to the Board's lead investigator, Wendy Anderson, at wanderson@fbpe.org. The email must include your name, license number, the date of the conviction, what you were convicted of or the charge to which you pled guilty, along with the sentencing information (if that is available upon reporting).

If you have any questions, please contact the Board's legal department at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:850-521-0500).

DBPR Appoints Public Member to FEMC Board

Attorney Michael Lessne has been appointed as a public member to the corporate board of the [Florida Engineers Management Corporation](#) by the [Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation](#) Secretary Julie Brown. Mr. Lessne's term runs Feb. 16, 2024, through Feb. 15, 2028.



Mr. Lessne is a bankruptcy and creditors' rights attorney and business and commercial litigator. After a successful career of more than 10 years in big law, he started his own firm, Lessne Law, in February 2022. Mr. Lessne provides counsel in a broad array of bankruptcy and insolvency matters and complex business litigation cases. He represents clients in many aspects of bankruptcy, including debtors (typically in reorganization cases), bankruptcy trustees (in liquidation cases) and assignees (in ABC cases), secured and unsecured creditors, landlords and tenants, and buyers of bankruptcy estate assets.



Michael Lessne

Mr. Lessne was formerly a partner at Nelson Mullins (formerly Broad and Cassel) and before that a shareholder at GrayRobinson. He is a licensed CPA and draws on his business and accounting background in his bankruptcy practice. He obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees at the Fisher School of Accounting at the University of Florida and his law degree at the University of Miami School of Law.

He has received numerous professional nods for his legal work. He's been recognized by Chambers USA (2020-2023), the Daily Business Review (2019 "On the Rise" award), Best Lawyers in America (2018-2024), Florida Trend's Florida Legal Elite, Fort Lauderdale Illustrated and Palm Beach Illustrated, and Florida Super Lawyers as a Rising Star (2016-2019) and as a Super Lawyer (2022-2023).

Outside of his legal practice, Mr. Lessne is involved in professional and community activities. In 2025, he will be sworn in as president of the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida (having served on the board since 2013). He also serves the American Bankruptcy Institute as a special projects leader for the Commercial and Regulatory Law Committee. And he has been involved with Leadership Broward Foundation for the past six years, serving on the Executive Committee of the board of directors for the past three years.

Mr. Lessne is a graduate of Leadership Florida's Connect Class 11, a graduate of Leadership Broward's Class 35, and a graduate of Leadership Fort Lauderdale's Class 18 (and the Curriculum Chair for Leadership Fort Lauderdale's Class 21). He's held former board positions with the Broward Performing Arts Foundation, Ghost Light Society, Deliver the Dream, American Lung Association's Turquoise Takeover Task Force, and he's held steering committee positions at Historic Stranahan House Museum and Arc Broward.

Mr. Lessne is married to Ashley Boxer, and they have a daughter, Mae.

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.](#)

Recent Updates to Florida Engineering Rules

[Chapter 61G15, Florida Administrative Code](#), contains the rules that govern the practice of engineering in Florida. The rules are adopted by the Florida Board of Professional Engineering based on [Chapter 471, Florida Statutes, Engineering](#).

The rules are regularly reviewed and updated by the Board.

The latest change, as of Dec. 18, 2023, includes:

- Rule 61G15-22.006 *Demonstrating Compliance; Audits; Investigation.*

Changes are highlighted in the PDF available on the [Statutes and Rules page](#) in the *Legal* section of the Board's website, fbpe.org.

Legal Department: Latest Engineer Discipline

Under 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.](#)

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