

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

July 2025

# From the Executive Director: Changes to CE Certificates

By Zana Raybon, FBPE Executive Director & FEMC President

The Florida Board of Professional Engineers regularly reviews and updates rules regulating engineering. When the rules are updated, we post <u>a list of those changes</u> in the <u>news section of our website</u>.

I'd like to call your attention to one recent update that affects continuing education certificates.

As of May 26, 2025, changes to Rule 61G15-22.012(1)(c), Florida Administrative Code, require CE providers to include specific information on every certificate of attendance they issue.



Each certificate you receive must include: participant/licensee name; participant/licensee PE number; course number, if applicable; course topic; presenter; date of class; number of continuing education hours awarded; and a brief description of the course.

In addition, CE providers now must issue a separate certificate for each course you attend.

You're responsible for checking that every certificate includes these details. If something is missing, contact the provider and request a corrected version.

So, make sure your CE provider has your correct name and Florida PE number on file before issuing certificates. This will save you time later and help keep your records in order.

And remember, you must keep documentation — certificates, receipts, vouchers, or similar records — for four years as part of your required recordkeeping.

Florida PEs must complete 18 hours of continuing education during the renewal period running from March 1, 2025, to Feb. 28, 2027.

As you did during the last renewal period, you must report those 18 hours using the NCEES CPC Tracking system. I would recommend that you start uploading your CE documentation now rather than waiting until the last minute.

Those hours must be reported using the <u>NCEES CPC Tracking system</u>.

Also, there has been some confusion over the required Florida Laws and Rules course. Be careful not to confuse this with an ethics course or the <u>Advanced Building Code course</u>. These do not count toward the laws and rules requirement.

## Chair's Corner: Summer Means Time to Reflect

By **Denise Ramsey**, PE, FBPE Chair (2025)

"School's out for the summer." How many of you know that refrain from the Alice Cooper song?

We are heavy into summer now, and this time of year has me reflecting on two totally unrelated items.

First, FBPE came through the legislative session with no significant impacts. Last quarter, I wasn't so sure I would be able to say that! Next year will be another story, but it's best we take one day at a time.

Secondly, and much more fondly, is the joy this time of year brings, seeing the young people entering our profession. The college intern season is in full swing.

Companies that provide meaningful experiences for college students will have the hiring edge for full-time talent. Hiring is still tough when competing against non-engineering firms who know that a good engineering education is a great foundation for many diverse careers.

Transitioning to young, full-time engineering professionals is what we hope for all. I recently spoke at an ASCE Jacksonville Young Member Group panel. Although I think I was the token non-civil engineer in the room, the panel provided a forum for the exchange of valuable career advice.

Something that, in the busyness of getting the job done, often gets pushed aside for the deadline of the day. Take time to share your favorite leadership book or podcast, your passion for your career in engineering, and your unique journey, complete with challenges and successes. Your words are powerful.

A final unrelated thought: We continue to see an increase in the fraudulent use of seals. Keep yours protected at all times. Do not share digital signature tokens.

# **New Law Affects Milestone Inspections, Structural Integrity Studies**

A newly enacted law establishes new disclosure requirements for Professional Engineers and other professional licensees in Florida when bidding to perform services related to milestone inspections and structural integrity reserve studies, according to the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

DBPR sent out an email with the following information concerning HB 913, signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis on June 23, 2025. The new law went into effect July 1, 2025.

# La Lac

### Milestone Inspections

Architects and engineers who bid to perform milestone inspections are now required to disclose
in writing to a condominium or cooperative association their intent to bid on services related to
any maintenance, repair, or replacement which may be recommended by the milestone
inspection.



- Any design professional (architect, engineer, interior designer, surveyor, or geologist geologist)
  or licensed contractor who submits a bid to a condominium or cooperative association to
  perform any services recommended by a milestone inspection must disclose in writing to the
  association that they or their relative has an interest, directly or indirectly, in the firm or entity
  that performed the milestone inspection.
  - If the required disclosure is not provided, then the contract between the association and the design professional or contractor is voidable and the condominium or cooperative association can terminate the contract upon written notice to the design professional or contractor.
- Failing to provide required disclosures may constitute grounds for disciplinary action against a licensee under the applicable professional practice act.

## Structural Integrity Reserve Studies

- Any design professional or licensed contractor who bids to perform structural integrity reserve studies is now required to disclose in writing to a condominium or cooperative association his or her intent to bid on any services related to any maintenance, repair, or replacement, that may be recommended by the structural integrity reserve study.
- Any design professional or licensed contractor who submits a bid to a condominium or cooperative association to perform services recommended by a structural integrity reserve study must disclose in writing that they or their relative has an interest, directly or indirectly, in the firm or entity that performed the structural integrity reserve study.
  - If the required disclosure is not provided, then the contract between the association and the design professional or contractor is voidable and the condominium or cooperative association can terminate the contract upon written notice to the design professional or contractor.
- Failing to provide required disclosures may constitute grounds for disciplinary action against a licensee under the applicable professional practice act.

The full statutory changes are available online here.

# **Rules Changes Affect CE Providers**

Changes to rules affecting continuing education providers went into effect May 26, 2025.

Specifically, <u>Rule 61G15-22.012(1)(c)</u>, <u>Florida Administrative Code</u>, <u>Obligations of Continuing Education Providers</u>, updates what must be included on individual certificates of attendance.

CE providers must now include the following on certificates provided to attendees:

- participant/licensee name;
- participant/licensee PE number;
- course number, if applicable;
- course topic;
- presenter;



- date of class;
- number of continuing education hours awarded; and
- a brief description of the course.

Also, a separate certificate must be provided for each course.

CE providers must maintain attendance records for each course for four years and be available for inspection at the request of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers or its staff.

Providers are also reminded to report rosters of completions of Florida Laws and Rules courses directly to the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, using its CE provider reporting portal, within 30 days of the course's completion.

If you have any questions, please see the updated <u>Florida Administrative Code</u> on the Board's informational website or email Nancy Wilkins at nwilkins@fbpe.org.

# FBPE's Outreach Efforts Touch Around 2,200 Potential PEs

Over the past year, around 2,200 engineering majors and Engineer Interns learned about professional engineering licensure in Florida from staff and members of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers.

FBPE's outreach efforts kicked off in July 2024 with a presentation to three dozen young engineering professionals at the Orlando office of Kimley-Horn. The next day, Board member Dylan Albergo, PE, and Executive Director



FBPE Executive Director Zana Raybon answers questions during a presentation at Kimley-Horn's Orlando office in July 2024.

Zana Raybon talked to engineering students in the Florida Engineers in Education track at the annual Florida Engineering Society/American Council of Engineering Companies-Florida conference.

During the 2024-25 school year, FBPE staff made presentations in person or by video conference to more than 2,000 students in 12 engineering classes at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, FSU Panama City, the University of Central Florida, the University of North Florida, and the University of West Florida.

The presentations provide students with information about the <u>Fundamentals of Engineering exam</u> and the <u>Principles & Practice of Engineering exam</u>, the requirements for <u>education and experience</u>, and the steps needed to <u>apply for a PE license in Florida</u>. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions following the presentations.

In addition, FBPE contributed material for students competing in the annual Mathcounts state competition.

FBPE's presentations are available to classes or groups at Florida <u>colleges of engineering</u> and <u>engineering associations</u>. To discuss scheduling an outreach presentation, please contact Bill Lampkin at <u>wlampkin@fbpe.org</u>.

# **Recent Updates to Florida Engineering Rules**

<u>Chapter 61G15, Florida Administrative Code</u>, contains the rules that govern the practice of engineering in Florida. The rules are adopted by the Florida Board of Professional Engineering based on <u>Chapter 471</u>, <u>Florida Statutes</u>, <u>Engineering</u>.

The rules are regularly reviewed and updated by the Board.

The latest changes, as of May 26, 2025, include:

- 61G15-19.004 Disciplinary Guidelines; Range of Penalties; Aggravating and Mitigating Circumstances
- 61G15-61G15-20.007 Educational Requirements for Applicants without EAC/ABET Accredited Engineering Degrees
- 61G15-20.008 Educational Requirements for Applicants without ETAC/ABET Accredited Engineering Technology Degrees
- 61G15-22.012 Obligations of Continuing Education Providers
- 61G15-23.005 Procedures for Electronically Signing and Sealing Electronically Transmitted Plans, Specifications, Reports or Other Documents
- 61G15-32.004 Design of Water Based Fire Protection Systems

Changes are highlighted in the PDF available on the <u>Statutes and Rules page</u> in the <u>Legal</u> section of the Board's website, fbpe.org.

# **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**

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. <u>View actions</u>.

# **Mark Your Calendar**

We regularly update our calendar with the latest FBPE and FEMC events. Check out the calendar.

## **FBPE Board Members & FEMC Directors**

#### **FBPE Board Members**

Denise Ramsey, PE; Chair (2025)

James Gonzalez, Public; Vice Chair (2025)

Dylan Albergo, PE

Christopher Dawson, Public

#### **FEMC Directors**

Safiya Brea, PE; Chair (2025)
Dr. Mark Tumeo, PE; Vice Chair (2025)
Edward Gonzalez, PE
Michael Lessne, Public

Jeb Mulock, PE Yassi Myers, PE John Pistorino, PE, SI Pankaj (PJ) Shah, PE Brock Shrader, PE Vacancy Vacancy

Zana Raybon, Executive Director Rebecca Sammons, Assistant Executive Director John Rimes, Chief Prosecuting Attorney Michele Morris, FBPE Controller Satya Lory, PE David R. Mica, Public Art Nordlinger, PE

Zana Raybon, FEMC President John Rimes, FEMC Vice President Rebecca Sammons, FEMC Secretary Michele Morris, FEMC Treasurer