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FLORIDA BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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April 2026

From the Executive Director: 2026 Legislative Updates

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

Now that the 2026 Florida Legislative Session has concluded, I want to share several updates that are important to the practice of engineering in Florida.

A number of bills passed during this year's session, including CS/SB 800 (Unlicensed Activity) and CS/HB 803 (Building Permits and Inspections), are currently awaiting action by the Governor and have not yet been signed into law.

Although this session did not produce sweeping changes to Chapter 471, Florida Statutes, CS/SB 800 would reinforce the importance of licensure, strengthen enforcement, and refine disciplinary authority related to the practice of engineering. These proposed changes are consistent with the Board's mission to protect the public by helping ensure that engineering services are performed competently and ethically.

CS/SB 800, the companion to CS/HB 839, would amend section 471.033, Florida Statutes, to establish an escalating fine schedule for repeat violations involving the unlicensed practice of engineering. Current law provides for a \$5,000 fine for each count or separate office. Under the bill, that fine would increase to \$10,000 for a second violation, \$15,000 for a third violation, \$20,000 for a fourth violation, and \$25,000 for a fifth and each subsequent violation.

This proposal reflects a continued effort to protect the public and uphold the value of professional licensure. Licensed engineers and firms should ensure that engineering services are performed only by properly licensed professionals, that each team member's role is clearly defined, and that qualifications and services are represented accurately.

HB 607, which died in committee, would have made broader changes to professional licensing boards within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. Among other things, it proposed renaming, removing, and redesignating certain boards, commissions, and councils; shifting licensing authority in some cases from individual boards to DBPR; and eliminating certain continuing education requirements.

CS/HB 803 and related construction legislation, including HB 405 (Commercial Construction Projects), would affect the broader permitting and development environment. Under HB 803, engineers would be expressly included in the definition of a "private provider." Within the scope of their licenses, engineers would be authorized to approve building plans, perform building code inspections, and serve as duly



authorized representatives in providing those services. The bill would also require local jurisdictions to reduce permit fees when an owner uses a private provider, reflecting the cost savings from plan reviews and inspections no longer performed by the jurisdiction.

Engineers serving in these roles should remain mindful of their professional responsibilities, their potential liability exposure, and the need to comply with all applicable standards and requirements.

As always, the Board will continue to monitor legislative and regulatory developments, including ongoing discussions related to professional licensing structure and oversight. Our focus remains unchanged: to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by ensuring that the practice of engineering in Florida meets the highest standards.

I encourage all licensees to remain informed, engaged, and committed to upholding the principles that define the engineering profession.

Chair's Corner: Protecting Your PE Seal as Misuse Continues

By James Gonzalez, FBPE Chair (2026)

If you have frequented this newsletter in recent months, you have undoubtedly read about growing concerns over the misuse of an engineer's seal. Whether via attempted forgeries, electronic counterfeits, or any of a number of other misuses, engineers throughout the state are reporting an increase in misuse of their seals. This article focuses on the legalities of misusing an engineer's seal.

Under Florida law, misuse of a professional seal (whether by the engineer or by someone else) is treated as a serious regulatory and legal violation. In Florida, the authority and responsibility tied to an engineering seal are defined primarily in Chapter 471, Florida Statutes, and Rule 61G15, Florida Administrative Code. Because the seal signifies accountability for public safety, misuse is treated as a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Florida law recognizes several violations involving misuse of an engineer's seal. Florida law prohibits anyone from presenting another person's engineering license or credentials as their own. Examples include:

- Forging an engineer's seal or signature
- Using an engineer's seal without permission
- Using the seal of a deceased or retired engineer
- Submitting engineering documents under another engineer's license number.

These actions may constitute unlicensed practice of engineering, fraud or misrepresentation, and/or forgery or criminal impersonation. The Florida Board of Professional Engineers routinely investigates such cases. Penalties for seal forgery or misuse can be severe. Typical enforcement actions may include:

- Administrative fines (potentially thousands of dollars)
- Cease-and-desist orders
- License suspension or revocation



- Permanent bans from licensure
- Possible criminal prosecution for fraud or forgery.

An important concern for engineers is whether they are liable if their seal is stolen. Generally speaking, if an engineer did not authorize the use of their seal and had no involvement, they typically are not legally responsible for the engineering work itself.

Engineers can significantly reduce risk by following several best practices recommended by regulators and professional organizations. Engineers can store physical seals in a locked location, limit access to administrative staff, and destroy old seals when retiring or replacing them. As for digital seals, engineers can use secure and password-protected digital signatures issued by certified authorities and avoid sharing editable sealed files.

Engineers should also periodically search for unauthorized use of their name or PE number online and verify that projects using their seal actually were authorized.

If an engineer discovers misuse of their seal, they should act quickly. They should notify the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, notify affected clients or agencies, document the incident, consult legal counsel, and issue corrected documents if necessary.

An engineering seal is both a professional privilege and a legal obligation. Protecting the seal is not just a matter of administrative practice; it is an essential component of professional responsibility and public safety.

If you suspect an issue with your seal, reach out to the appropriate authorities.

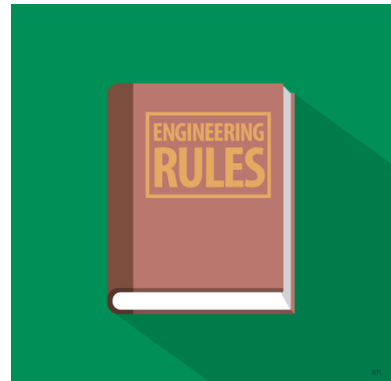
Additionally, Florida Building Officials who have concerns about potential forgeries related to engineering documents should contact FBPE’s lead investigator, Wendy Anderson, at [\(850\) 521-0500, ext. 119](tel:8505210500), or wanderson@fbpe.org.

Rules Committee to Discuss Inspection, Assessment Changes

The Florida Board of Professional Engineers’ Rules Committee will meet via Zoom at 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, 2026. Among the topics of discussion will be two proposed rule updates currently in development and a review of public comments on those changes.

The two rules to be discussed are:

- **Chapter 61G15-35, Threshold Building Inspections:** The Board is considering a new Special Inspector category focused on existing threshold buildings and updates to Chapter 61G15-35, Florida Administrative Code, to reflect the higher expertise and judgment these inspections require. Complete details: [Board Considers Expanding Special Inspector Categories](#)
- **Chapter 61G15-38, Damaged Structures:** The proposed Chapter 61G15-38, F.A.C., would establish clearer Rules of Responsibilities for engineers for assessments and reports on storm-damaged existing buildings, including general evaluation requirements and component-specific technical criteria. Complete details: [Proposed Rules Regarding Assessment of Damaged Buildings](#)



If you wish to join the meeting, please send a request to Board@fbpe.org by April 24.

Window, Door Replacements in Threshold Buildings Require Threshold Inspections

By **William Bracken**, PE, FRSE, SI

On Jan. 26, 2026, the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, and the Building Officials Association of Florida issued a Florida Building Code binding interpretation ([report number 318](#)) regarding the replacement of windows and doors in Threshold Buildings.



The interpretation was issued in response to a petitioner's question:

Is replacement of windows considered a modification to the building's structural system and therefore required to meet the requirements of Section 110.8.1 of the Florida Building Code, Building, 8th Edition (2023)?

The three organizations responded with the following answer:

The answer to the Petitioner's question is yes. The replacement of windows constitutes a modification of the building's structural system. Accordingly, this work is required to comply with Section 110.8.1 of the Florida Building Code, Building, 8th Edition (2023).

Simply put, windows and doors are critical components of the building's envelope, and while not part of the Main Wind Force Resisting System (MWFRS), they are component and cladding elements that receive and transmit wind loads to the MWFRS. Therefore, window and door replacements are considered a modification to the building's structural system and as such are required to comply with the Florida Building Code, Building, Section 110.8.1 *Threshold Buildings*:

Section, 553.71, Florida Statutes: A Threshold Building is any building greater than three stories or 50 feet in height, or which has an assembly occupancy classification that exceeds 5,000 square feet in area and an occupant content of greater than 500 persons.

Section 110.8.1 of the Florida Building Code, *Building*, pertains to any project involving the modification of a Threshold Building's structural system or structural loading, whether it's new construction or work on an existing building. In short, it requires that a structural inspection plan be submitted at the time of permitting and that the corresponding inspections be performed by a Special Inspector. It also states that the purpose of the structural inspection plan is to provide specific inspection procedures and schedules so that the building can be adequately inspected for compliance with the permitted documents. The structural inspection plan is to be prepared by the engineer or architect of record and submitted to the enforcing agency prior to the issuance of a building permit.

Therefore, Florida licensed engineers who also hold either a Special Inspectors certification or a Special Inspector (Limited) certification will be able to perform Threshold Inspections of the replacement of windows and doors on existing Threshold Buildings.

[Special Inspector \(Limited\)](#) – Professional engineers offering threshold building inspection services for Threshold Buildings with Repair (without Substantial Structural Damage), Alterations 1, Alterations 2, and Alterations 3 (without Substantial Structural Alterations) of existing

threshold buildings shall be certified by the Board to be a Special Inspector (Limited) under the qualifications set forth in Rule 61G15-35.0021(2), F.A.C.

Whereas, the installation of windows and doors in new construction, along with the entire range of services required of [Special Inspectors](#), will require a Florida licensed engineer who is certified by the Board to be a Special Inspector under the qualifications set forth in Rule 61G15-35.003, F.A.C.

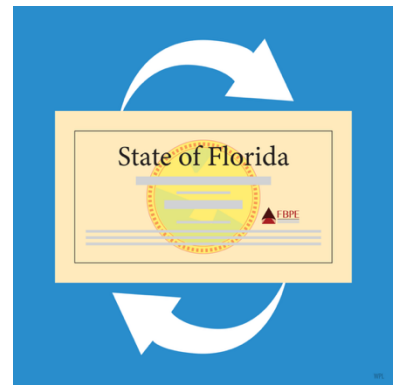
As stated within the interpretation, it is binding and not subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official. To research this or any other binding interpretation, please use the Florida Building Commission's [binding interpretation search](#). For more on the Florida Building Commission or the code development process, please visit [the Florida Building Commission's website](#).

Start Today to Ensure Your Licensure Renewal Goes Smoothly

Florida's biennial renewal period for Professional Engineers begins in early November 2026, just seven months away. Before the rush begins, take a few minutes now to make sure your licensure record, email, and continuing-education records are ready.

Quick Checklist

- Log in to your myfloridalicense.com account.
- Confirm that your email address, mailing address, and phone number are up to date.
- Make sure you are still receiving FBPE emails.
- Complete and [report your continuing education](#) before Feb. 28, 2027.
- Before renewing, confirm that your Florida Laws and Rules course appears in your licensure record.



FBPE receives bounced emails for renewal reminders and quarterly newsletters. That means some Professional Engineers may miss renewal notices, deadline reminders, rule changes, and other official communications simply because the Board cannot reach them. Keeping your contact information current is not just good practice; it is required.

Why Your Contact Information Matters

Florida licensees are responsible for keeping their mailing address, email address, and phone number current with the Board, and licensees must report changes within 30 days. If you are the Professional Engineer who is a firm's qualifying agent, and that information changes, update that record promptly as well.

At least 90 days before the expiration date shown on your license, a renewal notice will be sent to the email address associated with your myfloridalicense.com account. If that address is outdated, if Board emails are landing in spam, or you have unsubscribed to Board emails, you could miss important information related to your license. Because printable licenses are delivered electronically, an outdated email address can also create problems after renewal.

Update Your Record One Way — Not Both

- **Use the DBPR portal.** Log in at myfloridalicense.com, click *My Account*, and review the information on file. While you are there, confirm that your PE license is linked to your account and that you can still access it. If your license is not linked, use FBPE's [step-by-step renewal instructions](#).
- **Use FBPE's online form.** Submit changes through the [Change Contact Information](#) page on FBPE's website.

Please do not use both methods for the same update.

If you run into problems, such as “this account is linked to another email” or a request for an activation code, call FBPE at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:850-521-0500). If you need to email a change request, send it to board@fbpe.org and include your full name, license number, and both your old and new contact details.

If you need to change your name, submit the required legal documentation with [the Duplicate Certificate/Name Change form](#). There is no fee for a name change, though a fee applies if you want a duplicate wall certificate.

Make Sure FBPE Emails Can Still Reach You

If you have unsubscribed from FBPE emails sent through Constant Contact, you will not receive important notices, including renewal reminders. If you are unsure whether you opted out, use the [Resubscribe to FBPE Emails](#) form. It is also smart to check your spam or junk folder and safelist emails from the @fbpe.org domain.

Get Your Continuing Education in Order Now

For the renewal cycle running from March 1, 2025, through Feb. 28, 2027, Florida PEs must complete [18 hours of continuing education](#) and report those hours through the free [NCEES CPC Tracking system](#). Only courses taken on or after March 1, 2025, count toward this renewal cycle. You do not need an NCEES Record to report your CE; a basic NCEES account with CPC Tracking is enough.

Do not wait until February to organize your CE records. Upload your documentation as you complete courses. Also, remember, you must keep your certificates, receipts, vouchers, or similar records for four years.

One Last Check Before You Renew

Before you begin the renewal steps, confirm that your Florida Laws and Rules course has been reported by your provider and appears in your record at myfloridalicense.com. If it does not appear there, contact your provider before renewing.

Do not expect your other CE courses to appear in your DBPR licensure record. Those hours are reported by you through CPC Tracking. The Florida Laws and Rules course is the only continuing-education course you should see in your online license record.

A little preparation now can help you avoid a last-minute scramble when the renewal window opens in early November 2026.

Earn PDH for Participating in NCEES PAKS Survey

By **NCEES**

Every six to eight years, NCEES reviews its exam content for each exam we offer, and conducts a PAKS, or professional activities and knowledge study, at the same time.

Currently, NCEES has three PAKS underway:

- [FE Industrial and Systems Exam Survey](#)
- [PE Industrial and Systems Exam Survey](#)
- [PE Nuclear Exam Survey](#)

NCEES requires a cross section of engineers practicing industrial and systems engineering — including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia — to complete the surveys.

Specifically, the FE Industrial and Systems exam survey is open to licensed engineers and non-licensed faculty members, whereas the PE Industrial and Systems exam survey is open to licensed engineers only. Each survey is estimated to take 20–30 minutes.

It is important that we have as much participation as we can in both surveys and would appreciate your input.

The FE Industrial and Systems survey will be open until April 27, 2026, while the PE Industrial and Systems survey will be open until June 12, 2026.

The Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE.org) has agreed to award a professional development hour (PDH) for time spent taking the surveys. The survey results will remain anonymous, but each survey will allow you to opt in by providing an email address to receive your PDH certificate.

For the PE Nuclear exam survey, NCEES requires a cross section of engineers practicing nuclear engineering — including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia — to complete an online survey about the tasks and knowledge required of a nuclear engineer with four to six years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The survey can be completed in approximately 20-40 minutes and is open to licensed and non-licensed engineers.

The survey will be open until June 8, 2026.

The American Nuclear Society has agreed to award a professional development hour (PDH) for time spent taking the survey. The survey results will remain anonymous, but participants can opt in by providing an email address to receive the PDH certificate.

For more information, look for the PAKS articles in [the NCEES News archive](#).

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 updates](#) are posted on the FBPE website shortly after they are approved.

The latest changes, as of Nov. 26, 2025, include:

- 61G15-18.012 *Other Board Business for Which Compensation Is Allowed*
- 61G15-34.004 *Design of Process and Fluid Flow Systems*

Changes are highlighted in the PDF available on the [Statutes and Rules page](#) in the *Legal* 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. [View actions.](#)

Mark Your Calendar

We regularly update our calendar with the latest FBPE and FEMC events. [Check out the calendar.](#)

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