



Connection

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

October 2026

Common Renewal Problems and How to Prevent Them

You should log in to your [DBPR online account](#) at myfloridalicense.com in the next few weeks — before the renewal period starts on Nov. 3, 2026 — to ensure that you can access your PE licensure account.

That way, you can troubleshoot any problems you may encounter before renewing your Professional Engineer license. Last-minute issues could cause you to miss the Feb. 28, 2027, renewal deadline.

Here are some common problems and their solutions:

You can't start your renewal. The renewal link won't be available until Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026 — not before. Try again after that date.

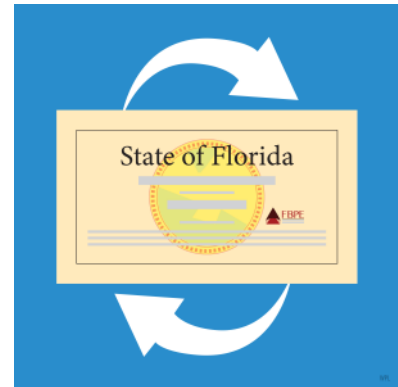
You are asked for an activation code. Your activation code is the last four digits of your Social Security number.

A message says that your email address is associated with another account. If the email associated with your account is no longer valid or is from a previous employer, we can reset your account so that a new email address can be linked to your record.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 in to 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 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.

Where do you provide proof of your continuing education? You must report all [18 hours of your continuing education](#) to FBPE using the [free NCEES CPC Tracking system](#). Only continuing education courses taken between March 1, 2025, and Feb. 28, 2027, are acceptable. We have [step-by-step instructions on our website](#) that will show you how to set up a free NCEES account, begin uploading your CE documentation, and transmit your CPC transcript to FBPE.



What about the required Florida Laws and Rules course? Your [Florida Laws and Rules course](#) must be reported to DBPR by your CE provider and must be reported before you renew your license. Log in to your account at myfloridalicense.com and [verify that your Laws and Rules course](#) has been reported; if not, contact your CE provider.

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

From the Executive Director: A Seat at the Table

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

Sometimes, changes that may seem small on the surface can represent something much bigger.



NCEES
*advancing licensure for
engineers and surveyors*

At its 2026 Annual Meeting, the [National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying](#) (NCEES) approved two changes that I believe are important steps forward for engineering regulation. The Council voted to rename the Member Board Administrator (MBA) to Member Board Executive (MBE) and to add MBE representation to its Board of Directors.

You might wonder why a change in change matters, or why having an executive represented on the NCEES Board of Directors is significant. After all, isn't the important work of regulating the engineering profession already being done?

Of course it is. But how that work gets done has changed considerably over the years, and these decisions recognize the important role executive leadership plays in making regulation effective.

The responsibility of regulatory boards has always been to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. That hasn't changed. What has changed is the environment in which those boards operate. Advances in technology, changes in engineering practice, increased professional mobility, legislative requirements, and growing public expectations have made regulation more complex than ever.

Addressing those challenges takes more than establishing good policies. It also takes experienced leadership, effective management, and people who understand how to put those policies into practice.

For years, member board administrators have played an important role in NCEES and in the operation of engineering and surveying regulatory programs across the country. They work closely with their boards, oversee day-to-day operations, manage resources, and help ensure that licensing and enforcement programs operate effectively.

But their responsibilities go well beyond administration.

Today's regulatory executives manage complex organizations, address financial and legal issues, work with legislators and other stakeholders, and help their boards respond to an ever-changing regulatory environment. The title Member Board Executive more accurately reflects the leadership and responsibilities that come with the position.

Just as important, in my opinion, is the decision to give MBEs representation on the NCEES Board of Directors.

I've had the opportunity to attend two NCEES Board of Directors meetings, and I can tell you firsthand how valuable it is to be part of those discussions. Sharing an executive perspective, offering input, and knowing your experience is valued makes a difference.

And that is really what this change is about.

It isn't about taking anything away from the professional engineers who serve on regulatory boards. Their technical expertise, professional judgment, and commitment to protecting the public are essential to the regulatory process. Instead, it recognizes that effective regulation requires a partnership between those who set policy and those who carry it out.

Both perspectives matter, and both contribute to better decisions.

We see that partnership at work every day here in Florida. The Florida Board of Professional Engineers is responsible for establishing regulatory policy and carrying out its statutory duties. The Florida Engineers Management Corporation provides the administrative and operational support needed to put those decisions into action and help the Board fulfill its mission.

Florida's structure may differ from other states', but the need for a strong working relationship between board members and executive management remains the same.

As engineering continues to evolve, the organizations that regulate the profession must evolve as well. That doesn't mean changing the fundamental purpose of regulation. Protecting the public will always come first. It means recognizing that today's challenges require a combination of professional expertise, sound judgment, experienced leadership, and effective management.

That's why I see the decisions made at this year's NCEES Annual Meeting as more than a change in title or an additional seat on the Board of Directors.

They recognize something that those of us working in engineering regulation have understood for a long time: Developing sound regulatory policy and successfully implementing it go hand in hand.

At the end of the day, we are all working toward the same goal: protecting the public while supporting a strong, responsible, and accountable engineering profession.

And having everyone who contributes to that mission represented at the table is a step in the right direction.

When an Engineering Seal Isn't Enough

Fraud often reveals itself when something is wrong.

A Professional Engineer may get a call or email from a consumer asking about a project the engineer knows nothing about. The consumer is frustrated when the "engineer" they hired stops responding.

Or, a building official reviewing a set of plans spots an error and calls the PE whose seal appears on the drawings.

The answer isn't what anyone wants to hear: The PE didn't prepare the plans, didn't review them, and never authorized use of the seal.

That scenario is becoming easier to create.

Engineering seals, signatures, license numbers, business addresses, and other identifying information can be pulled from public records or previously submitted plans. With basic image-editing software,



someone can paste those credentials onto another document and offer the resulting “engineering” through an online freelance marketplace.

The technology may be new, but fraud is not. What has changed is how easily someone can copy a legitimate PE’s identity and attach it to work that the engineer never saw.

And that means a seal should not always be the end of the verification process.

Warning signs in the plans

The North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors has developed [a checklist of red flags](#) for potentially fraudulent engineering documents. No single flag proves fraud by itself, but several appearing together should prompt a closer look.

Start with [the signature and seal](#). A scanned or photocopied appearance, a signature that looks pasted onto the page, a missing date, a blurry seal, the wrong state seal, or a license number that doesn’t match the named professional all warrant attention.

Then look at the document as a whole. Fraudulent plans may contain mismatched fonts, irregular sheet numbering, poorly copied title blocks, missing firm information, or notes that refer to another state’s building codes. Plans may also contain enough technical errors and review comments to raise a more basic question: Were these documents actually prepared under the responsible charge of the Professional Engineer whose name appears on them?

Contact information can provide another clue. An unexplained overseas telephone number, an email address that doesn’t match the PE’s name, incomplete contact information, or an inability to reach the licensee directly should prompt verification through an independent source.

Verify the PE — and the document

A license lookup is useful, but it answers only one question: Is the PE whose number appears on the documents licensed?

It does not answer the more important question: Did this PE prepare, review, and authorize *these particular documents*?

If something looks questionable, building officials and consumers should verify contact information independently through myfloridalicense.com or the PE’s established firm, rather than relying solely on the information printed on the plans. Contact the PE and ask whether the documents are theirs.

That simple step may expose a copied seal before defective or fraudulent work moves farther through the permitting or construction process.

Electronic signatures require similar care. A properly applied certificate-based digital signature can provide much stronger authentication than an image pasted onto a PDF. But printing that electronically signed document generally leaves only a picture of the signature behind. The authentication contained in the original electronic file is no longer available on the paper copy.

“Digitally signed” should not mean “looks like a digital signature.”

PEs can make theft harder

Professional Engineers should assume that anything placed in a public record may eventually be copied.

That does not mean seals should disappear from documents where they are legally required. It does mean PEs should pay attention to how electronic seals and signatures are created, stored, and applied. Certificate-backed digital signatures offer substantially more protection than a static image because they can help establish both who signed a particular file and whether the file changed afterward.

Engineers should also periodically search their own names, firms, and professional credentials online, particularly on freelance-service websites. Unsolicited engineering offers, extremely low prices, and promises of unusually fast turnaround for complex work are among the business-practice warning signs identified by North Carolina regulators.

If a PE discovers unauthorized use of their seal or signature, the incident should be documented and reported immediately to [FBPE's legal department](#). Because misuse of a seal may also involve professional identity theft, additional reports to law enforcement or other agencies, such as the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center ([ic3.gov](#)), may be appropriate.

Know who you are hiring

Online marketplaces make it easy to purchase almost anything. Don't treat professional engineering services like hiring someone to design a logo or to edit a photograph.

Before purchasing engineering services online, verify the PE using [myfloridalicense.com](#). Confirm that the person is licensed in Florida and that the person has appropriate experience and competence for the work. Communicate directly with that professional rather than only through an unidentified intermediary.

Be especially cautious when the price seems too low, payment is only accepted through mobile payment services or online money transfers, or a complex project can supposedly be completed unusually quickly.

The seal represents a licensed Professional Engineer accepting responsibility for the engineering work behind it.

In a world of downloadable public records, cut-and-paste graphics, and international freelance marketplaces, preserving that meaning requires one additional habit:

Trust the seal. But when something doesn't look right, verify the PE behind it.

Red Flags for Potential Fraudulent Use of a PE Seal

Adapted by FBPE from a notice by the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors

1. Questionable Licensee Identity or Contact Information

- Overseas or out-of-state phone numbers are inconsistent with the project location or licensee's office.
- Email address does not match the name of the licensee.
- Missing or incomplete contact information, including the licensee's address.
- Inability to contact the licensee by telephone.
- The client or owner has been communicating with someone not identified on the plans or otherwise associated with the licensee.



2. Deficiencies With the Seal, Signature, or Certification

- Photocopied, scanned, or facsimile seals and signatures.
- Signatures that appear to have been copied and pasted, lacking a date.
- Blurry, illegible, or poor-quality seals.
- Seal format does not meet state requirements or uses the wrong state's seal or license number.
- The name in the title block does not match the name on the seal.

3. Inconsistencies Within the Plans or Documents

- Missing licensee address or other identifying information in the title block.
- Poor-quality title blocks, or evidence that title blocks were copied and pasted.
- Mismatched fonts, inconsistent formatting, or irregular sheet numbering.
- General notes that do not match the drawings, or that reference codes from another state.
- Excessive review comments suggesting the documents were not prepared by a qualified professional.
- Rejection of plans filed for review due to an unverifiable digital signature.

4. Indicators the Work Was Prepared by Someone Else

- Evidence that the plans were created by an individual other than the professional whose seal appears on the documents.
- The apparent designer is located outside the United States.
- The contractor, owner, or applicant obtained the work through a freelancer marketplace.
- The overall document format differs significantly from what is typically submitted by licensed professionals.

5. Quality and Professionalism Concerns

- Reports contain numerous spelling and grammatical errors, unusual phrases, or poor editing.
- Foreign language appears throughout the documents without explanation.
- General lack of professionalism in formatting or document preparation.

6. Business Practice Red Flags

- Unusually low pricing for professional engineering services.
- Unsolicited emails offering engineering services.
- Unrealistically fast turnaround times for complex professional work.

New Florida Building Code Means New ABC Course for 2027

A new edition of the Florida Building Code takes effect as 2027 begins, and Professional Engineers working on projects covered by the code must complete a new Advanced Building Code course before beginning that work.

The ninth edition of the [Florida Building Code](#) goes into effect after Dec. 31, 2026. That means Advanced Building Code courses based on the eighth edition or earlier will no longer apply to projects begun in 2027.



For PEs whose practice includes the design of engineering works or systems in connection with buildings, structures, or facilities and systems covered by the Florida Building Code, **you must complete**

an Advanced Building Code course for the ninth edition before participating in the design of engineering projects covered by the new code.

The course is required to retain the “Special Qualifications” designation on your licensure record, pursuant to [Section 471.0195, Florida Statutes](#).

Because the Florida Building Code is typically revised every three years, PEs who perform this type of work must complete a new ABC course when a new edition of the code takes effect.

Providers of Advanced Building Code courses are approved by the [Florida Building Commission](#). PEs who need help selecting an approved ninth-edition ABC course should [contact the Commission](#).

Completing the course is only the first step. Afterward, you must provide the Board with a copy of your completion certificate so that your licensure record can be updated. The certificate must show the course number, course hours, code edition year, and code or course focus.

Certificates should be emailed to Wendy Anderson at wanderson@fbpe.org. When submitting your certificate to the Board, include your full name and PE license number in the email.

PEs should also remember that the Advanced Building Code requirement is separate from continuing-education requirements for licensure renewal. The ABC course does not replace your [required Florida laws and rules course](#).

With the ninth edition taking effect at the end of December, PEs who expect to work on Florida Building Code projects in 2027 should make completing the new ABC course and submitting their certificate to FBPE part of their preparations for the new year.

2026 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 2025-26 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026):

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

54,000 – Average number of licensees and others receiving FBPE’s [Connection newsletter](#) each quarter

660,000 – Number of page views of the FBPE website during FY25-26 (a non-renewal period), compared with 1.2 million in FY24-25 (a renewal period) and 820,000 in FY23-24 (a non-renewal period)

2,600 – Approximate number of engineering students, interns, and professionals reached by 9 outreach presentations that provided information about engineering exams and professional licensure in Florida. Of those, 5 were in-person presentations, 3 were virtual, and 1 was pre-recorded. In addition to



presentations at five Florida universities, staff presented at the Florida Engineering Society annual conference's student track.

LICENSURE STATISTICS

4,502 – Applications received for PE licensure

4,202 – Applications for PE licensure approved

108 – Applications for PE licensure denied

744 – Professional Engineer licenses renewed

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

65.78 – Days on average to issue a license

1,331 – Examinees passed the NCEES Principles & Practice of Engineering exam; and **1,212** failed the exam

1,978 – Examinees passed the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering exam; and **1,987** failed the exam

LEGAL STATISTICS

217 – Complaints regarding engineering practice processed, of which **110** were found to be legally sufficient

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

23 – Final Orders issued

\$93,123.35 – Fines and Costs imposed

0 – Cases tried before an administrative judge at the Division of Administrative Hearings

46 – Cases dismissed with a finding of no probable cause; **2** cases dismissed after reconsideration

33 – Cases dismissed with a letter of guidance

1 – License revoked

3 – Voluntary Licensure Relinquishments

2 – Licenses suspended

3 – Licenses restricted

3 – Reprimands issued

1 – Probations issued

3 – Project reviews

9 – Engineers ordered to successfully complete a course in engineering professionalism and ethics

8 – Engineers ordered to successfully complete the Board's *Laws and Rules Study Guide*

In addition to [FEMC Annual Reports](#), copies of [FEMC Quarterly Reports](#) are also available 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 updates](#) are posted on the FBPE website shortly after they are approved.

The latest changes, as of Sept. 30, 2026, include:

- 61G15-20.007 *Educational Requirements for Applicants without EAC/ABET Accredited Engineering Degrees*
- 61G15-35.003 *Qualification Program for Special Inspectors of Threshold Buildings and Special Inspectors of Threshold Buildings (Limited)*

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.](#)

FBPE Board Members & FEMC Directors

FBPE Board Members

James Gonzalez, Public; Chair (2026)
Brock Shrader, PE; Vice Chair (2026)
Dylan Albergo, PE
Christopher Dawson, Public
Christopher Forehand, PE
Jeb Mulock, PE
Yassi Myers, PE
John Pistorino, PE, SI
Denise Ramsey, PE
Pankaj (PJ) Shah, PE
Richard Temple, PE, SI

Zana Raybon, Executive Director
Rebecca Sammons, Assistant Executive Director
John Rimes, Chief Prosecuting Attorney
Michele Morris, FBPE Controller

FEMC Directors

Dr. Mark Tumeo, PE; Chair (2026)
Michael Lessne, Public; Vice Chair (2026)
Safiya Brea, PE
Edward Gonzalez, PE
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