



FBPE
FLORIDA BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Connection

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

April 2021

NOTICE: In an effort to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the FBPE office is closed, and our staff continues to work remotely, with limited time in the office and on modified schedules. The processing of applications and mail continues.

Phone calls to the FBPE office may not be returned immediately. We encourage you to search [our comprehensive website](#) for answers to your questions. If you cannot find the information you are looking for, please email board@fbpe.org.

From the Executive Director: Renewal 2021, It's a Wrap!

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

As most of you know by now, renewal for 2019-2021 biennium concluded on Feb. 28, 2021. To date, we have had 36,809 Professional Engineers renew their licenses.

Although most of Florida's licensees have renewed their license, there are several PEs who have paid for renewal and, for lack of responding to the attestation questions, have not completed the renewal process. That means their PE licenses are currently delinquent and will remain delinquent until their renewal applications are finished (i.e., attestations are answered).

Those licensees will owe a \$25 delinquent fee at this point as well.

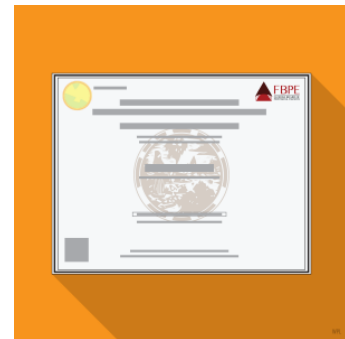
Make sure to check your license status at myfloridalicense.com to ensure your PE license has an expiration date of Feb. 28, 2023.

We have also gotten a lot of questions about renewing Certificates of Authorization for engineering firms. Remember, CAs went away in 2019 pursuant to a statute change.

All CAs were moved to a business registry and never need to be renewed. But keep in mind, engineering firms must always have a qualifying agent, which is a licensed PE whose license is linked to the firm at myfloridalicense.com.

You can check to see that your engineering company is currently on the registry by going to myfloridalicense.com and searching for the name of your engineering firm.

Next up for FBPE is the renewal of licenses for continuing education providers, which has already opened. If you are a provider, you may go online right now and renew your provider license. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Wilkins at nwilkins@fbpe.org.



Finally, we will begin randomly selecting Professional Engineers in the next few months for an audit to determine if they completed their continuing education during the 2019-21 biennium. If you are selected for the audit, you may expect to receive a letter sometime in July 2021.

Those selected for the audit will be required to respond within 30 days of receipt of notification with copies of all documentation of continuing education activities. Those PEs being audited must show evidence of completing 18 continuing education hours between March 1, 2019, and Feb. 28, 2021. Of those 18 hours, four hours shall relate to the licensee's area(s) of practice; one hour shall relate to professional ethics; and one hour shall relate to Chapter 471, Florida Statutes, and the rules of the Board. The remaining 12 hours may relate to any topic pertinent to the practice of engineering as defined in Rule 61G15-22.002, Florida Administrative Code.

If you were licensed by examination in Florida during the 2019-21 biennium, you are not required to comply with the continuing education requirements as a part of renewal. You were required to pay only the renewal fee.

Please be advised that failure to comply with the audit will result in the possible suspension of your Florida PE license, and you will be referred to our legal department for further action.

If you have not printed your new PE license, log into your account at myfloridalicense.com and follow the directions for printing, which can also be found at [How Do I Print My License](#) on the FBPE website.

Complying With Codes and Standards Not Currently in Effect

By **Scott Drury, PE**

If you read the title of this article and are hoping to learn some pathway to use obsolete codes and standards on your projects, then I have some bad news for you... that is not the intent of this article.

Whether you realize it or not, you may have issued engineering documents that did not comply with the effective codes, standards, ordinances, laws, and rules at the time of issuance.

As Professional Engineers, it is our primary responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. One of the simple ways to do this is to design using the codes, standards, ordinances, laws, and rules that are currently in effect and adopted by the permitting jurisdiction. These various regulations are specifically meant to establish minimum requirements to provide a reasonable level of safety, public health, and general welfare to the public, and they are typically updated on a regular basis to provide continual improvement as new products, methods, and technologies are introduced.

Rule 61G15-30.003(1), Florida Administrative Code, *Minimum Requirements for Engineering Documents* requires:

When prepared for inclusion with an application for a general building permit, the Documents shall meet all Engineer's Responsibility Rules, set forth in Chapters 61G15-31, 61G15-32, 61G15-33, and 61G15-34, F.A.C., and be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature, and extent of the work proposed and show in detail that the proposed work will conform to all applicable standards, codes, laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations in effect at the time the Documents are sealed, signed, and dated, as determined by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).



This requirement typically makes sense to everyone. However, one of the sub-paragraphs, 61G15-30.003(1)(b), F.A.C., lists this additional requirement:

If the Engineering Documents are intended to comply with requirements of any edition of federal, state, municipal, or county standards, codes, ordinances, laws, or rules, other than those currently in effect, the Engineering Documents must clearly state the edition and effective dates the Documents are intended to conform to.

So, now you may be wondering about using other effective permitting requirements for submitting your engineering designs. (For the purposes of this article, I am going to use the term “effective permitting requirements” to refer to “codes, standards, ordinances, laws, rules, and regulations.”) When does this apply, and why would I do this? Do I need to list all of the effective permitting requirements on my plans?

Let’s look at a few examples.

Phased Projects

There are several projects that are divided into multiple phases or permitting packages due to schedule or funding source. For instance, a project on a tight schedule may issue an early site package to begin site work while the rest of the building is being designed.

In this type of a project, a permit is issued for the early site package, and often, this establishes the effective permitting requirements that will be used for the entire project. When the final building plans are issued, there may be new adopted versions of the effective permitting requirements, but the project is grandfathered into the older versions.

Let’s use specific dates in this example. The 7th Edition of the Florida Building Code (FBC) took effect after Dec. 31, 2020. The early site package was issued prior to this date and permitted under the 6th Edition of the FBC, but the final building plans were not submitted until Jan. 1, 2021. If the 6th Edition of the FBC is being applied to the building plans, then you would be required to list the effective permitting requirements on the plans, because these engineering documents are intended to comply with effective permitting requirements other than those currently in effect.

Trying to ‘Beat the Clock’

Many projects are issued for permitting in an effort to “beat the clock” before the new code editions take effect. There are no issues with this approach, unless you have to make changes to the plans after the new effective date.

Again, let’s use specific dates in this example. You issued the engineering documents for permitting on Dec. 31, 2020, in order to use the 6th Edition of the FBC and to establish those effective permitting requirements. Sometime after that date, you issued modifications to those plans to address permitting comments or to correct an error. At the time you issue (and seal/sign/date) the modified plans, new effective permitting requirements are in effect. If the plans do not list the previous versions (as when permitted), it would be assumed the documents comply with the current effective permitting requirements on the day the plans were issued, sealed, signed, and dated.

Lingering Projects

Some projects just linger on longer than expected, whether due to unforeseen conditions, added scope, schedule, budget, or many other types of issues. As you can expect, these projects could span the time

frames of multiple editions of effective permitting requirements. Just like in the examples mentioned above, the effective permitting requirements when the project was originally sealed, signed, and dated may be different as modifications are made. If the plans do not list the previous versions (as when permitted), it would be assumed the documents comply with the current effective permitting requirements on the day the plans were issued, sealed, signed, and dated.

Summary

So, what does this all mean? While the engineering rules in Chapter 61G15, F.A.C., do not always require you to list these effective permitting requirements on all engineering documents, there are several situations that require these to be listed. Some of these situations are not always in your control as the engineer of record. However, always listing these effective permitting requirements on your engineering documents can help with the following:

1. The special cases listed above when engineering documents span multiple versions of effective codes is no longer a concern.
2. It aids anyone working on the project in the future to know precisely what the effective permitting requirements were at the time of permitting.

Whether you choose to always list the effective permitting requirements or not, remember that Rule 61G15-30.003(1), F.A.C., requires that the engineering documents:

...shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature, and extent of the work proposed and show in detail that the proposed work will conform to all applicable standards, codes, laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations in effect at the time the Documents are sealed, signed, and dated, as determined by the AHJ.

If you have any questions or concerns about the laws and rules concerning engineering, please contact FBPE's legal department at (850) 521-0500, or email board@fbpe.org.

About the Author:

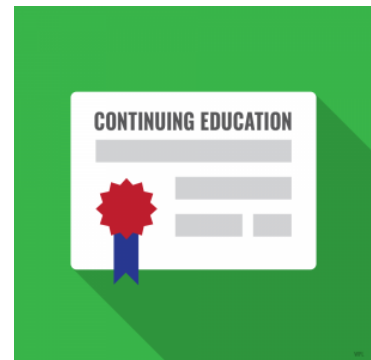
Scott Drury, PE, joined H2Engineering in 2007, and became a principal owner in 2016. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Auburn University in 2002. In addition to being a licensed Professional Engineer in both mechanical and fire protection engineering, Mr. Drury is also a commissioning authority, certified firestop inspector, and LEED accredited professional. He was appointed to the Florida Board of Professional Engineers in 2018, and is currently its vice chair.

CE Provider Renewal Continues Through May 31

Current licenses for continuing education providers will expire on **May 31, 2021**. Beginning **March 1, 2021**, CE providers can access their accounts and renew their license and courses. To assist providers in renewing their licenses refer to the instructions below.

CE Provider Online Renewal

- Go to myfloridalicense.com, and select "My Account." If you already have an account, log in using your email address or user ID and password. If you don't have an account, click "Create My Account" and follow the instructions.



- To link your license to your account, you need your provider license number and activation code, which is either the last four digits of your Social Security number or the last four of your Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN). Your license number *is not* the provider number assigned to you upon approval. If you cannot locate your license number, you can retrieve it by selecting “Verify a License” at myfloridalicense.com or by contacting our office at [850 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), for “Continuing Education.”
- If you cannot access your account, contact the Board office at [850 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500). Once you have accessed your account, you may change your contact information, if necessary, and then continue the process to renew your license.
- You will then pay your fees and renew your license.

Laws and Rules, or Professional Ethics Courses

For CE providers conducting Florida laws and rules or professional ethics courses: After processing your renewal, please complete the *Laws and Rules Application* and/or the *Professional Ethics Application* found on our website on the [Provider Application Process & Renewal](#) page under the *Continuing Education* section. Follow the instructions, and mail to the FBPE office.

Questions regarding the CE provider renewal process can be directed to the CE desk by calling the Board office at [850 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), or emailing cedesk@fbpe.org.

If you did not renew during this past renewal period, you will need to contact the Board office at [850 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), for assistance in renewing your Florida CE provider license.

Continuing Education Provider Reporting

Rule 61G15-22.008, F.A.C., *Record Keeping*, states that Professional Engineer licensees are responsible for maintaining sufficient records demonstrating completion of qualifying professional development hours for at least two licensure cycles, or four years. PEs are subject to random CE audits.

While CE reporting to the Board is no longer necessary, all CE providers *are required* to provide completion and attendance certificates to course participants/licensees, and accurately maintain those records for a period of four years. In the event a licensee is selected during the CE audit process, the licensee will provide the appropriate certificate to FBPE. Rule 61G15-22.012, F.A.C., *Obligations of Continuing Education Providers*, states in part:

"To maintain status as a continuing education provider, the provider must:

...(c) Furnish each participant with an individual certificate of attendance. An attendance record shall be maintained by the provider for four years and shall be available for inspection by the Board and the Florida Engineers Management Corporation."

Failure to comply with this rule may result in a loss of the provider license and the ability to provide continuing education courses to Florida engineers.

The most current statutes and rules as it relates to the practice of engineering can be found on the [Statutes and Rules](#) page under the *Legal* section on [our website](#).

CE Provider Account and Renewal FAQs

FBPE has compiled the following questions and answers generally asked by our continuing education providers during each renewal cycle. We hope this information will provide clarification of some of the most common issues that arise each biennium and how to get them resolved. If you have any other

questions or require additional information regarding any of the information below we encourage you to contact the Continuing Education desk at the Board office at [850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), or email cedesk@fbpe.org.

1. **What is the renewal fee for continuing education providers?** The renewal fee for the 2021-23 biennium is \$250 for current CE providers. If you did not renew during this last renewal period, you will need to contact the Board office at [850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), for assistance in renewing your Florida CE provider license.
2. **What is the application fee for courses in laws and rules, and in ethics?** There is no longer an application fee to register a Florida laws and rules or professional ethics course if you are a current Board-approved CE provider. If you are currently providing one or both of those courses, you must complete the *Application Form* for each course after you have processed your provider renewal and submit the application to the Board. If you are not currently providing a Florida laws and rules or professional ethics course, but would like to obtain course approval from FBPE, you must submit the [CE Provider Application](#) for the appropriate course.
3. **How do I access my account?** Go to myfloridalicense.com. Click on “My Account” in the blue box in the upper right. Either log into your existing account with your email or user ID and password, or click “Create My Account” if you do not have one. The process is similar to that used by Professional Engineers to log into their accounts, which is [illustrated on our website](#).
4. **I forgot my password to access my account. How can I retrieve that information?** If you attempt to sign into your account to renew your license and have forgotten your password, select “Forgot Your Password.” You will be prompted to your email address or user ID, and then answer your security question. A temporary password will be emailed to you, which you can use to log into the system and set a new password. If you do not know the answer to your security question, please follow the instructions provided in the question below.
5. **I forgot the answer to the security question associated with my account. How can I get that information?** Contact the Board office at [850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), or at cedesk@fbpe.org. Once we have retrieved the information for you, an email will be sent to you with the answer to your security question. It may take up to 24 hours to complete your request. If you are sending an email request to retrieve your answer, you must include your name, license number, and email.
6. **I am using my information to login, but I can’t access my account. What do I do?** We can help. Contact the Board office at [850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), or at cedesk@fbpe.org.
7. **How do I link my license to my account?** You need your provider license number and your activation code, which is either the last four digits of either your Social Security number or your Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN). Note that your license number is not the provider number assigned to you upon approval. If you cannot locate your license number you can retrieve your license number by selecting “Verify a License” at myfloridalicense.com or contact our office at [850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), for “Continuing Education.”

If you have any questions regarding your obligations as a continuing education provider after reviewing Rule 61G15-22.012, F.A.C., *Obligations of Continuing Education Providers*, the rule regarding CE reporting, Rule 61G15-22.008, F.A.C., *Record Keeping*, or the CE requirements for licensees covered in Section 471.017, F.S., *Renewal of License*, please feel free to contact the Board office at [850\) 521-0500, ext. 113](tel:8505210500), or at cedesk@fbpe.org.

FBPE Appoints New FEMC Director

The Florida Board of Professional Engineers appointed Dr. Mark A. Tumeo, PE, to fill an engineering vacancy on the Florida Engineers Management Corporation's board of directors.

Dr. Tumeo holds a Ph.D. and an M.S. in environmental engineering from the University of California, Davis, a J.D. from Cleveland State University, and B.S. degrees in civil engineering and biology from the University of Notre Dame. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Florida, Oklahoma, and Alaska, and is a member of the Ohio Bar. Dr. Tumeo is currently the senior engineer at Earth Systems, an environmental consulting firm with offices in four states.

Previously, he served as dean of the College of Computing, Engineering, and Construction at the University of North Florida. Prior to that, he was at Cleveland State University where he served seven years as the vice provost of research and dean of the graduate studies before returning to the faculty in 2000, where he served as the faculty advisor for the CSU Chapter of Engineers Without Borders and as the undergraduate program and ABET coordinator for the department. Prior to his appointment at CSU, he was a faculty member at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



Dr. Mark A. Tumeo, PE

Dr. Tumeo has almost 40 years of experience in environmental consulting and research, and has extensive experience and publications in environmental risk assessment, policy, and regulation. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles, reports, and book chapters, and numerous conference proceedings in the area of waste treatment, management, and risk analysis. He has served as an associate editor for the American Association of Civil Engineers *Journal of Environmental Engineering*, and the *Journal of Professional Issues in Engineering Education and Practice*.

He was a participant in the Young Scientists Summer Program in Austria, where he worked on modeling acid deposition across the European Continent and spent four months teaching environmental engineering and policy seminars in Peru as a Fulbright Scholar.

In 1993, Dr. Tumeo was the recipient of a Congressional Fellowship from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and served one year as a legislative aide to Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Maryland.

In 1997, Dr. Tumeo was again selected by AAAS as one of three individuals nationally to the newly formed USDA Office of Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis. In that role, he helped develop guidelines for risk assessments required under law. In 2001, Dr. Tumeo was elected to the rank of Fellow in the AAAS, and in 2014, he was elected to the rank of Fellow in the American Society of Civil Engineering. Recently, he was a member of the Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2016.

Dr. Tumeo has and continues to serve on local, state, and national panels in the area of environmental management and law. He was among the original gubernatorial appointees to the Pacific Northwest Hazardous Waste Advisory Council in 1991. He has also served on the National Science Foundation's Interagency Task Force on Antarctica, the EPA's Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel, and the EPA's Food Quality Protection Act Science Review Board.

In 1994, he was selected by Alaska Governor-elect Tony Knowles to serve on his transition team. He served as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's representative on a committee developing the clean-up standards for the Joliet Army Ammunition Base from 1997 to 2004 (through two administrations).

In 2005, he was selected as the Ohio governor's academic appointee on the state's Technical Advisory Committee on Sewage Treatment Systems. In 2005, he was also elected to the Cleveland Heights City Council, and was re-elected to a second term in 2009.

Currently, he is the PE (Florida Engineering Society) representative member of Florida's Research Review & Advisory Committee for Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS), and has served as the alternate PE on the state's OSTDS Technical Review and Advisory Panel until this year.

Watch Out for Phishing Emails Supposedly Sent From FBPE

Please be aware of spam emails being sent to Professional Engineers and engineering firms that appear to have been sent from the Florida Board of Professional Engineers. This email was not sent by FBPE, and should be deleted immediately.

These emails will have FBPE as the sender, but the actual return address isn't from "@fbpe.org." All emails sent using our domain, fbpe.org.



The body of the email has a link to view a document. Do not click the link or open any attachments.

If you did click on the link or open any attachments, contact your technical support desk or run an anti-virus check.

Unfortunately, there is little we can do about the email scam attempts. The email addresses used by the phishing attempts were obtained through Florida Sunshine Law. Under Florida law, email addresses are public records.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

FBPE COVID-19 Updates Online

FBPE's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Updates page](#) provides news regarding the effects of the pandemic on license, board and committee meetings, examinations, and other information pertinent to Professional Engineers in Florida. The page is updated as necessary.



NCEES COVID-19 Updates Online

Likewise, NCEES is updating [its COVID-19 page on its website](#) as needed with information regarding exams and other topics.

Special Recognition: Congratulations, Examinees

FBPE applauds all of the candidates that successfully 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.](#)

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