

<b>Regulatory Analysis Form</b> (Completed by Promulgating Agency) (All Comments submitted on this regulation will appear on IRRC's website)		<b>INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION</b>  <b>RECEIVED</b>  AUG 31 2022  Independent Regulatory Review Commission IRRC Number: 3265
(1) Agency <b>Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, State Board of Landscape Architects</b>		
(2) Agency Number: <b>16A</b> Identification Number: <b>6112</b>		
(3) PA Code Cite: <b>49 Pa. Code §§ 15.32a, 15.33-15.33a</b>		
(4) Short Title: <b>Digital Signature and Seal</b>		
(5) Agency Contacts (List Telephone Number and Email Address): Primary Contact: <b>C. William Fritz, II, Regulatory Unit Counsel, Department of State, P.O. Box 69523, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523 (phone 717-783-7200) (fax 787-0251) <a href="mailto:chfritz@pa.gov">chfritz@pa.gov</a></b> Secondary Contact: <b>Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Senior Regulatory Counsel, Department of State, P.O. Box 69253, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523 (phone 717-783-7200) (fax 787-0251) <a href="mailto:jawolfgang@pa.gov">jawolfgang@pa.gov</a>.</b>		
(6) Type of Rulemaking (check applicable box): <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Regulation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>FINAL REGULATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Final Omitted Regulation		<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Certification Regulation; <input type="checkbox"/> Certification by the Governor <input type="checkbox"/> Certification by the Attorney General
(7) Briefly explain the regulation in clear and nontechnical language. (100 words or less)  The State Board of Landscape Architects (Board) updates its current regulations on signatures and seals to make them as consistent as possible with the other design professional boards, which are the State Architects Licensure Board and the State Registration Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists. The final rulemaking would incorporate the provisions of National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Model Rule 240.20(H) regarding signatures and seals on documents. See Attachment "A."		
(8) State the statutory authority for the regulation. Include <u>specific</u> statutory citation.  Section 4(9) of the Landscape Architects' Registration Law (act) (63 P.S. § 904(9)) authorizes the Board to promulgate regulations, not inconsistent with the act, that it deems necessary and proper to carry into effect the powers conferred by the act. Further, section 9 of the act (63 P.S. § 909) requires each landscape architect registered under the act to obtain a seal of the design authorized by the Board.		

(9) Is the regulation mandated by any federal or state law or court order, or federal regulation? Are there any relevant state or federal court decisions? If yes, cite the specific law, case or regulation as well as, any deadlines for action.

This regulation is not mandated by any Federal or State law or court order or any Federal regulation.

(10) State why the regulation is needed. Explain the compelling public interest that justifies the regulation. Describe who will benefit from the regulation. Quantify the benefits as completely as possible and approximate the number of people who will benefit.

The purpose of the seal for a design professional is to assure the user of the work product that the work has been performed by the individual licensee named on the seal. Providing all design professionals in the Commonwealth with regulations that are as consistent as possible with respect to both traditional seals and digital seals will benefit not only the design professionals but also their clients in the public and private sectors. Providing consistency regarding all seals will help eliminate confusion among clients in the public and private sectors and those members of the public who may view documents prepared by design professionals.

The Board will allow its licensees to use digital signatures and seals to increase electronic commerce and electronic communications, increase electronic filing of documents, help establish uniformity of rules and standards regarding the authentication and integrity of electronic records and promote public confidence in the integrity and reliability of electronic records. The requirements in these regulations for detecting alterations in documents sealed digitally will minimize the incidence of forged digital records and reduce fraud in electronic commerce.

This regulation will benefit all 950 licensed landscape architects because they are permitted to utilize digital seals and signatures. As more documents are created using digital seals and signatures, the design professionals and their clients will save time, money and paper by converting work product to an electronic format, which is beneficial for consumers, the environment and a firm's bottom line.

(11) Are there any provisions that are more stringent than federal standards? If yes, identify the specific provisions and the compelling Pennsylvania interest that demands stronger regulations.

No, the regulation of the seals used by design professionals occurs at the State rather than the Federal level. However, there is a Federal law, the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act of 2000 (ESIGN Act), Pub.L. No. 106-229, 15 U.S.C. §§ 7001--7006., which provides a general rule of validity for electronic records and signatures for transactions in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce. A similar law, the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA) has been adopted by many states, including Pennsylvania. In Pennsylvania, UETA was enacted as the Electronic Transactions Act (73 P.S. §§ 2260.101--2260.5101). As noted in the preamble, the Board has adopted definitions and provisions consistent with the Electronic Transactions Act for these regulations. The provisions in this regulation are not more stringent than the Federal standards.

(12) How does this regulation compare with those of the other states? How will this affect Pennsylvania's ability to compete with other states?

This regulation will not adversely affect Pennsylvania's ability to compete with other states.

In Delaware, the Board of Landscape Architecture does not address the use of digital seals and signatures. For the purpose of signing and sealing drawings, specifications, contract documents, plans, reports and other documents, each landscape architect must obtain an individual seal of design and size as approved by the Board for use in the State of Delaware. A licensee must use either an embossing or rubber stamp seal with the licensee's name at the top and the words "Registered Landscape Architect" at the bottom. The licensee must apply the seal or stamp to the first sheet of the bound sheets of the drawings, the title page of specifications, and other drawings and contract documents. The licensee must submit an impression of the seal to the Board to be included in the licensee's records. A landscape architect may not sign or seal drawings unless they were prepared by the licensee or under the licensee's direct supervision. The seal appearing on any drawings shall be prima facie evidence that the drawings were prepared by or under the direct supervision of the individual who signed or sealed them. Signing or sealing of drawings prepared by another will be a representation by the registered landscape architect that the licensee has detailed professional knowledge of and vouches for its contents. The proposed amendments to the Board's regulations would be no more restrictive than the seal requirements in the State of Delaware.

In Maryland, the Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects does not address the use of digital seals and signatures. Each licensed landscape architect must obtain an individual seal to be used on the sealing and signing of all final drawings, plans, specifications, reports, and other contract documents that are prepared by the licensee or under the licensee's supervision. The seal must be imprinted with the name of the landscape architect and the license number. A rubber stamp facsimile of the seal and the signature of the landscape architect may be applied to tracings to produce a legible reproduction of the drawings or to prints made from the tracings. The proposed amendments to the Board's regulations would be no more restrictive than the seal requirements in the State of Maryland.

In New Jersey, every person licensed to practice landscape architecture must have a seal of a type approved by the board, which must contain the name of the landscape architect, license number, the legend "licensed landscape architect" and other words or figures as the board may deem necessary. All working drawings and specifications prepared by the landscape architect or under the supervision of the landscape architect must be stamped with the seal and be signed on the original, with the personal signature of the licensed landscape architect, when filed with public officials. The board may, by regulation, change or modify the requirements as to the signing and sealing of documents. An electronic seal, signature and date are permitted to be used in lieu of an original seal, signature and date when the following criteria, and all other requirements are met: it is unique to the licensee, it is verifiable, it is under the professional's direct and exclusive control and linked to a document in such a manner that the digital signature and seal is invalidated if any of the data in the document is changed. If the Board suspends, fails to renew, or revokes a license, the licensee shall immediately return the seal press containing the licensee's seal to the Board. All drawings and specifications prepared by the licensed landscape architect or under the licensee's supervision must be signed on the original with the signature of the licensed landscape architect. Thereafter, all copies of such drawings and specifications must be sealed prior to submission to the client or filing with a public agency. The proposed amendments to the Board's regulations would be no more restrictive than the seal requirements in the State of New Jersey.

In New York, the Board of Landscape Architects does not address the use of digital seals and signatures. Every landscape architect shall have a seal approved by the board, which contains the name of the landscape architect and the words "Registered Landscape Architect," "State of New York," and such other words or figures as the board may deem necessary. All drawings and specifications prepared by a landscape architect relating to the setting, approaches or environment for structures or other improvements or under the supervision of a landscape architect, shall be stamped with the seal and signed on the original, with the signature of the landscape architect. For all plans, specifications and reports to which the seal of

a landscape architect has been applied, there shall also be a stamp applied with appropriate wording that it is a violation of the law for any person, unless acting under the direction of a licensed landscape architect, to alter an item in any way. If an item bearing the seal of a landscape architect is altered, the landscape architect who altered the document must affix the licensee's own seal and note "altered by" followed by the licensee's signature, the date of the alteration, and a specific description of the alteration. The proposed amendments to the Board's regulations would be no more restrictive than the seal requirements in the State of New York.

In Ohio, each landscape architect is authorized to use a seal on all documents prepared by the landscape architect or under the licensee's direct supervision for use in the state of Ohio, for the purpose of properly imprinting the drawings, specifications, and other contract documents as required. The seal shall have the words "State of Ohio" at the top and "landscape architect" at the bottom. The name of the landscape architect and the landscape architect's license number must also be present. The seal must either be an individual embossing seal, rubber stamp seal, an electronically generated seal or other reproducible facsimile. The application of the seal over an ink or electronic signature to the first sheet of bound sets of drawings, title page of specifications and to other drawings and contract documents shall constitute the landscape architect's stamp. A landscape architect shall not sign or seal drawings, specifications, reports or other professional work if the landscape architect does not have direct professional knowledge or direct supervisory control. However, in the case of the portions of such professional work prepared by the landscape architect's consultants registered under this or another professional registration law of any lawful jurisdiction, the landscape architect may sign or seal that portion of the professional work if the landscape architect has reviewed that portion, has coordinated its preparation, and intends to be responsible for its adequacy. As in the proposed regulation in Pennsylvania, an electronic seal and signature are permitted to be used in lieu of an original seal and signature when the following criteria and all other requirements are met: it is a unique identification of the professional; it is verifiable; it is under the professional's direct and sole control; it is linked to a document in such a manner that changes are readily determined and visually displayed if any data contained in the document file was changed subsequent to the electronic seal and signature having been affixed to the document, and changes to the document after affixing the electronic seal and signature shall cause the electronic seal and signature to be removed or altered in such a way as to invalidate the electronic seal and signature. Also, as in the Pennsylvania proposed regulation, once the electronic seal and signature are applied to the document, the document must be available in a view only format if the document is to be electronically transmitted. The graphic image of the electronic seal and signature must be readily available and produced in a manner acceptable to the board. It must contain the same words and have substantially the same graphic appearance and size as required when the image of the electronically transmitted document is viewed at the same size as the document in its original form. The proposed amendments to the Board's regulations would be no more restrictive than the seal requirements in the State of Ohio.

In Virginia, the application of a professional seal shall indicate that the professional has exercised direct control and personal supervision over the work to which it is affixed. No professional shall affix a name, seal or certification to a plat, design, specification or other work constituting the practice of the profession regulated which has been prepared by an unlicensed or uncertified person unless such work was performed under the direct control and personal supervision of the professional. If the original professional of record is unable to seal completed professional work, such work may be sealed by another professional, but only after a thorough review of the work by the professional affixing the professional seal to verify that the work has been accomplished to the same extent that would have been exercised if the work had been done under the direct control and personal supervision of the professional affixing the professional seal. An appropriately licensed or certified professional shall apply a seal to final and complete original cover sheets of plans, drawings, plats, technical reports and specifications and to each original sheet of plans,

drawings or plats, prepared by the professional or someone under his direct control and personal supervision. All seal imprints on the cover or first sheet of final documents must bear an original signature and date. Final documents are completed documents or copies submitted on a client's behalf for approval by authorities or recordation. In such cases, the cover sheet of the documents or copies must contain a list of drawings or plats included in the set on which a seal, original signature and date must be affixed for all regulated disciplines. Every page of the submission, other than the cover, may be reproduced from originals which contain the seal, original signature and date by each discipline responsible for the work. An electronic seal, signature and date are permitted to be used in lieu of an original seal, signature and date when the following criteria, and all other requirements are met: it is a unique identification of the professional, it is verifiable, and it is under the professional's direct control. A professional should not seal original documents made of mylar, linen, sepia, or other materials, or which are transmitted electronically, which can be changed by the person or entity with whom the documents are filed. A professional may seal original documents if the professional accompanies such documents with a signed and sealed letter making the recipient of such documents aware that copies of the original documents as designed by the professional have been retained by the professional and that the professional cannot assume responsibility for any subsequent changes to the reproducible original documents, which are not made by the professional or those working under his direct control and personal supervision. Incomplete plans, documents and sketches, whether advance or preliminary copies, shall be so identified on the plan, document or sketch and need not be sealed, signed or dated. All plans, drawings or plats prepared by the professional must bear the professional's name or firm name, address and project name. The seal of each professional responsible for each profession shall be used and shall be on each document that was prepared under the professional's direction and for which that professional is responsible. Application of the seal and signature indicates acceptance of responsibility for work shown thereon. The seal shall conform in detail and size and must be two inches in diameter. The proposed amendments to the Board's regulations would be no more restrictive than the seal requirements in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In West Virginia, the State Board of Landscape Architects does not address the use of digital seals and signatures. Each licensee must have a seal authorized by the board, which shall include the licensee's name and the words: "Professional Landscape Architect, State of West Virginia," and any other words or figures prescribed by the board. All drawings and specifications prepared by a licensee shall be signed and stamped with the licensee's seal, provided, that nothing contained in it shall be construed to permit the seal of a landscape architect to serve as a substitute for the seal of an architect, an engineer or a professional surveyor whenever the seal of such architect, engineer or professional surveyor is required by law. It is unlawful for a person who is not licensed to affix a seal on a document. Licensees are permitted to use reproducible facsimiles of seals on documents. The licensee must apply his or her seal or reproducible facsimile on all original drawings to produce a legible reproduction on all copies or prints made from the drawings. The proposed amendments to the Board's regulations would be no more restrictive than the seal requirements in the State of West Virginia.

Based on these regulations from surrounding states, this regulation will not place Pennsylvania at a competitive disadvantage. The final rulemaking will place Pennsylvania on an even playing field those states that permit digital signatures and seals by allowing Pennsylvania licensees to use a digital signature and seal as well. This regulation will also give Pennsylvania an advantage as being more competitive within the industry as compared to those states that do not permit digital seals and signatures.

(13) Will the regulation affect any other regulations of the promulgating agency or other state agencies? If yes, explain and provide specific citations.

Other state agencies, such as the Department of General Services, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Transportation and the Department of Labor and Industry will be positively affected in many ways. Several state agencies employ licensees of the Board who will use seals and signatures in compliance with this regulation once it is promulgated. To the extent that these state agencies encourage their employees, who are licensees, to use digital seals and signatures, they will save money by reducing the cost and time necessary to use traditional seals on paper, as noted in the answer to question 18. Finally, other state agencies must comply with the Pennsylvania Electronic Transactions Act under 73 P.S. § 2260.303(a) in that they may not deny the legal effect or enforceability of a seal solely because it is in electronic form. The Board is not aware of any other regulations of the Department of State or any other state agencies that may be affected by this final regulation.

(14) Describe the communications with and solicitation of input from the public, any advisory council/group, small businesses and groups representing small businesses in the development and drafting of the regulation. List the specific persons and/or groups who were involved. ("Small business" is defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012.)

On July 17, 2013, the Board distributed an exposure draft to interested parties. (See Attachment "B" for a list of interested parties the Board included in its exposure draft). The Board received comments from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, the Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors, and the President of the Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the Council of Landscape Architecture Regulatory Boards (CLARB). The Board also reviewed the Model Rules of CLARB pertaining to seals. In addition, in 2014, CLARB asked its member state boards of landscape architects to send their laws and rules on seals. Many of these other state rules are similar to the rules adopted by the Board. Furthermore, the Board discussed these regulations during regular meetings of the Board during 2013, 2014 and 2018, at which representatives of interested parties attended. On November 13, 2013, the Seals Regulations Committee held a public meeting prior to the Board meeting, at which a representative of ASLA attended. Both the Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of the ASLA and CLARB endorsed the proposed regulation in 2014. On August 22, 2020, the proposed rulemaking was published. 50 Pa.B. 4243 (August 22, 2020). The Board received one public comment from Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of the ASLA; IRRC provided comments and recommendations.

(15) Identify the types and number of persons, businesses, small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012) and organizations which will be affected by the regulation. How are they affected?

All licensees will be required to comply with the rulemaking. There are currently 950 licensed landscape architects in Pennsylvania.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L&I), in 2021, the majority of landscape architects work in architectural and engineering services (55%), while a minority of landscape architects work in administrative and support and waste management and remediation services (19%), are self-employed (13%), work for the government (7%), or work in construction (1%). According to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L&I), Center for Workforce Information & Analysis, there are 840 employed landscape architects in Pennsylvania.

For the business entities listed above, Section 3 of Act 76 of 2012 provides that a small business is defined by the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Small Business Size Regulations under 13 CFR Ch.

1 Part 121. Specifically, the SBA has established these size standards at 13 CFR 121.201 for types of businesses under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). In applying the NAICS standards to the types of businesses where landscape architects work, a small business in architectural services is one with \$7.5 million or less in average annual receipts. Likewise, a small business in engineering services is also one with \$15.0 million in average annual receipts. According to NAICS, small businesses providing landscape architectural services have \$7.5 million or less in average annual receipts. It is estimated that the 13% of landscape architects who are self-employed work in small businesses. Lessors of real estate for residential and nonresidential buildings as well as lessors of other real estate property are each classified as small businesses if they have \$27.5 million or less in average annual receipts. The NAICS threshold is \$7.5 million each for consulting services, other management consulting services and other scientific and technical consulting services. The NAICS threshold for miscellaneous store retailers is also \$7.5 million, while department stores except for discount department stores are \$32.5 million in estimated annual receipts. Also, a high threshold for small business exists for residential building construction at \$36.5 million in estimated annual receipts. Finally, offices of real estate agents and brokers constitute the lowest threshold at \$7.5 million in estimated annual receipts. In considering all of these small business thresholds set by NAICS for the businesses in which landscape architects work, it is probable that most, if not all, of the licensed landscape architects work in small businesses.

Furthermore, according to the Small Business Administration (SBA) there are approximately 1,095,907 businesses in Pennsylvania; of which 1,091,524 are small businesses. Of the 1,091,524 small businesses, 226,483 are small employers (those with fewer than 500 employees) and the remaining 865,041 are non-employers. Thus, the vast majority of businesses in Pennsylvania are considered small businesses. While it's possible that some landscape architects may be employed by large businesses, the Board has crafted this regulation with the understanding that most of the 840 employed professional landscape architects are employed by small businesses.

The Board's licensees will not be adversely affected by this rulemaking. Under this final rulemaking, licensees may continue to apply the traditional metal embossing seal or rubber stamp with signature and may apply a digital seal in lieu of the traditional metal embossing seal if they so desire. As noted in the answer to question 18, the benefits of this regulation allowing for digital seals far outweigh the costs of purchasing digital seal and signature technology.

(16) List the persons, groups or entities, including small businesses, that will be required to comply with the regulation. Approximate the number that will be required to comply.

All licensees will be required to comply with the rulemaking if they choose to use digital signatures and seals. There are 950 licensed landscape architects in Pennsylvania.

(17) Identify the financial, economic and social impact of the regulation on individuals, small businesses, businesses and labor communities and other public and private organizations. Evaluate the benefits expected as a result of the regulation.

Under the final rulemaking, no licensee will be required to use a digital seal and signature. Those licensees who choose to use a digital seal and signature only are not required to obtain a traditional seal as well. Licensees who do decide to use digital seals and signatures will be required to utilize appropriate security software that meets the requirements for digital seals as set forth in the rulemaking at § 15.33a. This software is available from a variety of vendors. Costs will vary from one vendor to another, and costs will also vary depending on the number of individuals who will use a digital seal within a firm. For example, according to DocuSign and Adobe, sole proprietor firms using digital seals and purchasing a user license



could select a plan where the cost for each user license is \$15 per month or \$165 per year, which allows one month at no charge. For the same vendor, firms with more than 10 licensees using digital seals and purchasing user licenses for their licensees may be able to negotiate a lower fee, depending on the number of licensees, with a higher number of licensees paying a lower fee. Under both plans offered by this vendor, there is no limit on the number of seals or signatures that a licensee may use. The Board also anticipates that as the number of users of digital seals increases over time, it is likely that the costs of purchasing digital seal technology will decrease. This rulemaking has a positive social impact in that it will decrease the need for paper documents in a digital world, which will reduce paper consumption and have a positive impact on the environment. The rulemaking will also benefit members of the profession in that it will streamline the work product completed by professional landscape architects, thus allowing the public to realize cost savings passed on to the client. This rulemaking will put the Commonwealth on par with surrounding states that already permit digital seals and signatures.

(18) Explain how the benefits of the regulation outweigh any cost and adverse effects.

The benefits of the regulation greatly outweigh any costs and adverse effects. As stated in the answer to question 10, the initial purpose of this regulation is to provide all design professionals with regulations that are as consistent as possible with respect to both traditional signatures and seals and digital signatures and seals. Doing so will benefit not only the design professionals but also their clients in the public and private sectors. Providing consistency regarding all signatures and seals will help to eliminate confusion not only among clients in the public and private sectors, but it will also reduce confusion for those members of the public who may view documents prepared by design professionals.

The second purpose of this regulation is to allow licensees to use digital seals and signatures, provided that they follow the requirements set forth in § 15.33a. There are three distinct advantages to licensees for using digital signatures and seals.

1. Protection – The requirements in these regulations under § 15.33a(a)–(b) for containing a unique identification of the licensee, for being verifiable, for being under the licensee’s direct and sole control, and for detecting alterations in documents signed and sealed digitally will provide integrity for the work products, minimize the incidence of forged digital records and reduce fraud in electronic commerce.
2. Cost savings – There are tremendous cost savings for those firms that use digital seals and signatures, compared with those that use paper-based metal embossing seals or rubber stamps. According to Cadalyst (a reviewer of computer aided design (CAD) software and hardware), the architecture, engineering and construction industry spends an estimated \$500 million or more each year moving plans from one discipline to another by way of such courier services as FedEx and UPS. One vendor of digital seals estimates that the average cost of toner, ink and paper costs 3 cents per page, and further states that costs are even greater for firms and organizations with multiple locations or field staff that need to submit formal reports or contracts. According to Oasis Systems (a provider of information technology, systems engineering, professional services and enterprise applications to federal agencies), the average paper document is copied 9 to 11 times at a cost of approximately \$18 and filed at a cost of approximately \$20, plus the added cost of storage, media, space, postage and distribution. Pitney Bowes estimates that the average cost of Fortune-500 paper documents is \$10 per document. Pfizer estimates the cost of one “wet signature” at \$30, including the time to track down the signer, plus storage and scanning costs.



3. Time savings – According to a survey conducted in 2013 by the Association for Information and Image Management (AIIM), it is much faster to use email attachments than move paper from place to place to get seals and signatures. The AIIM survey found that 65% of businesses add more than 1 day to processes just to collect signatures. Also, the AIIM survey shows that 48% of businesses print more than half of their documents just to add signatures. After deploying digital signatures, AIIM survey results show that 68% of businesses saved time scanning, copying and routing documents, while 65% accelerated their signature-dependent processes. Considering both the cost and time savings, AIIM found that after deploying digital signatures, 25% of businesses reached their return on investment in 90 days, while 81% reached their return on investment in under 12 months. There will be at least a 20% savings in traditional engineering costs for moving from paper to electronic documents, according to the National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards (NCSBCS). In 2008, the Alliance for Building Regulatory Reform in the Digital Age at Fiatch (the Alliance) published a white paper entitled “From Paper to Digits” with financial support from the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The Alliance describes itself as an industry-led consortium administratively housed at The University of Texas at Austin that provides global leadership in identifying and accelerating the development, demonstration, and deployment of emerging technologies and innovative practices to deliver the highest business value through the life cycle of capital projects.) The Alliance found that “electronic plans submittal, tracking, review and storage reduce traditional plan processing up to 50 percent by reducing the number of physical trips to and from government offices and by making these services available 24/7/365 and enabling jurisdictions to shift staff resources to other areas in need of attention.” The Alliance also noted the following key benefits from the submittal, review, tracking and storage of electronic plans:

- Improved accuracy of transmitted data contained on the plans and reduced number of building permits and plans being filed by non-licensed landscape architects, engineers or contractors.
- Enhanced collection of revenues owed to the jurisdiction by getting buildings up and on the tax rolls sooner.
- Enhanced ability of government departments to conduct parallel plan review rather than perform them sequentially.
- Reduced or eliminated space and retrieval problems associated with storing paper blueprints.
- Significantly reduced travel time and energy use/expenses of customers helping the community meet sustainability and green community goals.
- Preparing communities for the adoption of future technology in a non-disruptive manner.

In the Fiatch white paper, the Alliance noted that electronic plan storage allows for storage on multiple sites both inside and outside the jurisdiction of the client. This would afford protection in the event of a major manmade or natural disaster, such as an earthquake and hurricane. This would apply to state agencies, which presently store electronic data offsite as well as local governments that can do likewise. Finally, firms and licensees retaining copies of their electronically sealed and signed documents in an electronic database may afford themselves of this opportunity.

There are also public policy advantages for providing requirements for digital seals and signatures. The use of digital seals and signatures will increase electronic commerce and electronic communications, increase electronic filing of documents, help establish uniformity of rules and standards regarding the authentication and integrity of electronic records and promote public confidence in the integrity and reliability of electronic records. As more documents are created using digital seals and signatures, the design professionals and their clients will be reducing paperwork by converting their work products to an electronic format, which is beneficial for the environment and a firm's bottom line.

(19) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **regulated community** associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

Under the final rulemaking, no licensee will be required to purchase or use digital seal and signature technology. For those who do decide to use digital seals and signatures once this regulation is promulgated, they will be required to utilize appropriate security software that meets the requirements for digital seals that is available from a variety of vendors. As noted above in the answer to question 17, those costs for small businesses from one vendor will be approximately \$165 per license per year. However, as noted in the answer to question 18, those costs will be more than offset by the cost and time savings for converting from paper documents to electronic documents.

The Board estimates that at least 10% of licensees will initially use digital seals. In five years, it is possible that the percentage of design professional licensees using digital seals may be as high as 50% to 60%, so the usage of digital seals may increase at the approximate rate of 10% per year. As noted in the answer to question 16, there are approximately 950 landscape architects licensed by the Board. In the first year, 10% of the 950 licensees may begin to use digital seals at a cost of \$165 or less, with approximately 95 licensees spending approximately \$14,850 a year for digital seals technology. During the next fiscal year, 190 licensees may spend approximately \$31,350 a year. In 2 years, 30% or 285 licensees may spend up to \$47,025 annually. In 3 years, 40% or 380 licensees may spend up to \$62,700 a year. In 4 years, 50 % or 475 licensees may spend up to \$78,375 a year. In 5 years, 60% or 570 licensees may spend up to \$94,050 a year for digital seals. However, these costs will be more than offset by a 20% savings for moving from paper to electronic documents, according to NCSBCS.

(20) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **local governments** associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

To the extent that local governments request or express a preference for digital seals and signatures for the documents created by design professional licensees, they will save money and time for moving from a paper-based system to an electronic system, as noted in the answer to question 18 above. In 2005, NCSBCS estimated that there will be a 20% savings for moving from paper to electronic documents. In 2008, the Alliance published a white paper entitled "From Paper to Digits" with financial support from the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The Alliance found that communities that are receiving plans electronically, marking them up and then granting online access to them for their architects, engineers, owners, and contractors have eliminated or, at minimum, greatly reduced the number of trips being made to and from city or county offices to drop off and pick up plans. The Alliance estimated the following cost savings from reduced storage of plans for a community issuing 3,000 permits annually:

- 312,000 miles driven and 20,800 gallons of gas

- 457,600 lbs. carbon monoxide emitted
- \$57,200 in fuel costs
- 12,480 hours of drive-time
- 192,000 lbs. of paper used (239 trees) and
- Approximately 12,000 lbs. of paper requiring storage.

The Board does not believe there will be any costs to local governments associated with compliance.

(21) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **state government** associated with the implementation of the regulation, including any legal, accounting, or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

To the extent that state government agencies and departments request or express a preference for digital seals and signatures for the documents created by design professional licensees, they will save money and time for moving from a paper-based system to an electronic system, as noted in the answer to question 18 above. NCSBCS estimates that there will be a 20 % savings for moving from paper to electronic documents.

The Board does not believe there will be any costs to state governments associated with compliance.

(22) For each of the groups and entities identified in items (19)-(21) above, submit a statement of legal, accounting or consulting procedures and additional reporting, recordkeeping or other paperwork, including copies of forms or reports, which will be required for implementation of the regulation and an explanation of measures which have been taken to minimize these requirements.

To provide flexibility for its licensees, the Board allows its licensees to use metal embossing seals, rubber stamps or digital seals. Under the final rulemaking, no licensee will be required to purchase and use digital signature and seal technology. For those who decide to use digital signatures and seals, they will be required to utilize appropriate security software that meets the requirements for digital seals set forth in § 15.33a that is available from a variety of vendors. As noted above in the answers to questions 17 – 19, it is estimated that the savings for using digital signatures and seals will exceed the costs. In granting flexibility to its licensees, the Board is allowing its licensees to conduct their own cost benefit analysis and determine whether or not to implement digital signature and seals.

(22a) Are forms required for implementation of the regulation?

No forms are required for implementation of the regulation.

(22b) If forms are required for implementation of the regulation, **attach copies of the forms here**. If your agency uses electronic forms, provide links to each form or a detailed description of the information required to be reported. **Failure to attach forms, provide links, or provide a detailed description of the information to be reported will constitute a faulty delivery of the regulation.**

N/A

(23) In the table below, provide an estimate of the fiscal savings and costs associated with implementation and compliance for the regulated community, local government, and state government for the current year and five subsequent years.

	Current FY 2022-23	FY +1 2023-24	FY +2 2024-25	FY +3 2025-26	FY +4 2026-27	FY +5 2027-28
<b>SAVINGS:</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Regulated Community	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction
Local Government	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction
State Government	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction
Total Savings	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction	20% reduction
<b>COSTS:</b>						
Regulated Community	N/A	\$14,850	\$31,350	\$47,025	\$62,700	\$78,375
Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
State Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Costs	N/A	\$14,850	\$31,350	\$47,025	\$62,700	\$78,375
<b>REVENUE LOSSES:</b>						
Regulated Community	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
State Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Revenue Losses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

(23a) Provide the past three-year expenditure history for programs affected by the regulation.

Program	FY -3 2019-20	FY -2 2020-21	FY -1 2021-22	Current FY 2022-23
State Board of Landscape Architects	(actual) \$89,762.22	(actual) \$104,914.66	(actual) \$90,480.30	(proposed) \$108,000.00

(24) For any regulation that may have an adverse impact on small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012), provide an economic impact statement that includes the following:

(a) An identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation.

- (b) The projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs required for compliance with the proposed regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record.
- (c) A statement of probable effect on impacted small businesses.
- (d) A description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed regulation.

As stated in the answers to questions 17 – 19 above, this regulation will not have an adverse impact on small businesses.

(25) List any special provisions which have been developed to meet the particular needs of affected groups or persons including, but not limited to, minorities, the elderly, small businesses, and farmers.

The Board has determined that there are no special needs of any subset of its applicants or licensees for whom special accommodations should be made.

(26) Include a description of any alternative regulatory provisions which have been considered and rejected and a statement that the least burdensome acceptable alternative has been selected.

No alternative regulatory provisions were considered. The Board considers this rulemaking to be the least burdensome acceptable means to achieve the purpose of the Board.

(27) In conducting a regulatory flexibility analysis, explain whether regulatory methods were considered that will minimize any adverse impact on small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012), including:

- a) The establishment of less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
- b) The establishment of less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
- c) The consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
- d) The establishment of performance standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the regulation; and
- e) The exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the regulation.

As stated in the answers to questions 17 – 19 above, this regulation will not have an adverse impact on small businesses.

(28) If data is the basis for this regulation, please provide a description of the data, explain in detail how the data was obtained, and how it meets the acceptability standard for empirical, replicable and testable data that is supported by documentation, statistics, reports, studies or research. Please submit data or supporting materials with the regulatory package. If the material exceeds 50 pages, please provide it in a searchable electronic format or provide a list of citations and internet links that, where possible, can be accessed in a searchable format in lieu of the actual material. If other data was considered but not used, please explain why that data was determined not to be acceptable.

This final regulation is not based upon any scientific data, studies or references.

(29) Include a schedule for review of the regulation including:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A. The length of the public comment period:   | <u>30 days</u>   |
| B. The date or dates on which any public meetings or hearings will be held:                   | <u>All rulemakings are considered at public meetings as listed in (30)</u> |
| C. The expected date of delivery of the final-form regulation:                                | <u>Summer of 2022</u>  |
| D. The expected effective date of the final-form regulation:                                  | <u>Upon notice or publication as final</u>                                 |
| E. The expected date by which compliance with the final-form regulation will be required:     | <u>Upon notice or publication as final</u>                                 |
| F. The expected date by which required permits, licenses or other approvals must be obtained: | <u>N/A</u>   |

(30) Describe the plan developed for evaluating the continuing effectiveness of the regulations after its implementation.

The Board continually reviews the efficacy of its regulations, as part of its annual review process under Executive Order 1996-1. The Board reviews its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled public meetings. The Board will meet on the following dates in 2022: August 18 and November 17. More information can be found on the Board's website (linked under boards & commissions from professional licensing on the Department's website at [www.dos.pa.gov](http://www.dos.pa.gov)).

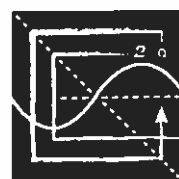
# **ATTACHMENT A**



# MODEL RULES

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September 2021



**NCEES**

# MODEL RULES

Revised September 2021

**Vision**

The vision of NCEES is to provide leadership in professional licensure of engineers and surveyors through excellence in uniform laws, licensing standards, and professional ethics in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to shape the future of professional licensure.

**Mission**

The mission of NCEES is to advance licensure for engineers and surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

This mission is supported through its member boards, board of directors, staff, board administrators, and volunteers by:

- Providing outstanding nationally normed examinations for engineers and surveyors
- Providing uniform model laws and model rules for adoption by the member boards
- Promoting professional ethics among all engineers and surveyors
- Coordinating with domestic and international organizations to advance licensure of all engineers and surveyors

**NCEES**

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National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying®

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## PREFACE

### **Purpose of the NCEES *Model Law* and *Model Rules***

The vision of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) is to provide leadership in professional licensure of engineers and surveyors through excellence in uniform laws, licensing standards, and professional ethics in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to shape the future of professional licensure. The mission of NCEES is to advance licensure for engineers and surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

NCEES serves as an organization through which its members—the engineering and surveying licensure boards in all U.S. states and territories—can counsel and act together to better discharge their duties as individual, autonomous regulatory agencies. One of the primary ways NCEES fulfills its vision and supports its mission is by providing the *Model Laws* and *Model Rules* for adoption by its member boards.

The NCEES *Model Law* sets forth broad ideas about the regulation of engineering and surveying licensure. It is an enabling document that defines the board's powers and duties. It is designed to assist legislative counsels, legislators, and NCEES members in preparing new or amendatory legislation. Each line in the sections is numbered to facilitate use of this document as a working model.

The *Model Rules* complements the *Model Law* by providing model rules and regulations for the ways member boards can carry out the general concepts introduced and set forth in the law. While it is designed to explain broad provisions stated in the *Model Law* by offering the details from an administrative perspective, the *Model Rules*, just like a board's regulations or rulemaking process, functions only within the authority granted by the *Model Law*. The *Model Rules* is designed to assist NCEES member board members, board counsel, and board administrators in preparing and updating board rules.

The bracketed and italicized language throughout the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* indicates areas where language may need to be customized for a jurisdiction.

By vote, the majority of NCEES member boards have agreed that the language in the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* represents the gold standard for engineering and surveying licensure requirements in the United States. Revisions to the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* are decided at the NCEES annual business meeting, and any motion to amend the *Model Law* or the *Model Rules* presented at an annual business meeting by an entity other than the Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines (UPLG) shall be referred to the UPLG Committee for review and revision of the language for inclusion before it is presented for Council vote at the next scheduled annual meeting.

The intent of NCEES in preparing these uniform model documents is to present its member boards with a high-level benchmark—and yet a sound and realistic guide—that will provide greater uniformity of qualifications for licensure, raise these qualifications to a higher level of accomplishment, and simplify the interstate licensure of engineers and surveyors.

## **210 INTRODUCTION**

### **210.10 Introduction**

The purpose of adopting rules is to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public by ensuring the proper performance of the duties of the board and the regulation of its procedures, meetings, records, examinations, and the conduct thereof.

### **210.20 Definitions**

The NCEES *Model Law*, Section 110.20, Definitions, provides definitions that also apply to these *Model Rules*.

### **210.25 Inclusions and Exclusions to the Practice of Surveying**

#### **A. Activities Included within the Practice of Surveying**

Activities that must be accomplished by or under the responsible charge of a professional surveyor (unless specifically exempted in subsection B of this section) include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The creation of maps or georeferenced databases representing authoritative locations for boundaries, the location of fixed works, or topography. This includes maps and georeferenced databases prepared by any person or government agency where that data is provided to the public as a surveying deliverable.
2. Original data acquisition, or the resolution of conflicts between multiple data sources, when used for the authoritative location of features within the following data themes: geodetic control, orthoimagery, elevation and hydrographic, fixed works, private and public boundaries, and cadastral information
3. Certification of positional accuracy of maps or measured survey data
4. Adjustment or authoritative interpretation of raw survey data
5. Geographic Information System (GIS)-based parcel or cadastral mapping used for authoritative boundary definition purposes wherein land title or development rights for individual parcels are, or may be, affected
6. Authoritative interpretation of maps, deeds, and other land title documents to resolve conflicting data elements
7. Acquisition of field data required to authoritatively position fixed works or cadastral data relative to geodetic control
8. Analysis, adjustment or transformation of cadastral data of the parcel layers with respect to the geodetic control layer within a GIS resulting in the affirmation of positional accuracy

#### **B. Activities Excluded from the Practice of Surveying**

A distinction must be made in the use of electronic systems between making or documenting original measurements in the creation of surveying deliverables, versus the copying, interpretation, or representation of those measurements in such systems. Further, a distinction must be made according to the intent, use, or purpose of measurements derived from electronic systems to determine an authoritative location versus the use of those measurements as a reference for planning, infrastructure management, and general information. The following items are not to be included as activities within the definition of the practice of surveying:

1. The creation of general maps
  - a. Prepared by private firms or government agencies for use as guides to motorists, boaters, aviators, or pedestrians
  - b. Prepared for publication in a gazetteer or atlas as an educational tool or reference publication

- c. Prepared for or by education institutions for use in the curriculum of any course of study
  - d. Produced by any electronic or print media firm as an illustrative guide to the geographic location of any event
  - e. Prepared by laypersons for conversational or illustrative purposes. This includes advertising material and users guides.
2. The transcription of previously georeferenced data into a GIS or LIS by manual or electronic means, and the maintenance thereof, provided the data are clearly not intended to indicate the authoritative location of property boundaries, the shape or contour of the earth, or fixed works
  3. The transcription of public record data, without modification except for graphical purposes, into a GIS- or LIS-based cadastre (tax maps and associated records) by manual or electronic means, and the maintenance of that cadastre, provided the data are clearly not intended to authoritatively represent property boundaries. This includes tax maps and zoning maps.
  4. The preparation of any document by any federal government agency that does not define real property boundaries. This includes civilian and military versions of quadrangle topographic maps, military maps, satellite imagery, and other such documents.
  5. The incorporation or use of documents or databases prepared by any federal agency into a GIS/LIS, including but not limited to federal census and demographic data, quadrangle topographic maps, and military maps
  6. Inventory maps or databases created by any organization, in either hard-copy or electronic form, of physical features, facilities, or infrastructure that are wholly contained within properties to which they have rights or for which they have management responsibility. The distribution of these maps or databases outside the organization must contain appropriate metadata describing, at a minimum, the accuracy, method of compilation, data sources and dates, and disclaimers of use clearly indicating that the data are not intended to be used as a surveying deliverable.
  7. Maps and databases depicting the distribution of natural resources or phenomena prepared by foresters, geologists, soil scientists, geophysicists, biologists, archeologists, historians, or other persons qualified to document such data
  8. Maps and georeferenced databases depicting physical features and events prepared by any government agency where the access to that data is restricted by statute. This includes georeferenced data generated by law enforcement agencies involving crime statistics and criminal activities.

### **210.30 Offering to Practice Engineering and Surveying**

If the engineer or surveyor is licensed in another jurisdiction, the following items are not considered an offer to practice engineering or surveying:

- A. Advertisements published in print or electronic media, if professional services are not offered in jurisdictions where the engineer or surveyor is not licensed
- B. Responses to inquiries regarding requests for proposals, if there is written disclosure that the engineer/surveyor and firm are not currently licensed in the jurisdiction and the response is limited to inquiries regarding scope of project and to demonstrate interest
- C. Responses to inquiries from prospective clients, if there is written disclosure that the engineer/surveyor and firm are not currently licensed in the jurisdiction and the response is limited to inquiries regarding scope of project and to demonstrate interest
- D. Using the title/designation professional engineer, licensed engineer, P.E., professional surveyor, licensed surveyor, P.S., or other indicia of licensure in correspondence or on business cards from an office in the jurisdiction where licensure is held



Proposals may not be submitted, contracts signed, or work commenced until the engineer/surveyor and firm become licensed or authorized in the jurisdiction where the work is to be performed.

## **220 THE LICENSING BOARD**

### **220.10 Board Operations**

#### **A. Meetings**

1. Notices of meeting dates and times are normally given *[insert amount of time required]* in advance for all the regular meetings of the year. For special meetings, *[insert number of days]* notice must be given.
2. Place of meetings is determined in advance by members of the board.
3. All meetings are open to the public unless the meeting is closed for reasons defined by the laws of this jurisdiction.

#### **B. Voting**

All members of the board, including the chairperson, are entitled to vote and to make or to second motions. A majority vote of those present is required to pass a motion. The chairperson shall vote as a member of the board.

#### **C. Rules of Order**

The latest edition of *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the normal proceedings of the board. Exceptions include hearings that may be disciplinary in nature.

#### **D. Use of Forms**

All applications and requests for which the board has prescribed a form must be presented on these forms.

#### **E. Roster**

A roster of all licensees and firms holding a certificate of authorization will be updated annually and shall be accessible to the public.

### **220.20 Adoption and Amendment of Rules and Regulations**

All rules or regulations adopted, amended, or repealed by this board shall comply with the provision of the administrative procedures act of this jurisdiction *[insert chapter, title, code, jurisdiction, date]*.

### **220.30 Fees**

#### **A. Application Fees**

1. *[\$[insert amount]]*—For professional engineer and professional surveyor licensure, as provided in the *NCEES Model Law*, Section 130.20 B
2. *[\$[insert amount]]*—For engineer intern and surveyor intern certification, as provided in the *NCEES Model Law*, Section 130.20 B
3. *[\$[insert amount]]*—For firm certificate of authorization, as provided in the *NCEES Model Law*, Section 160.40 B
4. When the issuance of a certificate to an applicant is denied, the fee paid shall be retained as an application fee, as provided in the *NCEES Model Law*, Sections 130.20 C and 160.40 C. Applications received without the proper fee will be returned to the applicant.

#### **B. Examination Fees**

1. Examination fees are determined from time to time by the board in accordance with the provisions of *[insert applicable jurisdiction law]*.
2. The current fees in effect may be obtained from the board.
3. Fees for manual verification of exam results are the same as those charged by NCEES.
4. The examination fees will not be returned to an applicant.

C. Roster

The fee for a copy of the *[insert annual, biennial, or other]* roster shall be determined by the board based on costs for its publication.

D. Renewal Fees

1. Renewal fees are payable before the last day of the month of *[insert month]* each year *[or other intervals]*.
2. Each licensee and firm holding a certificate of authorization will be notified by the board of the expiration date of his or her certificate of licensure or authorization and the amount of the renewal fee at least one month before the expiration date.
3. Amount of Renewal Fee—The renewal fee is set by regulation of the board in accordance with the provisions of *[insert applicable jurisdiction law]*.
4. Penalties for Late Renewal—Renewal fees in arrears are subject to a penalty for late renewal in accordance with jurisdiction law.

E. Duplicate Certificate Fees

The fee for the issuance of a duplicate certificate or enrollment document to a licensee, firm, or intern is determined by regulation of the board in accordance with the provision of *[insert applicable jurisdiction law]*.

**230 CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE**

**230.10 Education Requirements Approved by the Board**

A. Engineering Program

The term “an engineering program of four years or more” used in Section 130.10 B.1.a of the NCEES *Model Law* is interpreted by this board to mean the following:

1. A degree from a bachelor’s or master’s engineering program accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (EAC/ABET) at the time of the awarding of the degree. The board may accept the degree if accreditation is received within *[insert the prescribed time]*.
2. A degree from an engineering program not accredited by EAC/ABET but that meets the requirements of the NCEES *Engineering Education Standard*

B. Surveying Program

The following shall be considered as minimum evidence to the board that the applicant is qualified in terms of education for certification as a surveyor intern:

1. Graduation from a surveying program of four years or more accredited by EAC/ABET, the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET (ETAC/ABET), or the Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission of ABET (ANSAC/ABET) at the time of awarding the degree or from a program that meets the requirements of the NCEES *Surveying Education Standard* as described in Section 130.10 C.1.a in NCEES *Model Law*. The board may accept the degree if accreditation is received within *[insert the prescribed time]*.
2. Graduation from a program related to surveying of four years or more as described in Section 130.10 C.1.b in NCEES *Model Law* is interpreted to be a bachelor’s degree including surveying courses, mathematics, and physical science.
3. Graduation from a program of four years or more as described in NCEES *Model Law* 130.10 C.1.c is interpreted to mean a program other than those defined in 1 or 2 above that is accepted by the board.

## **230.20 Experience**

### **A. As a Professional Engineer<sup>1</sup>**

In evaluating experience that indicates to the board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering, the following will be considered:

1. Experience must be progressive on engineering projects and must demonstrate an increasing quality and responsibility. Experience must be obtained in accordance with *Model Law 130.10*.
2. Only work of an engineering nature that follows graduation from a program that meets the criteria set forth in *Model Law 130.10 B.2.a(1)* is acceptable.
3. A graduate degree that is used to satisfy education requirements cannot be applied for experience credit toward licensure. To be eligible for experience credit, graduate degrees shall be relevant to the applicant's area of professional practice. Experience credit for a graduate degree cannot be earned concurrently with work experience credit.
4. Experience must be obtained in compliance with the licensure act.
5. Experience gained in the armed services must be of a character equivalent to that which would have been gained in the civilian sector doing similar work.
6. Experience should be gained under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer; if it is not, an explanation must be made showing why the experience should be considered acceptable. Experience gained under the technical supervision of an unlicensed individual may be considered if the appropriate credentials of the unlicensed supervisor are submitted to the board.
7. Sales experience must demonstrate that engineering principles were required and used in gaining the experience.
8. Teaching experience must be in engineering or engineering-related courses at a junior-, senior-, or graduate-level in a college or university offering an engineering program of four years or more that is approved by the board.
9. Experience may be gained in engineering research and design projects by members of an engineering faculty where the program is approved by the board.
10. Experience may be gained in engineering research by industry or government employees.
11. Experience must have been gained by the time of the application.
12. Experience in construction must demonstrate the application of engineering principles.
13. Experience must include demonstration of a knowledge of engineering mathematics, physical and applied science, properties of materials, and the fundamental principles of engineering design.
14. Experience must include demonstration of the application of engineering principles in the practical solution of engineering problems.
15. The board may deem professional experience acquired by applicants outside the United States to be equivalent to the minimum board requirements established by regulations for professional experience in that jurisdiction.

### **B. As a Professional Surveyor<sup>2</sup>**

In evaluating experience that indicates to the board that the applicant may be competent to practice surveying, the following will be considered:

1. Experience must be progressive on surveying projects and must demonstrate an increasing quality and responsibility. Experience must be obtained in accordance with *Model Law 130.10*.
2. Experience must be obtained in compliance with the licensure act.

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<sup>1</sup> Experience may be summarized as shown in Appendix A, Suggested Guidelines for Evaluating Progressive Engineering Experience. Appendix A is for reference only, and the language should not be adopted into the board rules.

<sup>2</sup> Experience may be summarized as shown in Appendix B, Suggested Guidelines for Evaluating Progressive Surveying Experience. Appendix B is for reference only, and the language should not be adopted into the board rules.

3. Experience gained in the armed services must be of a character equivalent to that which would have been gained in the civilian sector doing similar work.
4. Experience should be gained under the supervision of a licensed professional surveyor or, if not, an explanation must be made showing why the experience should be considered acceptable. Experience gained under the technical supervision of an unlicensed individual may be considered if the appropriate credentials of the unlicensed supervisor are submitted to the board.
5. Teaching experience must be in surveying or surveying-related courses at a junior-, senior-, or graduate-level in surveying or surveying-related courses approved by the board.
6. Experience related to property conveyance and/or boundary line determination must be demonstrated.
7. Experience in the technical field aspects of the profession must be demonstrated.
8. Experience must have been gained by the time of the application.
9. Experience must include demonstration of the application of surveying principles in the practical execution of surveying tasks.
10. Experience may be gained in surveying research projects by members of a surveying faculty where the program is approved by the board.
11. Experience may be gained in surveying research by industry or government employees.
12. The board may deem professional experience acquired by applicants outside the United States to be equivalent to the minimum board requirements established by regulations for professional experience in that jurisdiction.

### **230.30 References**

References are individuals who have personal knowledge of an applicant and are able to assess an applicant's experience, ability, character, or reputation.

- A. For licensure as a professional engineer or professional surveyor, an applicant must submit five references, three of whom shall be licensed engineers, licensed surveyors, or other individuals deemed acceptable to the board, who have personal knowledge of the applicant's engineering or surveying experience. In addition, for each employment period, individuals familiar with the applicant's experience for that period must be identified. Engineering applicants must have licensed engineer references, and surveying applicants must have licensed surveyor references.
- B. Relatives may not be used as references.
- C. No current board member shall be used as a reference.
- D. Each applicant should inform the individuals being used as references that they will be sent a reference form to complete and return.
- E. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the individuals giving the reference return a completed reference form to the board within a reasonable time. All reference materials must be complete before any board action may be taken on an application.
- F. References are considered to be confidential, nonpublic records that will not be divulged except as required by law.

## **230.40 Examinations**

### **A. Classification of Engineering Examinations**

This jurisdiction or its designee will provide the following examinations, prepared and furnished by NCEES, meeting the requirements of this jurisdiction for licensure as a:

1. NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination—The examination consists of subject matters in the fundamentals of engineering. Passing this examination qualifies the examinee for certification as an engineer intern, provided the examinee has met all other requirements for certification required by these Rules.
2. NCEES Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) examination—The examination consists of subject matters in applied engineering. Passing this examination qualifies the examinee for licensure as a professional engineer, provided the examinee has met the other requirements for licensure required by these Rules.

### **B. Eligibility of Applicant for Engineering Examinations**

1. NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Examination
  - a. Individuals who are in the final year of a program leading to a bachelor's degree in engineering may register with NCEES directly to take the FE examination or, if required, apply to the board for admission to the FE examination.
  - b. To be certified as an engineer intern, an application for certification may be submitted to the board upon passing the FE examination and meeting the education requirements.
2. NCEES Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) Examination
  - a. Applicants for licensure as a professional engineer will be permitted to sit for the PE examination upon satisfactorily fulfilling all application requirements of the jurisdiction.
  - b. No applicant may sit for the PE examination until the board has established that the applicant is eligible for the examination.
  - c. Engineering doctorate degree applicants with an undergraduate degree from a program accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (EAC/ABET) and with a doctorate degree in engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET-accredited undergraduate programs in the doctorate degree field of engineering and with experience that meets the qualifications defined by the board may sit for the PE examination without having taken or passed the FE examination.

### **C. Classification of Surveying Examinations**

This jurisdiction will provide the following examinations, prepared and furnished by NCEES, meeting the requirements of this jurisdiction for licensure:

1. NCEES Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) examination—The examination consists of subject matters in the fundamentals of surveying. Passing this examination qualifies the examinee for certification as a surveyor intern, provided the examinee has met all other requirements for certification required by this Act.
2. NCEES Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) examination—The examination consists of subject matters in applied surveying, divided in separate parts as determined by the board. Passing these parts qualifies the examinee for licensure as a professional surveyor, provided the examinee has met the other requirements for licensure required by this Act.

Jurisdictions have the right to administer separate modules on jurisdiction laws and procedures for the practice of surveying.

**D. Eligibility of Applicant for Surveying Examinations**

**1. NCEES Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) Examination**

- a. Individuals who are in the final year of a program leading to a bachelor's degree in a surveying or surveying-related program may register with NCEES directly to take the FS examination or, if required, apply to the board for admission to the FS examination.
  - b. To be certified as a surveyor intern, an application for certification may be submitted to the board upon passing the FS examination and meeting the education and experience requirement.
- 2. NCEES Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) Examination**
- a. An applicant for licensure as a professional surveyor will not be permitted to sit for the PS examination until the FS examination has been passed.
  - b. No applicant may sit for the PS examination until the board has established that the applicant is eligible for the examination.

**E. Examination Dates and Locations**

1. Examinations are offered on dates set by NCEES.
2. Locations at which the examinations are given are designated by the board or by NCEES.

**F. Language of the Examination**

The language of the examination shall be English.

**G. Exam Preparation Materials**

The board may publish and make available exam preparation materials for all examinations that are specific to the jurisdiction. Exam preparation materials for NCEES examinations are available through NCEES.

**H. Instructions for Examinees**

1. Instructions provided prior to each examination will declare an examination to be open- or closed-book. Instructions will communicate what materials are allowed in the examination room in accordance with established NCEES policy.
2. Failure to Attend an Examination
  - a. An applicant who fails to attend an examination for which he or she has been scheduled will forfeit the fee paid for the exam, except in the case of illness, death in the family, or military deployment. Refunds, if any, will be determined based upon NCEES or jurisdictional policies.
  - b. Failure of an applicant to attend an examination for which he or she has been scheduled to attend does not count as a failure of the examination.

**I. Pencil-and-Paper Examination Offerings**

1. All applicants for an NCEES pencil-and-paper examination must register with NCEES after being approved by the licensing board of their jurisdiction.
2. A candidate failing an NCEES pencil-and-paper examination may apply to retake the examination in accordance with *[insert the rules/regulations of the licensing board]*.
3. An applicant for an NCEES pencil-and-paper examination will be notified by the board at least *[insert number]* days before the examination date of approval to take the examination. The applicant must notify the board whether he or she plans to sit for the examination at least *[insert number]* days before the examination date.

**J. Computer-Based Examination Offerings**

1. An applicant must register with NCEES to take an NCEES computer-based examination.
2. An applicant failing an NCEES computer-based examination may be allowed to retake the examination in accordance with NCEES policy and *[insert rules/regulations of licensing board]*.

**K. Examination Results**

Examination results will be released in accordance with established NCEES policy.

**L. Review of Examinations**

There shall be no post-administration access to, or review of, NCEES examination questions. Member boards may request that NCEES manually verify an examinee's results from a pencil-and-paper examination. Such verification shall be conducted in accordance with NCEES policy.

**M. Examination for Record Purposes**

1. Any professional engineer licensed by this board may take for Record purposes the FE examination and/or a PE examination in a chosen discipline offered by NCEES upon payment of *[insert fee set by board regulation and/or NCEES]*.
2. Failure to pass either or both examinations will in no way affect current licensure.

**230.50 Classifications and Disciplines of Engineers and Surveyors**

**A. Classification of Engineers**

Engineering applicants shall be licensed or certified under one of the classifications as prescribed by the laws of this jurisdiction:

1. Engineer intern—by education and examination
2. Professional engineer—by education, examination, and experience, or by comity
3. Discipline professional engineer—by verification of discipline competence

**B. Classification of Surveyors**

Surveying applicants shall be licensed or certified under one of the classifications as prescribed by the laws of this jurisdiction.

1. Surveyor intern—by education and/or experience, and examination
2. Professional surveyor—by education, examination, and experience, or by comity (and appropriate jurisdiction-specific examination)

**230.60 Applications**

**A. Applications Process**

1. All applications made to this board must be completed on the forms prescribed and furnished by the board. Applications for licensure properly executed and issued with verification by NCEES may be accepted in lieu of the same information that is required on the form prescribed and furnished by this board.
2. To allow sufficient time for processing and for securing pencil-and-paper examinations, all applications that may require pencil-and-paper examinations must be filed with this board at least *[insert number]* days before the date set for the appropriate pencil-and-paper examinations.
3. Withholding information or providing statements that are untrue or misrepresent the facts may be cause for denial of an application or revocation of license or certification.
4. It is the responsibility of the applicant to supply correct contact information for all references and to be sure that the references are supplied as requested. If a reference fails to respond, this could delay the processing of an application either until a reply is obtained or another reference is given.
5. In relating experience, the applicant must account for all employment or work experience that has elapsed since the beginning of the employment record. If not employed or employed in other kinds of work, this should be indicated in the experience record.



**B. Applicants with Degrees from Foreign Schools**

1. All foreign language documentation submitted with the completed application must be accompanied by certified translations. The translation report shall be sent directly from the translation service to the board for review.
2. All applicants must be able to communicate in the language of commerce.
3. Applicants who, for political or other valid reasons, are unable to obtain their college transcript shall be processed on a case-by-case basis by the board.
4. The board may require an independent evaluation of the foreign undergraduate education of an applicant who was educated outside the United States.

**C. Reconsideration of Applications**

Reconsideration may be requested of an application that has been denied when the request is based on additional information and/or evidence that could affect the original decision. A reconsideration request or request for a hearing must be made within *[insert number]* days after the applicant has been notified that the decision was made to reject the original application.

**D. Disposition of Applications**

Applications may be approved, deferred for further information (more experience, questionable references, or other reasons), or denied.

1. **Approved applications**—When an application is approved by the board showing that the applicant has met all the requirements for licensure or certification required by the licensure act, the applicant shall be granted licensure or certification with notification by the board.
2. **Deferred applications**—Applications deferred for any reason are retained until such date as a proper remedy is presented or until *[insert deadline for responding to board's inquiry]*.
3. **Denied applications**—When an application is denied by the board, it is kept on file for at least one year before being destroyed.

**E. Licensure by Comity**

1. The board is authorized to review and evaluate the applications of all comity applicants to determine if they meet or exceed the criteria to be licensed as a professional engineer or professional surveyor as defined in Section 130.10 of the *Model Law*.
2. The board administrator is authorized to review and evaluate the applications of all comity applicants to determine if they meet or exceed the criteria of a Model Law Engineer or Model Law Surveyor as set forth in the *NCEES Manual of Policy and Position Statements*. If the applicant meets or exceeds these requirements, the board administrator may issue a contingent license authorizing that individual to offer or provide engineering or surveying services in this jurisdiction. A list of all engineers issued contingent licenses will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the board for formal approval by the board. A list of all surveyors who have been issued contingent licenses and who have passed the appropriate jurisdiction-specific examination will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting for formal approval by the board.

**240 LICENSEES**

**240.10 Licensure**

**A. License Number as a Professional Engineer or Professional Surveyor**

Each licensee is assigned a license number at the time licensure is granted by the board. Numbers are issued consecutively in the order in which applicants are granted licensure. The licensee will be advised of the number by the board.

**B. Certificates of Licensure**

The board shall issue a certificate of licensure to an applicant who has met the requirements of this jurisdiction and who has paid the application fee. The information shown on the certificate shall be in accordance with *Model Law 140.10 Certificates of Licensure, Seals*.

**C. Retirement of Licensure Option**

When a licensee in good standing desires to retire his or her license, he or she may do so upon application to the board. Upon meeting the requirements established by the board, a permanent identification card may be issued and the retired licensee shall receive all rights and benefits as established by the board. Upon retirement of said license, the retiree shall not practice the profession.

**D. Reissuance of Certificate**

When a certificate of licensure, certificate of authorization, or enrollment card is lost, destroyed, or mutilated, it will be replaced upon request by a licensee, firm, or intern in good standing who has paid a fee established by the jurisdiction.

**240.15 Rules of Professional Conduct**

To safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to maintain integrity and high standards of skill and practice in the engineering and surveying professions, the rules of professional conduct provided in this section shall be binding upon every licensee and on all firms authorized to offer or perform engineering or surveying services in this jurisdiction.

**A. Licensee's Obligation to the Public**

1. Licensees shall be cognizant that their first and foremost responsibility is to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public when performing services for clients and employers.
2. Licensees shall sign and seal only those plans, surveys, and other documents that conform to accepted engineering and surveying standards and that safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
3. Licensees shall notify their employer or client and such other authority as may be appropriate when their professional judgment is overruled when the health, safety, or welfare of the public is endangered.
4. Licensees shall, to the best of their knowledge, include all relevant and pertinent information in an objective and truthful manner within all professional documents, statements, and testimony.
5. Licensees shall express a professional opinion publicly only when it is founded upon an adequate knowledge of the facts and a competent evaluation of the subject matter.
6. Licensees shall issue no statements, criticisms, or arguments on engineering and surveying matters that are inspired or paid for by interested parties, unless they explicitly identify the interested parties on whose behalf they are speaking and reveal any interest they have in the matters.
7. Licensees shall not partner, practice, or offer to practice with any person or firm that they know is engaged in fraudulent or dishonest business or professional practices.
8. Licensees who have knowledge or reason to believe that any person or firm has violated any rules or laws applying to the practice of engineering or surveying shall report it to the board, may report it to appropriate legal authorities, and shall cooperate with the board and those authorities as requested.
9. Licensees shall not knowingly provide false or incomplete information regarding an applicant in obtaining licensure.
10. Licensees shall comply with the licensing laws and rules governing their professional practice in each of the jurisdictions in which they practice.

**B. Licensee's Obligation to Employer and Clients**

1. Licensees shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical fields of engineering or surveying involved.
2. Licensees shall not affix their signatures or seals to any plans or documents dealing with subject matter in which they lack competence, nor to any such plan or document not prepared under their responsible charge.
3. Licensees may accept assignments and assume responsibility for coordination of an entire project if each technical segment is signed and sealed by the licensee responsible for preparation of that technical segment.
4. Licensees shall not reveal facts, data, or information obtained in a professional capacity without the prior consent of the client, employer, or public body on which they serve except as authorized or required by law or rules.
5. Licensees shall not solicit or accept gratuities, directly or indirectly, from contractors, their agents, or other parties in connection with work for employers or clients.
6. Licensees shall disclose to their employers or clients all known or potential conflicts of interest or other circumstances that could influence or appear to influence their judgment or the quality of their professional service or engagement.
7. Licensees shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to in writing by all interested parties.
8. Licensees shall not solicit or accept a professional contract from a governmental body on which a principal or officer of their organization serves as a member. Conversely, licensees serving as members, advisors, or employees of a government body or department, who are the principals or employees of a private concern, shall not participate in decisions with respect to professional services offered or provided by said concern to the governmental body that they serve.
9. Licensees shall not use confidential information received in the course of their assignments as a means of making personal profit without the consent of the party from whom the information was obtained.

**C. Licensee's Obligation to Other Licensees**

1. Licensees shall not falsify or permit misrepresentation of their, or their associates', academic or professional qualifications. They shall not misrepresent or exaggerate their degree of responsibility in prior assignments nor the complexity of said assignments. Presentations incidental to the solicitation of employment or business shall not misrepresent pertinent facts concerning employers, employees, associates, joint ventures, or past accomplishments.
2. Licensees shall not offer, give, solicit, or receive, either directly or indirectly, any commission, or gift, or other valuable consideration in order to secure work, and shall not make any political contribution with the intent to influence the award of a contract by public authority.
3. Licensees shall not injure or attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects, practice, or employment of other licensees, nor indiscriminately criticize other licensees' work.
4. Licensees shall make a reasonable effort to inform another licensee whose work is believed to contain a material discrepancy, error, or omission that may impact the health, safety, or welfare of the public, unless such reporting is legally prohibited.

#### **240.20 Seal on Documents**

- A. The seal and signature of the licensee and the date of signing shall be placed on all final engineering specifications, reports, drawings, plans, design information, and calculations or surveys, reports, plats, drawings, plans, and calculations whenever presented to a client or any public agency to certify that the work thereon was done by the licensee or under the responsible charge of the licensee. Working drawings or preliminary documents are not required to have a seal and signature if the working drawing or preliminary document contains a statement in large bold letters to the effect "PRELIMINARY, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION, RECORDING PURPOSES, OR IMPLEMENTATION."
- B. The seal and signature shall be placed on all original copy, tracings, or other reproducible documents so that the seal and signature will be reproduced when copies are made.
- C. When the document contains more than one sheet, the first or title page shall be sealed and signed by the licensee who was in responsible charge. Two or more licensees may affix their signatures and seals provided that a note under the seal designates the specific subject matter for which each is responsible. In addition, each sheet shall be sealed and signed by the licensee or licensees responsible for that sheet. When a firm performs the work, each sheet shall be sealed and signed by the licensee or licensees who were in responsible charge of that sheet.
- D. The seal and signature shall be placed on work only when it was under the licensee's responsible charge. The licensee shall sign and seal only work within the licensee's areas of competence.
- E. Plans, plats, specifications, drawings, reports, and other documents will be deemed to have been prepared under the responsible charge of a licensee only when all the following conditions have been met and documented:
1. The client requesting preparation of such plans, plats, specifications, drawings, reports, or other documents makes the request directly to the licensee, or a member or employee of the licensee's firm;
  2. The licensee supervises the preparation of the plans, plats, specifications, drawings, reports, or other documents and has input into their preparation prior to their completion;
  3. The licensee reviews the final plans, plats, specifications, drawings, reports, or other documents; and
  4. The licensee has the authority to, and does, make any necessary and appropriate changes to the final plans, plats, specifications, drawings, reports, or other documents.
- The licensee is responsible for meeting all of the preceding requirements whether the work is being performed remotely or locally.
- F. Any revision to a document containing the seal and signature of a licensee shall be described and dated. If the revisions are not done by the original licensee, the revisions must also be signed and sealed by the licensee in responsible charge of those revisions.
- G. In circumstances where a licensee in responsible charge of the work is unavailable to complete the work, or the work is a site adaptation of a standard design plan, or the work is a design plan signed and sealed by an out-of-jurisdiction licensee, a successor licensee may take responsible charge by performing all professional services to include developing a complete design file with work or design criteria, calculations, code research, and any necessary and appropriate changes to the work. The non-professional services, such as drafting, need not be redone by the successor licensee but must clearly and accurately reflect the successor licensee's work. The burden is on the successor licensee to show such compliance. The successor licensee shall have control of and responsibility for the work product and the signed and sealed originals of all documents.

H. When a licensee is required to seal and sign engineering/surveying documents, one of the following methods must be used:

1. Physical placement of a seal and a handwritten signature in permanent ink containing the name of the licensee
2. Digital placement of a seal and a handwritten signature in permanent ink containing the name of the licensee
3. Digital placement of a seal and a digital signature containing the name of the licensee

Drawings, reports, and documents that are signed using a digital signature must have an electronic authentication process attached to or logically associated with the electronic document. The digital signature must be

1. Unique to the individual using it
2. Capable of verification
3. Under the sole control of the individual using it
4. Linked to a document in such a manner that the digital signature is invalidated if any data in the document is changed.

A digital signature that uses a process approved by the board will be presumed to meet the criteria set forth in Section H above. Any hard copy printed from the transmitted electronic file shall bear the facsimile of the signature and seal and be a confirmation that the electronic file was not altered after the initial digital signing of the file. Any alterations to the file shall cause the facsimile of the signature to be voided.

#### **240.30 Continuing Professional Competency**

The purpose of the continuing professional competency requirement is to demonstrate a continuing level of competency of licensees.

##### **A. Introduction**

Every licensee shall meet the continuing professional competency requirements of these regulations for professional development as a condition for licensure renewal.

##### **B. Definitions**

Terms used in this section are defined as follows:

1. Professional Development Hour (PDH)—One contact hour (nominal) of instruction or presentation. The PDH is the common denominator for other units of credit.
  - a. The term "contact hour" is defined as a minimum of 50 minutes of course/activity.
  - b. The total number of hours allowed for a course/activity cannot exceed the actual number of clock hours.
2. Ethics/Business-Related Course or Activity—A qualifying course or activity with content areas related to (1) the awareness of ethical concerns and conflicts; (2) an enhanced familiarity with the codes of conduct; (3) an understanding of standards of practice or care; (4) project management and risk-assessment management; or (5) other similar topics aimed at maintaining, improving, or expanding the skills set and knowledge relevant to the licensee's field and methods of practice.
3. Continuing Education Unit (CEU)—Unit of credit customarily used for continuing education courses. One continuing education unit equals 10 contact hours in an approved continuing education course.
4. College Semester/Quarter Hour—Credit for course in ABET-accredited programs or other related college course approved in accordance with subsection E of this section.

5. **Course/Activity**—Any qualifying course or activity with a clear purpose and objective that will maintain, improve, or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the licensee's field of practice. Regular duties are not considered qualified activities.
6. **Dual Licensee**—An individual who is licensed as both a professional engineer and a professional surveyor

**C. Qualifying Activities**

PDHs may be earned as follows:

1. Successful completion of college courses
2. Successful completion of short courses, tutorials, webinars, and distance-education courses offered for documented individual or group study. The method of delivery can be through the following:
  - a. Face-to-face programs or live internet-based programs
  - b. Archived prerecorded programs or archived correspondence programs
3. Presenting or attending qualifying seminars, in-house courses, workshops, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions, conferences, or educational institutions
4. Teaching or instructing in 1 through 3 above
5. Authoring published papers, articles, books, or accepted licensing examination items
6. Active participation in professional or technical societies or in accrediting organizations
7. Patents
8. Active participation in educational outreach activities pertaining to professional licensure or the surveying/engineering professions that involve K-12 or higher education students

**D. Units**

The conversion of other units of credit to PDHs is as follows:

1. 1 semester hour ..... 45 PDHs
2. 1 quarter hour ..... 30 PDHs
3. 1 continuing education unit ..... 10 PDHs
4. 1 hour of professional development in coursework, seminars, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions, or conferences ..... 1 PDH
5. For teaching in 1 through 4 above, apply multiple of 2\*
6. Publications
  - a. Each published peer-reviewed paper or book in the licensee's area of professional practice ..... 10 PDHs
  - b. Each published paper or article (other than 6.a above) in the licensee's area of professional practice ..... 5 PDHs
7. Active participation in professional and technical society (each organization) ..... 2 PDHs
8. Each patent ..... 10 PDHs
9. 1 hour of outreach activities ..... 1 PDH (not to exceed 3 PDHs)

\* Teaching credit is valid only for the first offering or presentation. Full-time faculty may not claim teaching credit associated with their regular duties.

**E. Determination of Credit**

The board has final authority with respect to approval of courses, credit, PDH value for courses, and other methods of earning credit.

1. Credit for college or community college approved courses will be based upon course credit established by the college.

2. Credit for qualifying seminars and workshops will be based on 1 PDH for each hour of attendance. Attendance at qualifying programs presented at professional and/or technical society meetings will earn PDHs for the actual time of each program.
3. Credit determination for activities in subsections D.6 and D.8 is the responsibility of the licensee (subject to review as required by the board).
4. Credit for activity in subsection D.7, active participation in professional and technical societies (limited to 2 PDHs per organization), requires that a licensee serve as an officer and/or actively participate in a committee of the organization. PDHs are not earned until the end of each year of service is completed.

**F. Recordkeeping**

The licensee is responsible for maintaining records to be used to support credits claimed. Records required include, but are not limited to (1) a log showing the type of activity claimed, sponsoring organization, location, duration, instructor's or speaker's name, and PDHs earned; and (2) attendance verification records in the form of completion certificates or other documents supporting evidence of attendance.

**G. Exemptions**

A licensee may be exempt from the continuing professional competency requirements for one of the following reasons:

1. New licensees by way of examination or comity shall be exempt for their first renewal period.
2. A licensee serving on temporary active duty in the armed forces of the United States for a period of time exceeding 120 consecutive days in a year shall be exempt from obtaining the PDHs required during that renewal period.
3. Licensees experiencing physical disability, illness, or other extenuating circumstances may apply for an exemption or an extension of time to obtain the credits, subject to the review and approval of the board. Supporting documentation must be furnished to the board.
4. Licensees who list their occupation as "Retired" or "Inactive" on the board-approved renewal form and who further certify that they are no longer receiving any remuneration from providing professional engineering or surveying services shall be exempt from the PDHs required.

**H. Reinstatement**

A licensee may bring a retired or inactive license to active status by obtaining all delinquent PDHs. However, if the total number required to become current exceeds 30, then 30 shall be the maximum number required.

**I. Requirements for Renewal**

To renew a license, an applicant must meet either of the following:

1. The requirements of the NCEES *CPC Standard*
2. The requirements of [insert jurisdiction name]

**J. Dual Licensees**

The number of PDHs required per year shall be as stated in the NCEES *CPC Standard*. At least one-third of the PDHs shall be obtained in each profession.

**K. Certification**

All renewal applications will require the certification of CPC credits as specified by the board. The licensee must supply sufficient detail and backup documentation with the renewal application, if required, or upon notification of audit.



#### **240.40 Expirations, Renewals, and Reinstatement to Active Practice**

- A. A renewal notice will be sent annually or as required by this jurisdiction by the board *[insert number of days]* prior to the license expiration date to every individual licensed under the licensure act and to every firm holding a certificate of authorization showing the expiration date of their license or certificate and the amount of the fee for renewal.
- B. The annual *[or insert other amount of time]* renewal fee is established by the board.
- C. Renewal fees must be received by the board prior to the expiration date. Fees received within one month or more after the renewal date will be assessed an additional fee established by the board.
- D. Renewal fees not paid within a period established by the board after the expiration date voids the license or certificate and will require a new application for licensure or certification in order to continue to practice engineering or surveying.
- E. A licensee or firm who supplies the board before the expiration date of his/her/its license/certificate with an affidavit that he/she/it is no longer practicing and will not practice engineering or surveying in this jurisdiction may retain his/her/its license/certificate for later use upon payment of delinquent fees.
- F. The responsibility for the timely renewal of a licensee's license rests solely with the individual licensee. The responsibility for the timely renewal of a firm's certificate rests solely with the firm's managing agent.
- G. The applicant for renewal or reinstatement may be required to demonstrate to the board that he or she has maintained the required minimum level of professional competence in a manner acceptable to the board.

#### **250 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

##### **250.10 Knowledge of Rules**

All licensees and interns and all firms authorized under the provisions of the licensure act, as well as applicants, are charged with having knowledge of these Rules as well as amendments that are made known in writing to every licensee, intern, firm, and applicant.

##### **250.20 Compliance**

Professional surveyors and surveying firms shall comply with the minimum standards codified for surveys in this jurisdiction.

##### **250.30 Disciplinary Action Procedures**

- A. Summons and Notice of Charges
  - 1. In the event the investigative committee determines that a probable cause exists, the legal counsel of the board is requested to prepare a summons and notice of charges.
  - 2. The summons and notice of charges shall be personally served or mailed to the last known address of the respondent at least 30 days before the date fixed for hearing.
  - 3. The summons and notice of charges shall show the time, place, and nature of the hearing, a statement of legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held, a reference to the particular section of the licensure act and rules involved, and a short and plain statement of the matters asserted. The notice of the summons and notice of charges shall indicate that at any hearing the respondent shall have the right to appear in person or by counsel or both to cross-examine witnesses in his or her or its defense and to produce evidence and witnesses of his or her or its own defense. If the respondent fails or refuses to appear, the board may proceed to hear and

determine the validity of the charges. The notice shall be in substantial compliance with the requirements of the laws of this jurisdiction.

**B. Evidentiary Matters**

In contested cases, irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence shall be excluded. The rules of evidence as applied in civil cases in the court of common pleas shall be followed. The board shall give effect to the rules of privilege recognized by law. Objection to evidentiary offers may be made and shall be noted in the record. Subject to these requirements, any part of the evidence may be received in written form when a hearing will be expedited and the interest of the parties involved will not be prejudiced substantially. Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts if the original is not readily available. Any party may conduct cross-examination. Notice may be taken of judicially cognizable facts. In addition, notice may be taken of generally recognized technical or scientific facts within the board's specialized knowledge. Parties shall be notified either before or during the hearing or by reference in preliminary reports or otherwise of the material noticed, including any staff memoranda or data, and they shall be afforded an opportunity to contest the material so noticed. The board's experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge may be utilized in the evaluation of evidence.

**C. Conduct of Hearing**

The conduct of the hearing and evidence submitted shall be as required by the laws of this jurisdiction.

1. At its discretion, the board may appoint an individual [*preferably an attorney or someone familiar with the laws and procedures*] to act as a hearing examiner. The hearing examiner shall preside at the hearing and shall rule on all questions of evidence and procedure.
2. In the event a hearing examiner is not appointed, the chair of the board shall preside over the hearing and shall rule on all questions of evidence and procedure with the advice of the attorney for the board.
3. The proceeding shall follow those used by a civil court in which an opening statement is made by the prosecutor and the respondent. Then evidence is presented by both sides with rebuttals. Witnesses may be examined by the prosecutor and respondent or their attorneys and by members of the board. Redirect, recross, and reexaminations are permitted. Closing statements by both the prosecutor and respondent or their attorneys are permitted.

**D. Record of Hearing**

The record of the hearing of the case shall include

1. All motions, intermediate ruling, and depositions
  2. Evidence received or considered
  3. Statement of matters officially noted
  4. Questions and offers of proof, objections, and rulings thereon
  5. Proposed findings and exceptions
  6. Any decision, opinion, or report by the officer presiding at the hearing
- Oral proceedings or any part thereof shall be transcribed on request of any party.

**250.40 Bias**

No board member shall be entitled to participate in discussion or to vote in any disciplinary action if the board member is personally biased in favor of or against the respondent.

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**260 MISCELLANEOUS****260.10 Severability**

If any of the rules and regulations, or any part thereof, of this board promulgated under the provisions of the rule-making authority for jurisdiction agencies, are found by the courts to be invalid for any reason, it is the intention of the board that the remainder shall continue in full force and effect or it is the intention of the board that each rule and/or any portions thereof are severable.

## APPENDIX A

### Suggested Guidelines for Evaluating Progressive Engineering Experience

The following is a partial list of work experiences that may be useful in guiding, mentoring, and verifying acceptable experience of engineer interns and/or intern applicants. There are no correct answers to the following questions. The profile of each applicant will provide the board a basis for more specific questions.

#### Practical Application of Theory

1. Analysis: Of operating conditions; performance assessment; feasibility studies; constructability; value engineering; safety; environmental issues; economic issues; risk assessment; reliability; other *[list]*:  

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2. Design: Construction plan or specification preparation; product specifications; component selection; maintenance and social implications of final product; other *[list]*:  

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3. Testing: Developing or specifying testing procedures; verifying functional specifications; implementing quality control and assurance; maintenance and replacement evaluation; other *[list]*:  

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4. Implementation: Of engineering principles in design, construction, or research; performance of engineering cost studies; process flow and time studies; implementation of quality control and assurance; safety issues; and environmental issues; other *[list]*:  

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5. Systems Application: Evaluation of components of a larger system; evaluation of the reliability of system parts; design and evaluation of equipment control systems while considering ergonomics, utility, manufacturing tolerances, and operating and maintenance concerns; the engineering required to establish programs and procedures for the maintenance and management of buildings, bridges, and other types of structures where failure or improper operation would endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the public; other *[list]*:  

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6. Time in the Engineering Process: Difficulties of workflow; scheduling; equipment life; corrosion rates and replacement scheduling; other *[list]*:  

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7. Knowledge and Understanding: Codes, standards, regulations and laws that govern applicable activities; other *[list]*:  

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**Management**

Management in engineering works includes supervising staff, managing engineering projects, and managing and administering technology as it is applied in the field or in construction. It may involve:

1. Planning: Developing concepts, evaluating alternative methods \_\_\_\_\_
2. Scheduling: Preparing task breakdowns and schedules \_\_\_\_\_
3. Budgeting and Contracting: Cost estimating and control, contract development \_\_\_\_\_
4. Supervising: Organizing human resources, motivating teams, directing and coordinating project resources \_\_\_\_\_
5. Project Control: Complete or partial project control \_\_\_\_\_
6. Risk Assessment: Assessment of risk associated with the progression of the project \_\_\_\_\_

**Communication Skills**

1. Accumulates project knowledge through interpersonal communication with supervisors, clients, subordinates, or team interaction \_\_\_\_\_
2. Transmits project knowledge in verbal or written methods to clients, supervisors, subordinates, general public, or team members. Examples would be via meetings, written reports, public hearings and reporting of findings and suggestions, other written correspondence and/or verbal briefings. \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Implications**

1. Promotes and safeguards the health, safety, and welfare of the public as demonstrated in daily work activities \_\_\_\_\_
2. Demonstrates an awareness of the consequences the work performed may incur and a desire to mitigate or eliminate any potential negative impact \_\_\_\_\_
3. Follows a code of ethics that promotes a high degree of integrity in the practice of professional engineering \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX B

### Suggested Guidelines for Evaluating Progressive Surveying Experience

The following is a partial list of work experiences that may be useful in guiding, mentoring, and verifying acceptable experience of surveyor interns and intern applicants. There are no correct answers to the following questions. The profile of each applicant will provide the board a basis for more specific questions.

#### Practical Application of Theory

1. Research: Easements; rights-of-way; plats; instruments of conveyance; corner information; government survey information; other pertinent surveys; other *[list]*:

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2. Measurement/Location: Field measurements of topography and features; measurements to locate particular boundaries, parcels or points; level loops; GPS measurements; construction staking; other *[list]*:

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3. Computation/Analysis: Traverse closure and adjustment; boundary interpretations; section computations; coordinate translations; coordinate calculations; survey accuracy; vertical curves; horizontal curves; other *[list]*:

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4. Legal Principles: Legal description preparation and interpretation; corner filings; boundary determination; section corner opinions; adverse possession; easement and right-of-way preparation; other *[list]*:

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5. Land Planning: Platting; zoning issues; subdivision regulations and layout; utility coordination; on-site wastewater systems and regulations; permits; other *[list]*:

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6. Time in the Surveying Process: Difficulties of workflow; scheduling; equipment adjustments; construction staking coordination; other *[list]*:

---

7. Knowledge and Understanding: Codes, standards, regulations, and laws that govern applicable activities; other *[list]*:

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**Management**

Management in surveying includes supervising staff, managing surveying projects, and managing and administering technology as it is applied in surveying. It may involve:

1. Planning: Developing concepts, planning surveying projects, evaluating alternative methods \_\_\_\_\_
2. Scheduling: Preparing task breakdowns and schedules \_\_\_\_\_
3. Budgeting and Contracting: Cost estimating and control, contract development \_\_\_\_\_
4. Supervising: Organizing human resources, motivating teams, directing and coordinating equipment \_\_\_\_\_
5. Project Control: Complete or partial project control by using and developing control tools such as network plans and Gantt charts \_\_\_\_\_
6. Risk Assessment: Assessment of risk associated with the progression of the project using surveying analysis and quantification methods to determine degree of risk of known hazards in proposed designs \_\_\_\_\_

**Communication Skills**

1. Accumulates project knowledge through interpersonal communication with supervisors, subordinates, clients, regulators, other surveyors or team interaction \_\_\_\_\_
2. Transmits project knowledge in verbal or written methods to clients, regulators, supervisors, subordinates, general public, or team members. Examples would be via meetings, written reports, other written correspondence and/or verbal briefings. \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Implications**

1. Promotes and safeguards the health, safety, and welfare of the public as demonstrated in daily work activities \_\_\_\_\_
2. Demonstrates an awareness of the consequences the work performed may incur and a desire to mitigate or eliminate any potential negative impact \_\_\_\_\_
3. Follows a code of ethics that promotes a high degree of integrity in the practice of professional surveying \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX C

### Index for *Model Rules* with General Cross-Reference to *Model Law*

The following table is for reference only and is not intended to be all-inclusive or adopted into board law/rules. Italic font indicates summary paraphrase of paragraph contents.

<i>Model Rules</i> Section	Descriptor	Corresponding <i>Model Law</i> Section
<b>SECTION 210</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>Section 210.10</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	
<b>Section 210.20</b>	<b>Definitions</b>	
210.20 A	<i>Model Law definitions</i>	110.20
210.25	Inclusions and Exclusions to the Practice of Surveying	110.20 B.4
210.25 A	Activities Included within the Practice of Surveying	110.20 B.4
210.25 B	Activities Excluded from the Practice of Surveying	110.20 B.4
210.30	Offering to Practice Engineering and Surveying	
<b>SECTION 220</b>	<b>THE LICENSING BOARD</b>	
<b>Section 220.10</b>	<b>Board Operations</b>	
220.10 A	Meetings	120.50
220.10 B	Voting	
220.10 C	Rules of Order	
220.10 D	Use of Forms	130.20 A
220.10 E	Roster	120.90
<b>Section 220.20</b>	<b>Adoption and Amendment of Rules and Regulations</b>	120.60 A
<b>Section 220.30</b>	<b>Fees</b>	
220.30 A	Application Fees	130.20 B, C; 160.40 B, C
220.30 B	Examination Fees	
220.30 C	Roster	
220.30 D	Renewal Fees	140.20, 160.50
220.30 E	Duplicate Certificate Fees	140.30, 160.60
<b>SECTION 230</b>	<b>CANDIDATES FOR LICENSURE</b>	
<b>Section 230.10</b>	<b>Education Requirements Approved by the Board</b>	
230.10 A	Engineering Program	130.10
230.10 B	Surveying Program	130.10
<b>Section 230.20</b>	<b>Experience</b>	
230.20 A	As a Professional Engineer	130.10 B
230.20 B	As a Professional Surveyor	130.10 C
<b>Section 230.30</b>	<b>References</b>	
230.30 A	<i>Applicant submits five references (three P.E./P.S.); references should have personal knowledge of applicant's experience</i>	130.10 A
230.30 B	<i>No relatives as references</i>	
230.30 C	<i>No current board member as a reference</i>	
230.30 D	<i>Applicant should inform individuals used as references that the references will be asked to complete and return a form</i>	
230.30 E	<i>Applicant has responsibility to ensure board receives reference forms; board may take action only when all references materials are complete</i>	
230.30 F	<i>Confidentiality of reference replies</i>	
<b>Section 230.40</b>	<b>Examinations</b>	
230.40 A	Classification of Engineering Examinations	130.30
230.40 B	Eligibility of Applicant for Engineering Examinations	130.10 B
230.40 C	Classification of Surveying Examinations	130.30



<b>Model Rules Section</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Corresponding Model Law Section</b>
230.40 D	Eligibility of Applicant for Surveying Examinations	130.10 C
230.40 E	Examination Dates and Locations	130.30 A
230.40 F	Language of the Examination	
230.40 G	Exam Preparation Material	130.30 D
230.40 H	Instructions for Examinees	
230.40 I	Pencil-and-Paper Examination Offerings	
230.40 J	Computer-Based Examination Offerings	
230.40 K	Examination Results	
230.40 L	Review of Examinations	
230.40 M	Examination for Record Purposes	
<b>Section 230.50</b>	<b>Classifications and Disciplines of Engineers and Surveyors</b>	
230.50 A	Classification of Engineers ( <i>E.I., P.E., discipline professional engineer</i> )	130.10 B
230.50 B	Classification of Surveyors ( <i>S.I., P.S.</i> )	130.10 C
<b>Section 230.60</b>	<b>Applications</b>	
230.60 A	Application Process	130.20 A
230.60 B	Applicants with Degrees from Foreign Schools	
230.60 C	Reconsideration of Applications	
230.60 D	Disposition of Applications	
230.60 E	Licensure by Comity	130.10 B, C
<b>SECTION 240</b>	<b>LICENSEES</b>	
<b>Section 240.10</b>	<b>Licensure</b>	
240.10 A	License Number as a Professional Engineer or Professional Surveyor	140.10 B
240.10 B	Certificates of Licensure	140.10 B, C
240.10 C	Retirement of Licensure Option	110.20 A.3, B.2
240.10 D	Reissuance of Certificate	140.30, 160.60
<b>Section 240.15</b>	<b>Rules of Professional Conduct</b>	
240.15 A	Licensee's Obligation to the Public	150
240.15 B	Licensee's Obligation to Employer and Clients	150
240.15 C	Licensee's Obligation to Other Licensees	150
<b>Section 240.20</b>	<b>Seal on Documents</b>	
<b>Section 240.30</b>	<b>Continuing Professional Competency</b>	120.60 E, 140.20 B
240.30 A	Introduction	
240.30 B	Definitions	
240.30 C	Qualifying Activities	
240.30 D	Units	
240.30 E	Determination of Credit	
240.30 F	Recordkeeping	
240.30 G	Exemptions	
240.30 H	Reinstatement	
240.30 I	Requirements for Renewal	
240.30 J	Dual Licensees	
240.30 K	Certification	

<b>Model Rules Section</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Corresponding Model Law Section</b>
<b>Section 240.40</b>	<b>Expirations, Renewals, and Reinstatement to Active Practice</b>	
240.40 A	<i>Renewal notice sent annually or as required by the board</i>	140.20, 160.50
240.40 B	<i>Renewal fee established by the board</i>	140.20, 160.50
240.40 C	<i>Board must receive renewal fees before expiration date; late fees assessed an additional fee</i>	
240.40 D	<i>Unpaid renewal fees void license or certificate and require new application for licensure or certification to continue practicing</i>	
240.40 E	<i>Licensee or firm who notifies board before expiration that they are no longer practicing may retain license/certificate for later use upon payment of fees</i>	
240.40 F	<i>Licensees solely responsible for timely renewal of their license and firm's managing agent solely responsible for timely renewal of firm's certificate</i>	
240.40 G	<i>Applicants for renewal or reinstatement may be asked to demonstrate they have maintained the required minimum level of professional competence</i>	
<b>SECTION 250</b>	<b>DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS</b>	
<b>Section 250.10</b>	<b>Knowledge of Rules</b>	
<b>Section 250.20</b>	<b>Compliance</b>	
<b>Section 250.30</b>	<b>Disciplinary Action Procedures</b>	
250.30 A	Summons and Notice of Charges	120.60 B, 150.20 D, 160.80 D
250.30 B	Evidentiary Matters	
250.30 C	Conduct of Hearing	
250.30 D	Record of Hearing	
<b>Section 250.40</b>	<b>Bias</b>	
<b>SECTION 260</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	
<b>Section 260.10</b>	<b>Severability</b>	

**APPENDIX D****References to Internal Sections in *Model Law***

The following table is to be used for general representative, informational purposes only.

<b><i>Model Rule</i> Citation</b>	<b><i>Model Law</i> Citation Referenced within Citations in Column 1</b>
210.20	110.20
220.30 A.1	130.20 B
220.30 A.2	130.20 B
220.30 A.3	160.40 B
220.30 A.4	130.20 C, 160.40 C
230.10 A	130.10 B.1.a
230.10 B.1	130.10 C.1.a
230.10 B.2	130.10 C.1.b
230.10 B.3	130.10 C.1.c
230.20 A.2	130.10 B.2.a(1)
240.10 B	140.10

## APPENDIX E

### NCEES Publications

Publications available on [ncees.org](http://ncees.org) in the About NCEES section

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- The NCEES **annual report** highlights the Council's leadership, mission, initiatives, and financial activities. An interactive version of the annual report is available at [ncees.org/annualreport](http://ncees.org/annualreport).
- The NCEES **Bylaws** outlines the structure of the Council.
- The **Continuing Professional Competency Guidelines** provides best practices for state licensing boards that have CPC requirements for licensees.
- NCEES uses its “**Criteria for Evaluating the Administration of NCEES Examinations at Non-U.S. Sites**” when assessing whether or not to administer its exams in other countries.
- The **History of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, 1920–2020** provides an in-depth history of U.S. licensure and NCEES.
- **Licensure Exchange** is the NCEES bimonthly newsletter for the exchange of information, opinions, and ideas regarding the licensure of engineers and surveyors.
- The **Manual of Policy and Position Statements** describes Council administrative, examination, financial, and professional policies as well as the official NCEES position on licensure issues.
- The **Model Law** reflects best practices as determined by the NCEES member boards. It is a model for state practice legislation.
- The **Model Rules** provides licensure boards with guidelines for engineering and surveying licensing laws and ethics.
- When it conducts a credentials evaluation, NCEES compares the candidate's college-level education against the NCEES **Engineering Education Standard** or the NCEES **Surveying Education Standard**. These standards reflect generally agreed-upon educational qualifications for entering the profession.
- NCEES **Squared** is the official NCEES source for engineering and surveying licensure statistics.
- The NCEES white paper “**Using the FE Exam as an Outcomes Assessment Tool**” describes in detail how engineering departments can use the FE exam to assess program outcomes.

Additional publications available on MyNCEES (Member Resources portion of the NCEES website)

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- Annual meeting *Action Items and Conference Reports*
- NCEES board of directors minutes
- *Investigation and Enforcement Guidelines*
- *Investigative Training Manual*
- Zone minutes
- *Zone Meeting and Continuity Guidelines*

## APPENDIX F

### Model Language for Member Boards that License Structural Engineers

*Model Rules 230.40* provides model language for classification of engineering exams and eligibility of applicants for engineering exams, and *Model Rules 230.60 A* provides language for types of applications. The language highlighted in gray below is being provided in this appendix to the *Model Rules* so that boards that also license structural engineers will have model language for structural engineering. Adopting similar language can help with licensure mobility among the boards that license structural engineers. The language highlighted in gray below is provided for those boards. The language that is not highlighted in gray is currently in *Model Rules 230.40* and *230.60 A* for professional engineers and is provided as a reference for where to insert the structural engineering-related language in the *Model Rules*.

### Model Language to Use for Structural Engineering Licensure

#### 230.40 Examinations

##### A. Classification of Engineering Examinations

This jurisdiction or its designee will provide the following examinations, prepared and furnished by NCEES, meeting the requirements of this jurisdiction for licensure.

1. NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination—The examination consists of subject matters in the fundamentals of engineering. Passing this examination qualifies the examinee for certification as an engineer intern, provided the examinee has met all other requirements for certification required by these Rules.
2. NCEES Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) examination—The examination consists of subject matters in applied engineering. Passing this examination qualifies the examinee for licensure as a professional engineer, provided the examinee has met the other requirements for licensure required by these Rules.
3. NCEES Structural Engineering (SE) examination—The examination shall be considered and referred to as one 16-hour examination. The SE examination consists of two 8-hour components: the Vertical Forces (gravity/other) and Incidental Lateral component and the Lateral Forces (wind/earthquake) component. A candidate must receive acceptable results on both 8-hour components to pass the SE examination. A candidate may sit for each component in separate exam administrations but must receive acceptable results on both components within a 5-year period. Receiving acceptable results on only one 8-hour component shall not be sufficient for licensure purposes. Passing this examination qualifies the examinee for licensure as a professional structural engineer, provided the examinee has met the other requirements for licensure required by these Rules.

##### B. Eligibility of Applicant for Engineering Examinations

1. NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Examination
  - a. Individuals who are in the final year of a program leading to a bachelor's degree in engineering may register with NCEES directly to take the FE examination or, if required, apply to the board for admission to the FE examination.
  - b. To be certified as an engineer intern, an application for certification may be submitted to the board upon passing the FE examination and meeting the education requirements.
2. NCEES Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) Examination
  - a. Applicants for licensure as a professional engineer will be permitted to sit for the PE examination upon satisfactorily fulfilling all application requirements of the jurisdiction.
  - b. No applicant may sit for the PE examination until the board has established that the applicant is eligible for the examination.
  - c. Engineering doctorate degree applicants with an undergraduate degree from a program accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (EAC/ABET) and with a doctorate degree in engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET-accredited undergraduate programs in the doctorate degree field of engineering and with experience that meets the qualifications defined by the board may sit for the PE examination without having taken or passed the FE examination.

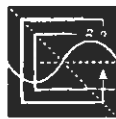
3. NCEES Structural Engineering (SE) Examination

- a. Applicants for licensure as a professional structural engineer will be permitted to sit for the SE examination upon satisfactorily fulfilling all application requirements of the jurisdiction.
- b. No applicant may sit for the SE examination until the board has established that the applicant is eligible for the examination.
- c. Engineering doctorate degree applicants with an undergraduate degree from a program accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (EAC/ABET) and with a doctorate degree in engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET-accredited undergraduate programs in the doctorate degree field of engineering and with experience that meets the qualifications defined by the board may sit for the SE examination without having taken or passed the FE examination.

230.60 Applications

E. Licensure by Comity

1. The board is authorized to review and evaluate the applications of all comity applicants to determine if they meet or exceed the criteria to be licensed as a professional engineer, professional structural engineer, or professional surveyor as defined in Section 130.10 of the *Model Law*.
2. The board administrator is authorized to review and evaluate the applications of all comity applicants to determine if they meet or exceed the criteria of a Model Law Engineer, Model Law Structural Engineer, or Model Law Surveyor as set forth in the *NCEES Manual of Policy and Position Statements*. If the applicant meets or exceeds these requirements, the board administrator may issue a contingent license authorizing that individual to offer or provide engineering or surveying services in this jurisdiction. A list of all engineers issued contingent licenses will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the board for formal approval by the board. A list of all surveyors who have been issued contingent licenses and who have passed the appropriate jurisdiction-specific examination will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting for formal approval by the board.



**NCEES**

*advancing licensure for  
engineers and surveyors*

200 Verdae Boulevard, Greenville, SC 29607  
[ncees.org](http://ncees.org)

# ATTACHMENT B



## STATE BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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**FINAL RULEMAKING**

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

**TITLE 49 PA CODE CHAPTER 15**

**§§ 15.32a, 15.33-15.33a**

**DIGITAL SIGNATURE AND SEAL**

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**FINAL RULEMAKING**

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BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

**TITLE 49 PA CODE CHAPTER 15**

**§§ 15.32a, 15.33-15.33a**

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FINAL RULEMAKING

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

TITLE 49 PA CODE CHAPTER 15

§§ 15.32a, 15.33-15.33a

DIGITAL SIGNATURE AND SEAL

The State Board of Landscape Architects (Board) hereby adds § 15.32a (relating to definitions), amends § 15.33 (relating to seals) and adds § 15.33a (relating to digital signature and seal) to read as set forth in Annex A.

#### *Effective Date*

The amendments will become effective upon notice or publication of the final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

#### *Statutory Authority*

Section 4(9) of the Landscape Architects' Registration Law (act) (63 P.S. § 904(9)) authorizes the Board to promulgate regulations, not inconsistent with the act, that it deems necessary and proper to carry into effect the powers conferred by the act. Section 9 of the act (63 P.S. § 909) requires each landscape architect registered under the act to obtain a seal of the design authorized by the Board.

#### *Background and Need for the Rulemaking*

Subsection 9(a) of the act requires each registrant to obtain a seal of a design authorized by the Board and to stamp all work product issued by the registrant with that seal. The Board promulgated § 15.36(c) (relating to permitted practices), which requires a registrant to sign the documents which arise out of professional services. The Board has also promulgated § 15.33 (relating to seals) to set standards for licensee use of the seal. However, these regulations were developed when the seal was applied via a metal embosser or a rubber stamp; it was not contemplated that a seal or signature could be placed electronically through the personal use of computer technology by placing an image of the seal or signature on a document and it was not contemplated that a document could be signed digitally other than by placing an image of the signature on the document. With such technology now available, the National Council of Examiners in Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), the national organization of engineering and land surveying licensing boards, has addressed its use in paragraph H of section 240.20 (relating to seals) of its Model Rules ([https://ncees.org/wp-content/uploads/Model\\_Rules\\_2021\\_web.pdf](https://ncees.org/wp-content/uploads/Model_Rules_2021_web.pdf)). Additionally, the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA) has been adopted by many states, including Pennsylvania. In the Commonwealth, UETA was enacted as the Electronic Transactions Act (73 P.S. §§ 2260.101—2260.5101). The Board has adopted definitions and provisions consistent with the Electronic Transactions Act for these regulations. Other state agencies must comply with the Pennsylvania Electronic Transactions Act under 73 P.S. § 2260.303(a) in that they may not deny the legal effect or enforceability of a seal solely because it is in electronic form.

The final-form regulation will allow licensees to use digital signatures and seals to increase electronic commerce and electronic communications, increase electronic filing of documents, help establish uniformity of rules and standards regarding the authentication and integrity of electronic records and promote public confidence in the integrity and reliability of electronic records. The Board believes that it is appropriate to amend its regulations to make it clear that registrants are permitted to take advantage of this technology and to set standards for its use.

### *Summary of Comments to the Proposed Rulemaking and the Board's Response*

Notice of proposed rulemaking was published at 50 Pa.B. 4243 (August 22, 2020). Publication was followed by a 30-day public comment period. The Board did not receive any comments from the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee (SCP/PLC), or the House Professional Licensure Committee (HPLC). The Board received one comment from the public. The Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC) reviewed the proposed regulation and provided comments and recommendations.

#### Comments from the public

The Board received one comment from the public. The Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects commented in support of the proposed regulation but asked the Board to consider including criteria for software in the final regulation. The Board does not believe it is necessary to set forth specific criteria for software and instead, provides registrants with the ability to determine which software packages are best suited for their specific needs so long as they meet the regulatory requirements of § 15.33a.

#### Comments from the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC)

First, IRRC asked the Board to ensure that this regulation is as uniform as possible with the similar regulations submitted by the Architects Licensure Board (16A-4111) and the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists (16A-4712). The Architects Licensure Board (Architect Board) and the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists (Engineer Board) share the same Board counsel as the Landscape Architects Board, and each Board meets on a regular basis. The Boards have been reviewing this digital seal and signature regulation frequently to ensure that each Board's regulation is consistent with the others to the extent possible, given the differing statutory and regulatory framework. The Board has reviewed and compared this rulemaking with the rulemakings of the other Boards and finds this final-form regulation to be consistent and clear for the regulated community.

In both this rulemaking and the Architect Board and Engineer Board regulations, IRRC questioned how an electronic sound or process could satisfy the requirements of the digital seal and signature requirements. In reviewing this question, and in an effort to keep the regulations among the boards consistent, the Board determined that it should revise the definition of digital seal. The Board agrees that an electronic sound or process does not satisfy the requirements of § 15.33. As such, the Board amends the definition of "digital seal" by changing "electronic sound, symbol or process" to "electronic image" to ensure that a digital seal includes an image of the licensee's name and license number and the legend "Registered Landscape Architect" together with a reference to Pennsylvania. In accordance with IRRC's suggestion to ensure that the regulations are as uniform as possible, the Board reviewed and compared the State Architects Licensure Board regulations relating to loss or theft of seals. This Board does not have existing regulations relating to loss or theft of seals. Adding a new section to this final rulemaking package

would go beyond the scope of the proposed rulemaking and would require more discussion, consideration, and stakeholder outreach than the final-form process allows. If the Board determines such a regulation is needed, it will propose it in a separate rulemaking.

IRRC commented on § 15.32a and made recommendations to improve clarity in the definitions of “digital seal” and “digital signature.” IRRC recommended changing the term “person” to “licensee or registrant.” within the definitions of “Digital Seal” and “Digital Signature.” IRRC also recommended that the definitions of “Sole control” and “Verification” be changed to include “signature and seal” to match the terms used in § 15.33a(a) and (b). The Board agreed with IRRC’s recommendations and made the suggested changes.

In both the Architect Board and Engineer Board digital seal regulation, IRRC questioned if the intent was for the digital seal design and the Board-approved seal to be identical. Like all seals used by licensees, the digital seal must be identical to the design approved by the Board, as set forth in § 15.33. To clarify this requirement, the Board amends § 15.33(c) by specifying that the seal design must be identical to the design authorized by the Board.

IRRC questioned whether the requirements of § 15.33(c) apply to a digital seal and asked whether a digital seal is a facsimile of the seal authorized by the Board. Section 15.33(c) is applicable to digital seals. Digital seals are not the same as facsimiles of a seal. The Board notes that a digital seal is a digitally secure image of the seal used on a licensee’s work product. A facsimile of the seal is a replication of the approved image of the Board-approved seal and is not digitally secure. IRRC also asked whether licensees are required to apply for a traditional (physical) seal before using a digital seal. Licensees are not required to apply for approval of a traditional seal. Instead, licensees are required to obtain a seal or stamp that complies with the parameters set forth in § 15.33. To clarify this requirement, the Board amends § 15.33(c) to clearly state that a stamp or digital seal identical to the prescribed seal may be obtained and used in lieu of, or in conjunction with, a metal seal. Thus, the Board’s regulations require the licensee to obtain a seal but provide the licensee with the discretion to select the type of seal (i.e., metal, stamp, digital). Providing all design professionals in the Commonwealth with regulations that are as consistent as possible with respect to both traditional seals and digital seals will benefit not only the design professionals but also their clients in the public and private sectors. Providing consistency regarding all seals will help eliminate confusion among clients in the public and private sectors and those members of the public who may view documents prepared by design professionals.

IRRC commented regarding the requirement to obtain an authorized seal or stamp that aligns with the sample of the visual depiction of the seal in § 15.33(c). The approved seal must contain the licensee’s name above the three stars within the seal and the registration number within the keystone of the seal. IRRC noted that the annex indicates that the seal must include a reference to the “Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,” but the actual seal as seen in § 15.33(c) only requires a reference to “Pennsylvania.” To clarify this requirement, the Board amends the language in the annex to remove reference to “the Commonwealth of.”

IRRC commented that NCEES Model Rule 240.20(H) states that a “digital signature that

uses a process approved by the board will be presumed to meet the criteria set forth in section H above.” IRRC asked why the Board omitted this provision. The process outlined in §§ 15.33 through 15.33a contains the specific requirements for the digital signatures and seals authentication process. Further, under § 15.63 (relating to misconduct), a licensee who fails to adhere to §§ 37.58 – 37.60 is subject to discipline. Given these provisions, the Board did not include this sentence because it does not think it is necessary to reiterate that §§ 15.33 – 15.33a must be followed to meet the criteria for a valid digital signature and seal. IRRC also asked why the Board, in 15.33a(c), did not include digital seal in reference to alterations to an electronic file. The Board agrees with IRRC and made this amendment. The Board also clarified that any alterations to a file will cause both the signature and seal to be voided.

IRRC asked that the numbers in RAF questions 15, 20, 21, and 23 be updated in the final-form rulemaking. These updates were made.

Lastly, IRRC commented that the Preamble cites to the Digital Signature and Electronic Authentication Law, which was a bill that was not enacted. The reference to this bill has not been included in the final-form preamble.

#### *Fiscal Impact and Paperwork Requirements*

Because the use of digital signatures and seals are voluntary rather than mandatory, the rulemaking would not have a fiscal impact on, or create additional paperwork for, the regulated community, the general public, or the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions that choose to continue utilizing a traditional seal and stamp. Licensees who decide to use digital seals and signatures will be required to utilize appropriate security software that meets the requirements for digital seals and signatures as set forth in the rulemaking at §§ 15.32a through 15.33a. This software is available from a variety of vendors. Costs will vary from one vendor to another, and costs will also vary depending on the number of individuals who will use a digital seal and signature within a firm. For example, according to DocuSign and Adobe, sole proprietor firms using digital seals and signatures and purchasing a user license will likely select a plan where the cost for a single user license is \$15 per month or \$165 per year, which allows one month at no charge. For the same vendors, firms with more than 10 licensees using digital seals and signatures and purchasing user licenses for their licensees may be able to negotiate a lower fee, depending on the number of licensees, with a higher number of licensees paying a lower fee. Under both plans offered by this vendor, there is no limit on the number of digital seals or signatures that a licensee may use. The Board also anticipates that as the number of users of digital seals and signatures increases over time, it is likely that the costs of purchasing digital seal and signature technology will decrease.

However, these costs to those utilizing digital seals and signatures will be outweighed by the savings realized by individuals continuing to use a “wet signature.” According to Cadalyst (a reviewer of computer aided design (CAD) software and hardware), the architecture, engineering and construction industry spends an estimated \$500 million or more each year moving plans from one discipline to another by way of such courier services as FedEx and UPS. One vendor of digital seals estimates that the average cost of toner, ink and paper costs 3 cents per page, and further



states that costs are even greater for firms and organizations with multiple locations or field staff that need to submit formal reports or contracts. According to Oasis Systems (a provider of information technology, systems engineering, professional services and enterprise applications to federal agencies), the average paper document is copied 9 to 11 times at a cost of approximately \$18 and filed at a cost of approximately \$20, plus the added cost of storage, media, space, postage and distribution. Pitney Bowes estimates that the average cost of Fortune-500 paper documents is \$10 per document. Pfizer estimates the cost of one "wet signature" at \$30, including the time to track down the signer, plus storage and scanning costs.

#### *Sunset Date*

The Board continuously monitors the effectiveness of its regulations. Therefore, no sunset date has been assigned.

#### *Regulatory Review*

Under section 5(a) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5(a)), on August 11, 2020, the Board submitted a copy of this proposed rulemaking, published at 50 Pa.B. 4243 (August 22, 2020) and a copy of a Regulatory Analysis Form to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and to the Chairpersons of the House Professional Licensure Committee (HPLC) and the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee (SCP/PLC).

Under section 5(c) of the Regulatory Review Act, IRRC, the HPLC and the SCP/PLC were provided copies of the comments received during the public comment period, if any, as well as other documents when requested. In preparing the final-form rulemaking, the Board has considered all comments from IRRC and the public. The Board received no comments from HPLC or SCP/PLC.

Under section 5.1(a) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a(a)), on August 31, 2022, the Board delivered this final-form rulemaking to IRRC, the HPLC and the SCP/PLC. Under section 5.1(g)(3) and (j.2) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a (g)(3) and (j.2)), on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, the final-form rulemaking was deemed approved by the HPLC and the SCP/PLC. Under section 5.1(e) of the Regulatory Review Act, the IRRC met on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, and approved the final-form rulemaking.

#### *Additional Information*

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Terrie Kocher, Administrator, State Board of Landscape Architects, P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-2649, [ST-LANDSCAPE@PA.GOV](mailto:ST-LANDSCAPE@PA.GOV).

#### *Findings*

The Board finds that:

- (1) Public notice of proposed rulemaking was given under sections 201 and 202 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L. 769, No. 240) (45 P.S. §§ 1201 and 1202), known as the Commonwealth Documents Law and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 1 Pa. Code §§ 7.1 and 7.2 (relating to notice of proposed rulemaking required; and adoption of regulations).
- (2) A public comment period was provided as required by law and any comments were considered in drafting this final-form rulemaking.
- (3) This final-form rulemaking does not include any amendments that would enlarge the scope of the proposed rulemaking published at 50 Pa.B. 4243.
- (4) This final-form regulation is necessary and appropriate for administration and enforcement of the act.

*Order*

The Board orders that:

- (a) The regulations of the Board at 49 Pa. Code, Chapter 15, are amended by adding §§ 15.32a and 15.33a and amending § 15.33 to read as set forth in Annex A.
- (b) The Board shall submit this final-form rulemaking to the Office of General Counsel and to the Office of Attorney General as required by law.
- (c) The Board shall submit this final-form rulemaking to IRRC, the HPLC and the SCP/PLC for approval as required by law.
- (d) The Board shall certify this final-form rulemaking and deposit it with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by law.
- (e) This final-form rulemaking shall take effect immediately upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

David B. Morgan, RLA  
Chairman  
State Board of Landscape Architects

## ANNEX A

### TITLE 49. PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS

#### PART I. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

#### Subpart A. PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

#### CHAPTER 15. STATE BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

#### ADMINISTRATION

##### § 15.32a. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this section and §§ 15.33 and 15.33a, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*Digital seal*— An electronic sound, symbol or process IMAGE attached to or logically associated with a document and executed or adopted by a person LICENSEE with the intent to seal the document.

*Digital signature*—An electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or logically associated with a document and executed or adopted by a person LICENSEE with the intent to sign the document.

*Electronic*— Relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic or similar capabilities.

*Handwritten signature*— The scripted name or legal mark of an individual, written by that individual and executed or adopted with the present intention to authenticate a writing in a permanent form.

*Sole control*—A situation in which only the registrant decides when and where the seal is

SIGNATURE AND SEAL ARE applied.

Verification—Confirmation that ~~a seal is~~ THE SIGNATURE AND SEAL ARE actually  
from the registrant whose name and license number appears on the document.

Work product—Drawings, specifications, plans, models and other deliverable documents  
representing the professional practice of landscape architecture.

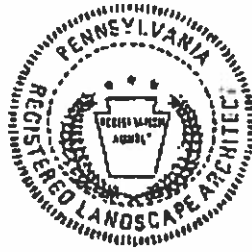
**§ 15.33. Seals.**

(a) An approved seal or stamp will be required for a registrant for the purpose of signing and sealing drawings, preliminary documents, specifications and contract documents or other work product.

(b) Only one registered landscape architect's name may be used per seal. However, more than one seal or stamp may appear on drawings, specifications and documents or other work product.

(c) A registrant shall be required to obtain the authorized seal or a rubber stamp, bearing the registrant's name and registration number and the legend "Registered Landscape Architect" together with a reference to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A DIGITAL SEAL OR RUBBER STAMP IDENTICAL TO THE PRESCRIBED SEAL MAY BE OBTAINED AND USED IN LIEU OF, OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH, A METAL SEAL.

A sample seal is as follows:



**Landscape Architect**

(d) A licensee who fails to obtain a seal or rubber stamp will be subject to disciplinary action and penalties under section 11(b) of the act (63 P.S. § 911(b)).

(e) When a registrant seals and signs landscape architectural drawings, reports, and documents, one of the following methods must be used:

(1) Physical placement of a seal and a handwritten signature in permanent ink containing the name of the registrant.

(2) Digital placement of a seal and a handwritten signature in permanent ink containing the name of the registrant.

(3) Digital placement of a seal and a digital signature containing the name of the registrant.

**§ 15.33a. Digital signature and seal.**

(a) Drawings, reports, and documents that are signed using a digital signature must have an electronic authentication process attached to or logically associated with the electronic document. The digital signature must be:

(1) Unique to the registrant.

(2) Capable of verification.

(3) Under the sole control of the registrant.

(4) Linked to a document in such a manner that the digital signature is invalidated if any data in the document is changed.

(b) Drawings, reports, and documents that are sealed with a digital seal must have an electronic authentication process attached to or logically associated with the electronic document.

The digital seal must be:

(1) Unique to the licensee.

(2) Capable of verification.

(3) Under the sole control of the licensee.

(4) Linked to a document in such a manner that the digital seal is invalidated if any data in the document is changed.

(c) Any hard copy printed from the transmitted electronic file shall bear the facsimile of the DIGITAL signature and seal and be a confirmation that the electronic file was not altered after the initial digital signing of the file. Any alterations to the file shall cause the signature AND SEAL to be voided.

\* \* \* \* \*



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**  
Post Office Box 2649  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-2649  
(717) 772-8528

August 31, 2022

The Honorable George D. Bedwick, Chairman  
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Harristown 2, 333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Re: Final Regulation  
State Board of Landscape Architects  
16A-6112: Digital Signature and Seal

Dear Chairman Bedwick:

Enclosed is a copy of a final rulemaking package of the State Board of Landscape Architects pertaining to 16A-6112: Digital Signature and Seal.

The Board will be pleased to provide whatever information the Commission may require during the course of its review of the rulemaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Morgan".

David B. Morgan, RLA, Chairman  
State Board of Landscape Architects

DBM/cwf  
Enclosure

cc: Arion Claggett, Acting Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs  
K. Kalonji Johnson, Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs  
Marc Farrell, Deputy Director of Policy, Department of State  
Cynthia Montgomery, Deputy Chief Counsel, Department of State  
Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Regulatory Unit Counsel, Department of State  
C. William Fritz, Counsel, State Board of Landscape Architects  
State Board of Landscape Architects

## Zappasodi, Brittany

---

**From:** Rolko, Seth <Seth.Rolko@pasenate.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 12:42 PM  
**To:** Zappasodi, Brittany; Vazquez, Enid  
**Subject:** Re: DELIVERY: REGULATIONS 16A-4111, 4712 & 6112

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AUG 31 2022

Independent Regulatory  
Review Commission

Received. Thanks.

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**From:** Zappasodi, Brittany <bzappasodi@pa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 12:37:47 PM  
**To:** Rolko, Seth <seth.rolko@pasenate.com>; Vazquez, Enid <Enid.Vazquez@pasenate.com>  
**Subject:** RE: DELIVERY: REGULATIONS 16A-4111, 4712 & 6112

■ EXTERNAL EMAIL ■

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I am just following up to make sure you received the regulations. We are waiting on your confirmation so that we can complete the delivery to IRRC.

Thank you,

**Brittany Zappasodi** | Legal Assistant II  
Office of Chief Counsel | Department of State  
Governor's Office of General Counsel  
P.O. Box 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523  
Phone 717.783.7200 | Fax 717.787.0251  
[bzappasodi@pa.gov](mailto:bzappasodi@pa.gov) | [www.dos.pa.gov](http://www.dos.pa.gov)

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---

**From:** Zappasodi, Brittany  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 9:00 AM  
**To:** Rolko, Seth <seth.rolko@pasenate.com>; Vazquez, Enid <Enid.Vazquez@pasenate.com>  
**Subject:** DELIVERY: REGULATIONS 16A-4111, 4712 & 6112  
**Importance:** High

**Please provide written (email) confirmation of receipt of the delivery of the attached rulemakings.**

Please be advised that the State Architects Licensure Board, the State Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists and the State Board of Landscape Architects are delivering the following final rulemakings:

- 16A-4111: Digital Signature and Seal
- 16A-4712: Digital Signature and Seal
- 16A-6112: Digital Signature and Seal



## Zappasodi, Brittany

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**From:** Blauch, Tammy <tblauch@pasen.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 9:35 AM  
**To:** Zappasodi, Brittany; Smeltz, Jennifer  
**Subject:** RE: DELIVERY: REGULATIONS 16A-4111, 4712 & 6112

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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AUG 31 2022

Independent Regulatory  
Review Commission

Good morning,  
Confirming receipt.

Have a great day.

*Tammy Blauch*

Executive Secretary  
Office of Senator Robert M. Tomlinson  
Room 286 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717)-787-5072  
Fax: (717)772-2991  
[tblauch@pasen.gov](mailto:tblauch@pasen.gov)

---

**From:** Zappasodi, Brittany <bzappasodi@pa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 9:01 AM  
**To:** Smeltz, Jennifer <jmsmeltz@pasen.gov>; Blauch, Tammy <tblauch@pasen.gov>  
**Subject:** DELIVERY: REGULATIONS 16A-4111, 4712 & 6112  
**Importance:** High

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- 16A-4712: Digital Signature and Seal
- 16A-6112: Digital Signature and Seal

**Brittany Zappasodi** | Legal Assistant II  
Office of Chief Counsel | Department of State  
Governor's Office of General Counsel  
P.O. Box 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523  
Phone 717.783.7200 | Fax 717.787.0251  
[bzappasodi@pa.gov](mailto:bzappasodi@pa.gov) | [www.dos.pa.gov](http://www.dos.pa.gov)

## Zappasodi, Brittany

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**From:** Orchard, Kari L. <KOrchard@pahouse.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 9:05 AM  
**To:** Zappasodi, Brittany; Barton, Jamie  
**Subject:** Re: DELIVERY: REGULATIONS 16A-4111, 4712 & 6112

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**Flag Status:** Flagged

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AUG 31 2022

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Review Commission

Received. Thanks!

**Kari Orchard**  
Executive Director (D) | House Professional Licensure Committee  
Chairman Frank Burns, 72<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

---

**From:** Zappasodi, Brittany <bzappasodi@pa.gov>  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at 9:00 AM  
**To:** Orchard, Kari L. <KOrchard@pahouse.net>, Barton, Jamie <JBarton@pahouse.net>  
**Subject:** DELIVERY: REGULATIONS 16A-4111, 4712 & 6112

**Please provide written (email) confirmation of receipt of the delivery of the attached rulemakings.**

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## Zappasodi, Brittany

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**From:** Jennifer Weaver <Jweaver@pahousegop.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 9:10 AM  
**To:** Zappasodi, Brittany <bzappasodi@pa.gov>; Nicole Sidle <Nsidle@pahousegop.com>  
**Cc:** Emily Hackman <Eepler@pahousegop.com>  
**Subject:** RE: DELIVERY: REGULATIONS 16A-4111, 4712 & 6112

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AUG 31 2022

Received.

Independent Regulatory  
Review Commission

**From:** Zappasodi, Brittany <bzappasodi@pa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 9:00 AM  
**To:** Nicole Sidle <Nsidle@pahousegop.com>; Jennifer Weaver <Jweaver@pahousegop.com>  
**Cc:** Emily Hackman <Eepler@pahousegop.com>  
**Subject:** DELIVERY: REGULATIONS 16A-4111, 4712 & 6112  
**Importance:** High

**Please provide written (email) confirmation of receipt of the delivery of the attached rulemakings.**

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Office of Chief Counsel | Department of State  
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