

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT FOR THE

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INTERNATIONAL REGISTRY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Licensed in the United States of America and
Recognized by the
United States Council for International Engineering Practice

Authorized by USCIEP for the
Enhancement of Mobility by Engineers Recognized Under
Framework Agreements with the Following Groups
Engineers Mobility Forum (EMF) Members
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
Engineer Participating Bodies

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GLOSSARY

For purposes of this document, the following definitions apply:

Home Jurisdiction	The Jurisdictional Authority in the region of a registrant's home residence and in which the registrant has received professional recognition with related privileges for independent practice as a Professional Engineer.
Host Jurisdiction	The Jurisdictional Authority to which a Registrant applies for recognition to practice as a Professional Engineer within a particular geographic area.
Jurisdictional Authority	An association or (in the United States) a government body with legal authority to evaluate qualifications and grant professional recognition for independent practice as a Professional Engineer. In the United States, the jurisdictional authority is usually referred to as the State (or Territorial) Board of Registration for Professional Engineers.
NCEES	National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying
Professional Engineer (P.E.)	A protected title used in the United States to designate those who have been recognized as both eligible for independent practice and licensed by one or more governmental jurisdictions to provide professional engineering services as an independent practitioner. Protected titles in countries other than the United States may be P.E. or words of similar intent.
Registrant	One who has fulfilled requirements for admittance to, and is listed on the USCIEP International Registry. For foreign country practitioners, one who has fulfilled requirements for admittance to and is listed on a Registry comparable to that of the USCIEP as evidenced through a mutual recognition agreement on which USCIEP is a signatory body.
United States	The 50 U.S. states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

INTRODUCTION

In 2001, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Engineer Coordinating Committee and the Engineers Mobility Forum (EMF) Coordinating Committee approved the USCIEP Assessment Statement and thereby authorized USCIEP to establish a section of the APEC Engineer Register and the EMF International Register of Professional Engineers in the United States. The USCIEP International Registry of Professional Engineers is the official APEC and EMF register for the United States. The USCIEP Registry began operation in January 2002.

This fifth edition (revised February 2009) of the USCIEP Assessment Statement incorporates revisions approved by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Board of Directors—the governing body of USCIEP.

The purpose of the Registry is to list engineers who meet qualifications prescribed in this document and who wish to have those qualifications recognized by foreign countries that have entered into bilateral or multilateral recognition agreements with USCIEP, which agreements have in turn been accepted for recognition purposes in the United States by one or more of the jurisdictional bodies responsible for licensing professional engineers.

Professional Engineers admitted to this Registry recognize that foreign country Host Jurisdictions accepting USCIEP certification of Registrant credentials are granting only partial exemption from, or recognition for, assessment mechanisms operating within the Host Jurisdiction. They further recognize that there is conferred upon the Registrant no exemption from any requirement to become licensed or registered in the Host Jurisdiction.

Where supplemental assessment mechanisms are applied by a Host Jurisdiction to Professional Engineers whose names appear on the USCIEP Registry, it shall be understood that such supplemental assessments will be in keeping with the applicable Mutual Recognition Agreement and are restricted to providing the relevant authorities with evidence that the Registrants have:

- An understanding of the general principles behind applicable local or regional codes of practice
- Can demonstrate a capacity to apply such principles safely and efficiently
- Are familiar with other special customary and legal requirements applicable within the Host Jurisdiction

This document is intended to generally describe the processes applicable within the United States for assessing engineering qualifications for independent practice and to expressly describe those special and additional requirements necessary for acceptance onto the USCIEP Registry.

NCEES is the body responsible for developing and maintaining the Registry and for assuring the quality of the process is NCEES. Processes relating to assessment mechanisms for engineering recognition, and administration of the Registry, are described in the following sections of this document.

PART A—MONITORING COMMITTEE

A.1 Committee Structure

The USCIEP Registry Monitoring Committee consists of the current officers of the NCEES Board of Directors.

The USCIEP Monitoring Committee members are elected to the NCEES Board of Directors by the United States Jurisdictional Boards that constitute USCIEP. The USCIEP Secretary-Treasurer is the contact for the Monitoring Committee.

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A.2 Committee Responsibilities

The USCIEP Registry Monitoring Committee is responsible for the following:

- Overseeing the development and maintenance of the USCIEP Registry
- Serving as the final authority for all matters relating to the Registry and engineers listed thereon
- Ensuring the proper administration of the assessment and approval systems related to the Registry
- Providing resolution of any conflicts arising out of, or related to, the Registry
- Representing USCIEP (through one or more of its members or designees) in deliberations of the Coordinating Committee

A.3 Member Appointment, Tenure, and Replacement

Members of the USCIEP Registry Monitoring Committee are the current NCEES President, Past President, President-Elect, and Treasurer. Tenure as a member of the Monitoring Committee is determined by the limits assigned to the individual's service as an officer of NCEES. A list of current NCEES officers is available online at www.ncees.org/introduction/about_ncees.

A.4 Monitoring Committee Meetings

The Monitoring Committee will meet as is required to receive a report from NCEES staff on the status of the registry, set policy or procedures, discuss issues or problems arising from the registry, receive updates from representatives on APEC and EMF developments, and provide guidance to NCEES staff who administer the registry.

PART B—ASSESSMENT MECHANISMS

B.1 General Statements

B.1.1 Licensure and Registration by U.S. Jurisdictions

Within the United States, 55 separate and independent jurisdictions undertake assessment and licensing of Professional Engineers. In each jurisdiction, it is a statutory requirement to be licensed in order to engage in the regulated practice of engineering or to use the title “Professional Engineer.” The government body responsible for administering the engineering practice law in each jurisdiction is the jurisdictional Board of Registration for Professional Engineers.¹

An engineer granted a license to practice by a jurisdictional board is considered to be registered in that jurisdiction. To remain registered, one must practice within the regulatory standards and periodically renew the practice license.

While each jurisdiction has its own engineering practice laws and hence its own registration system for licensing engineers, there are many similarities among the qualification standards. In general, all jurisdictions rely upon an assessment system that is founded upon the principles of education, experience, and individual competency examination. The jurisdictions each rely upon the practitioner’s adherence to the Code of Professional Conduct that has been adopted by the jurisdiction and codified into law by statute or regulation.

However, important differences do exist among jurisdiction requirements. For example, although education is an important qualification for licensure, the jurisdictional laws differ on what constitutes minimum acceptable education.² Also, a number of jurisdictions have included requirements in their engineering licensure laws for continuing professional education as a condition for renewal of the practice license.

The form of licensure also varies to some extent among the jurisdictions. Most jurisdictions license engineers under the generic title “Professional Engineer” and rely upon the practitioner’s ethical obligation to practice only within his or her area of professional competence. Other jurisdictions prefer to license by discipline, and they restrict the registrant to practice in the specific discipline licensed.

To facilitate interstate mobility, the laws of one jurisdiction do provide for assessment processes used by another jurisdiction. While these laws vary somewhat among the jurisdictions, in general, a Host Jurisdiction will accept the assessment results of another jurisdiction if qualification standards of the other jurisdiction are at least equal to those of the Host Jurisdiction.

Application for recognition (licensure) must be made to each jurisdiction in which recognition is desired.

More information about the jurisdictional laws governing the practice of engineering can be found on each of the jurisdictional board’s Web sites. A list of those jurisdictions and their Web addresses is available online at www.ncees.org/licensure.

¹ One jurisdiction—the state of Illinois—actually has two engineering registration boards, one for structural engineers and one for all other professional engineers.

² In all jurisdictions, a degree from an engineering program accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (or a degree recognized as being substantially equivalent thereto) is considered to be acceptable education. In some jurisdictions, a number of science or engineering-related (including engineering technology) degrees are also considered to be acceptable education.

B.1.2 Role of NCEES in Licensure

NCEES is a federation of all U.S. jurisdictional boards that license engineers and surveyors. It is through NCEES that these jurisdictional boards collaborate to address issues and opportunities of mutual interest. NCEES provides a number of services to the jurisdictional boards and/or registrants of those boards.

The following NCEES services are important to the mobility of engineers:

- Maintenance of the NCEES *Model Law* and *Model Rules* for the licensure of professional engineers. These model documents are intended to facilitate closer harmonization of requirements across jurisdictional borders.
- Development, administration, and scoring of the examinations used by all U.S. jurisdictional boards as part of their assessment process for engineering licensure
- A centralized system to accommodate reports and inquiries from jurisdictional law enforcement officers who are seeking information about sanctions a registrant may have received from other jurisdictions
- Publications to assist candidates for licensure in their preparation for the NCEES licensure examinations
- A centralized records program to assist registrants who are licensed in one jurisdiction and are seeking licensure in another jurisdiction

B.1.3 Role of USCIEP in International Mobility

USCIEP serves as a division of NCEES. NCEES is a national nonprofit organization composed of engineering and surveying licensure boards representing all U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Although representing the interests of the licensure boards, under no circumstances are agreements negotiated by USCIEP binding upon a jurisdictional board unless that board, at its sole discretion, elects to accept the conditions of such agreement.

B.2 Eligibility for Admission to the USCIEP Registry of International Engineers

For admission to the USCIEP Registry, an individual must first hold an engineering license and be in good standing on the registry of one or more of the jurisdictional bodies holding membership in the NCEES. For admittance to the Registry, an individual must also meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a graduate of a recognized engineering education program
- Have taken and passed one of the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) assessment examinations recognized by USCIEP³
- Have taken and passed one of the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) assessment examinations recognized by USCIEP⁴
- Have no prior sanctions resulting in a suspension or revocation by any jurisdiction of the engineering practice license
- Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States of America

Further, eligibility for admission to the USCIEP Registry is based upon satisfying the additional assessment requirements addressed herein and upon complying with ongoing requirements for continuing professional education and satisfactory professional conduct.

³ For purposes of the International Registry, USCIEP recognizes examinations developed by the individual Member Boards of NCEES, along with those examinations developed directly by NCEES.

⁴ See footnote 3.

B.3 Assessment of Higher Engineering Education Programs

B.3.1 Recognized Engineering Education Programs

A graduate of an engineering program accredited by EAC/ABET is considered to have met the academic qualification requirement for admission to the USCIEP Registry.

A graduate of an appropriate engineering program accredited under an accreditation system recognized by ABET through a mutual recognition agreement as being substantially equivalent to the accreditation program requirements of ABET/EAC is considered to have met the academic qualification requirements for admission to the USCIEP Registry.

B.3.2 Alternative Assessment Mechanisms for Engineering Education

For admission to the USCIEP Registry, there are no alternatives to the academic standards prescribed in Section B.3.1.

B.4 Assessment for Independent Practice

For admission to the USCIEP Registry, an applicant must have been assessed for independent practice by, and be licensed in, one or more jurisdictions of the United States through a process substantially consistent with provisions of the NCEES *Model Law* (available online at www.ncees.org/introduction/about_ncees). Further, the applicant must complete the application for entry into the NCEES Records Program, thereby providing confirmation of satisfactory assessment by the jurisdiction granting initial engineering license.

In addition to the academic requirements described in B.3 above, there are requirements for a supervised period of qualifying engineering experience, a validation of engineering abilities by successful completion of not less than 16 hours of written examinations, and a validation of experience and character by at least five licensed professional engineers. Each of these assessment standards is described below.

B.4.1 Engineering Experience Assessments

Engineers are required to have a minimum of four years of acceptable engineering experience after receiving their engineering degree. It is possible, however, to substitute advanced engineering degrees and its related academic experience for not more than two years of the practical experience requirements.⁵

Acceptable engineering experience must include the application of engineering theory and show continuing, progressive, and increasingly complex engineering responsibilities. In practice, it may require more than four years of actual experience to obtain a minimum of four years' qualifying experience.

B.4.2 Assessment of Engineering Abilities (Examinations)

Each candidate for licensure must successfully complete not less than 16 hours of NCEES examinations in the discipline of engineering chosen as the practice discipline in which to demonstrate proficiency.⁶

The 16 hours of examinations are divided into two parts, each being 8 hours in duration. The first examination is the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination. It further validates the academic experience and serves to assess the fundamental knowledges applicable to engineering practice. The FE examination may be taken during a candidate's final year of academic study or any time thereafter.

⁵ In most jurisdictions, the registration boards credit one year of practical experience for an applicant who has earned a master's degree in engineering and an additional year of credit for those who have earned a Ph.D. in engineering.

⁶ Although some jurisdictions will waive the FE examination in certain circumstances, such waivers are not permitted for admittance to the USCIEP Registry.

The second examination is the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) examination.⁷ This examination is practice-oriented and is used to assess the candidate's competence in solving engineering problems in the context of constraints and requirements of the various codes and standards applicable in the United States.

For licensure in some jurisdictions, a candidate in certain engineering disciplines may be required to write confirmatory examinations that exceed the 16 hours described above.⁸

Specifications for all of the FE and PE examinations are available online at www.ncees.org/exams.

B.4.3 Validation of Experience and Character

There must be at least five references from licensed professional engineers who are familiar with the candidate's work, character, and integrity. These references must be in addition to those references listed by the candidate for verification of the work experiences listed as part of the candidate's professional resume.

B.4.4 Continuing Validation for Licensees

Professional Engineers licensed by U.S. jurisdictions must periodically renew their license(s) to remain registered and retain legal status to practice engineering.⁹ As part of license renewal, registrants are typically required to report any sanctions against them by any of the jurisdictions in which they are licensed.

Professional Engineers listed with the NCEES Records Program and listed on the USCIEP Registry must, in addition to the above, periodically update their professional activities record and supplement their record with testimonials from professional references.

B.5. Additional Assessment for Admittance to USCIEP Registry

In addition to the requirements described above for jurisdictional licenses, there are further requirements for admittance to the USCIEP Registry. These requirements are described below.

B.5.1 Seven Years of Qualifying Experience (Post Graduation)

Candidates must demonstrate a record of seven years of qualifying experience, two of which are in responsible charge of significant engineering work.¹⁰ The standards for assessing qualifying experience under this requirement will be the same standards applicable to qualifying experience necessary for licensure.

Candidates will be considered to have been in responsible charge of significant engineering work when they have completed one of the following:

- Planned, designed, coordinated, and executed a small project
- Undertaken part of a large project based on an understanding of the whole project
- Undertaken novel or complex work responsibility

⁷ In most jurisdictions, candidates for a Principles and Practice of Engineering examination are required to complete a minimum four-year intern period prior to taking the examination.

⁸ A number of jurisdictions have requirements for confirmatory examinations that typically exceed the 16 hours for those who wish to become licensed as Structural Engineers.

⁹ Most jurisdictions require annual renewal of licenses. Others administer renewals on a biannual basis.

¹⁰ In most jurisdictions, at least four years of such qualifying experience will have been obtained at the time of initial registration as a Professional Engineer.

B.5.2 Continuing Professional Development

The NCEES *Model Law* includes provisions that would authorize the jurisdictional licensing board to require a demonstration of continuing professional competency¹¹ (CPC) as a condition of license renewal. NCEES also publishes the *Continuing Professional Competency Guidelines* for licensing boards that may wish to use *Model Law* language to establish continuing professional competency provisions. A number of the jurisdictions now have statutory requirements that mandate continuing professional competence as a condition of license renewal.

Candidates for admittance to the USCIEP Registry must meet minimum CPC standards as a condition for remaining on the Registry. For registrants who comply with the CPC requirements of a jurisdiction in which they are licensed, those jurisdictional standards will be accepted as being satisfactory to the USCIEP Monitoring Committee. Where registrants have no statutory obligation for CPC, they are required to comply with standards of the NCEES *CPC Guidelines* as a condition for continued listing on the USCIEP Registry. The *CPC Guidelines* are available online at www.ncees.org/introduction/about_ncees (see Sections 1–3).

B.5.3 Codes of Professional Conduct

Professional Engineers are obligated by jurisdictional laws to comply with Codes (Rules) of Professional Conduct adopted by the jurisdictions in which they are licensed to practice. Engineers seeking admittance to the USCIEP Registry are required, as part of their application, to submit a sworn statement attesting to any sanctions they may have received for violation of the Code or other provisions of the applicable licensing laws. A reaffirmation is required at each renewal of the registration certificate.

A suspension or revocation of one's license to practice engineering constitutes just cause for removal from the USCIEP Registry.

B.5.4 Evidence of Citizenship or Permanent Residence

To be eligible for admission to the USCIEP Registry, an applicant must be either a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident of the United States. Candidates must be prepared to prove their citizenship or status as permanent residents at the time of their initial application or as part of a registry audit described in section B.7 by providing one of the following acceptable documents:

- A birth certificate, a U.S. Certificate of Birth Abroad, or a Report of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen
- U.S. passport (unexpired or expired)
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship
- U.S. Citizen Identification Card
- Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Receipt Card with photograph
- An individual Fee Register Receipt that shows that the person has filed an application for a New Naturalization or Citizenship Paper
- Other verification from the Bureau of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of State, or federal or state court records confirming citizenship

¹¹ Continuing professional competency is a term that is used synonymously with continuing professional education and continuing professional development.

B.6 Application Procedures

Engineers who are seeking admittance to the USCIEP Registry and who are active participants in the NCEES Records Program may apply to the Registry by completing the online application at www.ncees.org/records.

Applicants who are not currently listed with the NCEES Records Program must first complete the online application to the NCEES Records Program at www.ncees.org/records. After the Records application is complete and a Records number is assigned, the applicant must then complete the online application to the Registry.

B.7 Audits of USCIEP Registry Members

Audits of registrant records will be performed by NCEES staff under the direction of the USCIEP Monitoring Committee. The audits will be undertaken to confirm the following:

- That the registrants' NCEES Records program experience update forms demonstrate that the registrant continues to perform engineering work or is active in the engineering profession
- That the registrant is compliant with continuing professional competency requirements
- That there is a continuing record of satisfactory professional conduct
- That the registrant is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States

Annual audits will begin no later than the third year following commencement of the official USCIEP Registry. A sample equal to three to five percent of the members will be randomly selected every two years and audited. It is expected the audit format will include direct contact by USCIEP with the member's home jurisdiction board and will include a review of the Law Enforcement Records managed by NCEES. These specific audit activities are in addition to the independent testimonials required with each periodic renewal of the registry listing.

B.8 Appeals Process for Unaccepted Applicants

Applicants who are not admitted to the USCIEP Registry will receive a letter informing them of the decision and the rationale for denying the application. Applicants who disagree with the decision may appeal using the following procedure:

- (1) The applicant must submit a request for reconsideration in writing to USCIEP (letter or e-mail). The request must be received within three months of the date on the rejection letter and must describe why the applicant believes he or she is eligible for admission to the registry. The applicant may submit new information in support the application.
- (2) Requests for reconsideration along with additional information supplied by the applicant will be considered. A letter will be sent to the applicant to inform the applicant of the results of the appeal and address any concerns stated in the applicant's written request.
- (3) If the original decision is affirmed, the applicant may appeal to the USCIEP Board of Directors. The applicant must submit a written appeal to USCIEP (letter or e-mail) addressed to the President of the USCIEP Board of Directors within one month of the date on the second rejection letter. The USCIEP Board of Directors will consider the appeal, review the application, and issue a third determination, which shall be the final determination. A letter will be sent to inform the applicant of the Board of Directors' decision and address concerns stated in the applicant's letter of appeal.

PART C—ENGINEERING DISCIPLINES

Most of the jurisdictions within the United States grant a generic (nondiscipline specific) license and rely upon the individual's ethical obligation to practice only within one's area of professional competence. Some jurisdictions, however, do license engineers under discipline-specific titles of recognition. For purposes of the USCIEP Registry, there is no restriction placed upon the discipline-specific competencies to be admitted. Each candidate, however, is required to declare an area of expertise from one of the nine engineering disciplines listed below:

- Chemical
- Civil
- Electrical
- Environmental
- Geotechnical
- Industrial
- Mechanical
- Mining
- Structural

A candidate for admittance to the USCIEP Registry may declare more than one area of expertise. For multiple declarations, the work-experience profile will be expected to reflect appropriate qualifying experience for each discipline-specific area in which expertise is claimed.

A candidate may also provide optional specialty practice information as subcategory listings to supplement the engineering discipline declarations. Although the subcategory listings would be secondary information for purposes of the Registry, that information would be available for presentation upon inquiry to the Registry. For each subcategory declared by a candidate, the experience profile data submitted as part of the application must validate each specialty practice area listed.