



Wednesday, 23 November 2022

RE: Professional Engineers Registration Bill 2019

Hi all:

Preamble

This form of legislation was first proposed in 2016. It was allegedly based on the Registered Professional Engineers Queensland Bill – but that is a nonsense. RPEQ at a maximum covered over 30 Engineering types and that the end of June 2021 they had 18,272 RPEQs – both Queensland based and from other states – with around 100,000 qualified engineers living in QLD. So after 90 years no more than 18% of QLD qualified engineers are RPEQs. Further the RPEQ scheme is run by a 7 person board with 5 of those being qualified engineers – the Victorian Scheme is run by Consumer Affairs Victoria. And there are many other differences,

Timetable

The five 'areas of engineering' as prescribed for Victorian registration in the PER Act and their 'date registration becomes mandatory' are:

- fire safety engineering 1 December 2021
- civil engineering 1 October 2022
- structural engineering 1 October 2022
- electrical engineering, and 1 June 2023
- mechanical engineering. 1 December 2023

Eligibility for registration and endorsement

You need to have successful attainment of a Washington Accord accredited degree, or a previously recognized historical equivalent qualification, or satisfactory completion of a Stage 1 Competency Assessment in the Professional Engineer Category, in the discipline or a related discipline to which you are applying.

And you need to have at least five-years of relevant work experience of which at least four-years must be post-graduation in the area relevant to the discipline in which you seek registration; and,

This experience must have been gained within the last ten years.

Nature of experience

You must have demonstrated competency in the following five elements from the 'Australian Engineering Competency Standards Stage 2: Experienced Professional Engineer' in the relevant area or areas of engineering:

- Element 1 – Deal with ethical issues;
- Element 2 – Practice competently;
- Element 4 – Develop safe and sustainable solutions;
- Element 6 – Identify, assess and manage risks; and,

- Element 13 – Engineering knowledge – according to their area of practice including a knowledge of standards and practices.

Qualification and experience assessment

You need to be assessed by one of these authorised assessors **Important see alternate advice near end of this document.**

Assessment entity	Contact details and Areas of engineering approved for assessment
<p>AIRAH Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Address: Level 3/1 Elizabeth St Melbourne Victoria 3000 • General enquiry phone number: +61 (03) 8623 3000 • General enquiry email: registrar@airah.org.au • Link to assessment scheme: https://www.airah.org.au/APER <p>Areas of engineering approved for assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical engineering – Registration and endorsement
<p>Engineers Australia (The Institution of Engineers Australia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical address: Level 31, 600 Bourke St, Melbourne VIC. 3000 • General enquiry phone: 1300 653 113 • General enquiry email: vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au • Link to assessment scheme: https://engineersaustralia.org.au/engineering-registers/statutory-registration#collapse681351 <p>Areas of engineering approved for assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire safety engineering - Registration and Endorsement • Civil engineering - Registration and Endorsement • Structural engineering - Registration and Endorsement • Electrical engineering - Registration and Endorsement • Mechanical engineering - Registration and Endorsement
<p>ICI Institute of Civil Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General enquiry phone number: 1300 424 287 • General enquiry email: admin@iciaustralia.com • Link to assessment scheme: https://iciaustralia.com/Program/Engineers-Registration <p>Areas of engineering approved for assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil and Structural engineering – Registration

<p>ICE (Australia) Institution of Civil Engineers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General enquiry phone number: 0421 561 804 (overseas callers, please use +61 421 561 804) • General enquiry email: australasia@ice.org.uk • Link to assessment scheme: https://www.ice.org.uk/about-ice/near-you/asia-pacific/australia <p>Areas of engineering approved for assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil engineering – Registration
<p>IPWEA Victoria (Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (Victoria Division) Ltd)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Address: Level 1, 1192 Toorak Road, Camberwell VIC 3124 • General enquiry phone number: 0439 439 145 • General enquiry email: vic@ipwea.org • Link to assessment scheme: https://www.ipwea.org/victoria/home <p>Areas of engineering approved for assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil engineering - Registration
<p>IStructE (Australia) The Institution of Structural Engineers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General enquiry phone number: +44(0) 202335 4535 (UK phone number) • General enquiry email: membership@istructe.org • Link to assessment scheme: https://www.istructe.org/get-involved/regional-groups/australasia/australia/ <p>Areas of engineering approved for assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural engineering - Registration and Endorsement
<p>Professionals Australia (The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia trading as Professionals Australia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical address: 148-152 Miller Street, West Melbourne, VIC 3003 • General enquiry email: rpeng@pa.org.au • General enquiry phone: 1300 273 762 • Link to assessment scheme: https://www.rpeng.org.au/ <p>Areas of engineering approved for assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil engineering - Registration and Endorsement • Structural engineering - Registration and Endorsement • Mechanical engineering - Registration and Endorsement • Electrical engineering - Registration and Endorsement.

The costs of these assessments are variable and depend on whether you are a member of the Assessor organisation, what level of engineer you are (CPEng for example), etc. you need to contact the assessors and get them to advise you of the cost.

Apply for registration and endorsement

You need to submit your application for registration with the BLA (Business Licensing Authority) on myCAV via the Consumer Affairs Victoria website. And this requires you to register to get your myCAV registration.

Documents required

- Your Certified Copy of Your Qualification, "Washington Accord" four-year degree or equivalent
- Your Detailed CV, at least five years of engineering experience, a minimum of four post-graduate
- Contact details of your Three Professional Referees, to attest to your experience and ethical practice
- Written Reference/s, can be written by any of your three referees. A reference letter template is available
- Your Identity Documents, 100 points

Referees

There are restrictions related to Referees. If you have a supervising engineer they can be a referee provided the supervising engineer is a registered practising professional engineer. And referees have to have monitored your engineering output for at least 12 months in the past 10 years.

This becomes a major issue for sole trader engineers who may have no engineer clients who satisfy this requirement. It's also a problem for the most senior engineer in small engineering organisations.

Engineers Australia alternate advice re registration

I had complained to both Romily Madew Engineers Australia CEO and Jane MacMaster Engineers Australia Chief Engineer about the Professional Engineer Registration Bill and EA's involvement in the development of the same, including the deliberate misinformation they had provided the Victorian Government bureaucrats responsible. This was at a meeting at EA Victorian HQ Level 31, 600 Bourke Street, Melbourne.

Subsequently I was rung by Lyal Douglas FIEAust CPEng, Competency Assessor at Engineers Australia. We had a long discussion including details about the development of the PER Bill.

Eventually Lyal raised the issue of CPEng credential. I advised I had been a CPEng, was subjected to an audit in 2010 aged 64 years; submitted the required documentation; was advised it was insufficient; and made a CPEng (Retired) on 7 March 2013 even though I was not retired.

Lyal advised that the CPEng credential meant automatic PER registration – **this was completely new advice from EA.**

Hence an alternate approach to become registered is to obtain your CPEng credential. This comes at a cost – you have to be a member of EA – annual cost for a full member is around \$425, and the CPEng credential cost for one engineering discipline is up to \$1925.

Once you have been awarded the CPEng credential you can get a document from EA to submit to CAV and become registered.

Post registration

Important note regarding Continuing Professional Development

Under the PER Act, the BLA will register you for a period of three years. At the end of the registration period, you can apply to the BLA to be reregistered. To be reregistered you will not have to have your qualifications, experience and competency reassessed but will have to prove that you have been undertaking an amount of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) specified by the BLA.

Yours sincerely



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