

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS AND GEOLOGISTS



Special Notice June 2010

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Special Notice: Continuing Education Requirements

- BOARD CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) GOES INTO EFFECT FOR 2009-2011 RENEWAL CYCLE
- 24 CREDITS MUST BE COMPLETED BY SEPT. 30, 2011
- THE BOARD HAS DECIDED TO GRANT A MORATORIUM FROM DISCIPLINARY ACTION PROVIDED ANY CE CREDIT DEFICIENCIES ARE COMPLETED BY APRIL 1, 2012.

In its e-newsletter sent May 14, the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists attempted to update licensees on the upcoming requirements for mandatory continuing education (CE) to be set forth in regulations of the Board. THAT INFORMATION IS NOW OUT OF DATE AND SHOULD BE DISREGARDED.

This special mailing is intended to provide licensees with the most current information concerning mandatory continuing education. Please accept our apologies for any confusion that may have resulted.

On May 12, the legislature enacted and Governor Rendell signed into law Act 25 which amended the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologists Registration Law (the Law) to clarify the requirements for mandatory continuing education and to make it easier to meet your requirements and to provide more choice in CE courses, seminars, work shops and conferences.

Act 25 specifically eliminated the need for the board to pre-approve CE courses. Now, the board CE requirements are based upon the provision of the model law and rules of the National Council of Examiners in Engineer and Surveying (NCEES), which is the national organization of licensing boards. This change in the Law expands the number of CE courses and activities that will be acceptable for credit.

In addition, Act 25 specifies that the first CE cycle of 24 credits must be completed, **no ifs, ands or buts**, by the Sept. 30, 2011 renewal cycle. This is a change from the prior directive. But the board has come up with a way to smooth the transition for you so that no one is disadvantaged or is unfairly disciplined for any CE deficiencies that may result from confusion over the CE deadline.

In order to accommodate licensees who are just now learning of this deadline, the board has decided to grant a moratorium from disciplinary action for anyone who has not completed the 24 CE credits by the Sept. 30, 2011, renewal date provided any and all CE credits short of the mandatory 24 are completed by April 1, 2012. If you fail to make up the CE deficit by the April 2012 deadline, you will be facing disciplinary action and you will not be permitted to double count CE earned after the September deadline for the following renewal cycle.

The best course of action is to begin doing your CE today. Any CE credits that you have earned as far back as Oct. 1, 2009, will be acceptable at the time of renewal.

Act 25 provides wide latitude in the courses and other activities that will be acceptable for credit by the board. The CE standard is **whether the course, workshop, conference, seminar, video course, college course or lecture, etc., maintains, improves or expands the skills and knowledge of a licensee's professional practice.**

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This CE standard would include courses dealing with the law and ethics of a practice but would exclude practice development or office management. You could receive CE credit under this standard for making a presentation at a professional conference, for publishing a professional journal article, writing a book, or obtaining a patent.

The board would like to point out that, although it will not be pre-approving courses, it does have final authority of course approval and professional development hours (PDH) values that will be applied to activities like courses that you teach, journal articles that you publish and patents that you have obtained.

Also, mandatory continuing education is not required for new licensees in their first renewal cycle. Moreover, licensees serving on active military duty for at least 120 days in a year are exempt from CE during that year.

[Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologists
Registration Law, Continuing Education Provisions](#)

Please note that the board may waive the CE requirement for a licensee demonstrating illness or other extenuating circumstances. You will, however, be obligated to complete all delinquent CE, not to exceed 24 PDH, in order to reactivate an expired license.

The profession is entering a new era with this CE requirement. We ask you to take full advantage of the wide variety of CE course offerings and activities. We remind you to keep and maintain your CE course certificates in a safe place. We urge you to begin taking your CE today so that you have no problems meeting the Sept. 30, 2011, deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists.

Governor's Newsletter

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