

TITLE 68: PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS  
CHAPTER VII: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
SUBCHAPTER b: PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

PART 1480  
THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING PRACTICE ACT OF 1989

Section

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AUTHORITY: Implementing the Structural Engineering Practice Act of 1989 [225 ILCS 340] and authorized by Section 2105-15 of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois [20 ILCS 2105].

SOURCE: Adopted at 4 Ill. Reg. 22, p. 242, effective May 15, 1980; amended at 4 Ill. Reg. 44, p. 475, effective October 20, 1980; codified at 5 Ill. Reg. 11068; codified and amended at 5 Ill. Reg. 14171, effective December 3, 1981; emergency amendment at 6 Ill. Reg. 916, effective January 6, 1982, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 6 Ill. Reg. 7448, effective June 15, 1982; transferred from Chapter I, 68 Ill. Adm. Code 480 (Department of Registration and Education) to Chapter VII, 68 Ill. Adm. Code 1480 (Department of Professional Regulation) pursuant to P.A. 85-225, effective January 1, 1988, at 12 Ill. Reg. 2947; emergency amendment at 13 Ill. Reg. 5781, effective April 5, 1989, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 13 Ill. Reg. 13891, effective August 22, 1989; amended at 15 Ill. Reg. 7081, effective April 29, 1991; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 11162, effective July 1, 1993; amended at 18 Ill. Reg. 14751, effective September 19, 1994; amended at 19 Ill. Reg. 2309, effective February 14, 1995; amended at 19 Ill. Reg. 16081, effective November 17, 1995; amended at 21 Ill. Reg. 13844, effective October 1, 1997; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 639, effective December 31, 1999; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 13734, effective August 28, 2000; amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 12271, effective July 24, 2002; emergency amendment at 27 Ill. Reg. 12114, effective July 14, 2003, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 18990, effective December 5, 2003; amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 5669, effective March 30, 2010; amended at 36 Ill. Reg. 4844, effective May 1, 2012; amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 14876, effective November 13, 2015; emergency amendment at 44 Ill. Reg. 16249, effective September 15, 2020, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 45 Ill. Reg. 1856, effective January 28, 2021; amended at 47 Ill. Reg. 946, effective January 5, 2023; amended at 49 Ill. Reg. 10205, effective July 23, 2025; amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Section 1480.130 Approved Experience**

- a) Every application shall be reviewed by the Division or the Board to determine whether the applicant's experience meets the requirements described in this Section. Approved experience, other than in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(A), shall have been acquired after conferral of the baccalaureate degree.
  - 1) Credit for Graduate Study:
    - A) One year of experience shall be given for completion of graduate study resulting in conferral of a master's degree with an emphasis in structural engineering from a U.S. university, including as part of a combined or dual degree program where the baccalaureate degree requirements are being met simultaneously with the master's degree requirements. The course of study shall include a minimum of 12 semester hours, or their equivalent (e.g., 18 quarter hours), of structural analysis, behavior, or design courses.
    - B) One year of experience shall be given for completion of graduate study resulting in conferral of a doctoral degree with an emphasis

in structural engineering from a U.S. university and a course of study that includes a minimum of 12 semester hours, or their equivalent (e.g., 18 quarter hours), of structural analysis, behavior, or design courses beyond a master's degree. Two years of experience shall be given for completion of graduate study resulting in conferral of a doctoral degree with an emphasis in structural engineering from a U.S. university and a course of study that includes a minimum of 24 semester hours, or their equivalent (e.g., 36 quarter hours), of structural analysis, behavior, or design courses without a master's degree.

C) The maximum credit for graduate study shall be two~~2~~ years.

D) If coursework from a post-graduate degree is used to satisfy the education requirement, the applicable post-graduate degree shall not also be credited as structural engineering experience.

2) Credit for one year of structural engineering experience shall be given for a graduate of a university certified cooperative program.

A) An internship shall not qualify for cooperative program credit;

B) The cooperative program shall consist of supervised industrial or field training to last at least one academic year and alternate with semesters of full-time academic education;

C) Applicants claiming credit for participation in the university cooperative program shall submit an official transcript from the university reflecting the university credit for completion of the program; and

D) All experience must be verified, on forms provided by the Division, by the supervising engineer who is licensed to practice structural engineering.

3) Credit for all required experience shall be given for actual experience in the practice of structural engineering under the employ or immediate supervision of an engineer legally practicing structural engineering. Acceptable experience shall be within the definition of the practice as set forth in Section 5 of the Structural Engineering Practice Act of 1989 ("Act") [225 ILCS 340/5], and shall require the application of technical knowledge and structural engineering principles.

- 130 4) All experience shall be progressive in nature and the applicant must  
131 demonstrate growth in quality, responsibility and the capability of making  
132 independent technical decisions, and be held accountable for the  
133 performance of the applicant's duties.  
134
- 135 5) Credit for a maximum of three years of the experience required for  
136 licensure shall be given for the full-time teaching of upper division  
137 junior/senior courses or graduate courses in structural engineering as a part  
138 of, or in conjunction with, an approved engineering curriculum as set forth  
139 in Section 1480.110. An academic year of full-time teaching (2 semesters,  
140 or 3 quarters) at a level of assistant professor, or higher, shall be  
141 considered equivalent to 6 months of the experience required for licensure.  
142 This teaching experience shall be fully documented, and certified by an  
143 affidavit from the department chairman, or dean, of the engineering  
144 curriculum involved.  
145
- 146 6) All experience must be verified and submitted on forms provided by the  
147 Division or as part of a National Council of Examiners for Engineering  
148 and Surveying ("NCEES") Record.  
149
- 150 7) Experience gained outside of the U.S. shall be accompanied by certified  
151 documents detailing the requirements to legally practice structural  
152 engineering in that country and proof that the supervisor met those  
153 requirements at the time of supervision. ~~Applicant is responsible for~~  
154 ~~providing translations into English as necessary and at their expense. A~~  
155 ~~maximum of two years of verified experience gained in this manner shall~~  
156 ~~be given.~~  
157  
158 A) The applicant, at their expense and if necessary, is responsible for  
159 providing translation of documents into English for review by the  
160 Board.  
161  
162 B) A maximum of two years of experience gained in this manner shall  
163 be awarded, unless the experience is part of a recognized NCEES  
164 Mutual Recognition Agreement ("NCEES MRA"), as specified in  
165 Section 1480.(c) of this Part.  
166
- 167 b) Experience requirement to be licensed as a Structural Engineer:  
168  
169 1) For a graduate from an approved program, four years of acceptable  
170 experience is required.  
171  
172 2) For a graduate from a non-approved program, eight years of acceptable

experience is required.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

# **Section 1480.170 Endorsement**

- a) Any person who holds an unexpired certificate of registration or license to practice structural engineering issued under the laws of another state, ~~or~~ territory, or country (hereinto referred to as jurisdiction) and who desires to become licensed by endorsement shall file an application, on forms provided by the Division, together with:
  - 1) Proof of meeting requirements substantially equivalent to those in force in this State at the time of original or subsequent licensure by examination in the other jurisdiction (i.e., a separate written structural engineering examination and the FE examination), including official conferred college transcripts and verification of experience;
  - 2) A certification by the jurisdiction of original licensure and certification from the jurisdiction of predominant active practice, including the following:
    - A) The time during which the applicant was licensed in that jurisdiction, including the date of the original issuance of the license;
    - B) The basis of licensure and a description of all examinations by which the applicant was licensed in that jurisdiction and the date of passage of any such examinations; and
    - C) Whether the records of the licensing authority contain any disciplinary action taken against the applicant;
  - 3) If the qualifications of the applicant at the time of original licensure did not meet the requirements for licensure in this State at that time, the applicant may submit additional certifications of other jurisdictions to indicate meeting the qualifications in effect in this State at the time of any later licensure;
  - 4) The required fee set forth in Section 1480.195;
  - 5) Applicants who received their baccalaureate education in a foreign country, other than Canada and who were originally licensed after January

1, 1997 shall have the education evaluated at their expense. Applicants shall obtain the forms from NCEES Engineering and Surveying Credentials Evaluations, 200 Verdae Boulevard, Greenville, SC 29607. Evaluations completed prior to October 30, 2006 from Engineering Credentials Evaluation International (ECEI) are also accepted. The Board has only approved NCEES and ECEI as evaluators for all degrees. The Board will review all transcripts and the evaluation submitted to the Division to determine if the education meets the requirements set forth in Sections 1480.110 and 1480.120;

6) Certification attesting the applicant has read and understands the Act and this Part; and

7) In lieu of the documentation specified in subsections (a)(1) and (2), an applicant may submit a current NCEES Record.

8) Documentation submitted from a foreign country shall be translated into English, at applicant's own expense, for review by the Division.

b) The Division, upon recommendation of the Board, may require an applicant applying from a foreign jurisdiction to take and pass the required examination(s) specified in Section 1480.150 of this Part, to verify the applicant has satisfactory knowledge and competence using U.S. and International Building Codes, American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials ("AASHTO") Bridge Design specifications, American Society of Civil Engineers ("ASCE") Design Loads & Criteria for Buildings/Other Structures, the American Institute of Steel Construction ("AISC") Steel Construction and Seismic Design Manuals, Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic design, American Iron and Steel Institute ("AISI") Specifications for Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members, etc. and applicable design standards to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

c) The Division, upon recommendation of the Board, will accept an internationally chartered structural engineer applicant applying under this Section, through the NCEES United Kingdom Mutual Recognition Agreement ("MRA"), provided the applicant submits an NCEES Record meeting the requirements of the agreed upon NCEES MRA standards by NCEES and the UK Engineering Council, subject to review, to verify the experience is structural in nature and complies with Section 5 of the Act [225 ILCS 340/5].

db) The Division may, in individual cases, upon the recommendation of the Board, waive a portion of the examination requirements after consideration of the quality of an applicant's structural engineering education and experience, including

whether ~~the applicant~~~~he or she~~ has graduated from an approved program, has achieved special honors or awards, has had numerous articles published in professional journals, has participated in the writing of textbooks relating to structural engineering, and any other attribute the Board accepts as evidence that the applicant has outstanding and proven ability in the practice of structural engineering.

**ee)** In order to provide background in structural engineering experience, an applicant licensed as a structural engineer in another state or territory and who has met all previously stated requirements may be requested to appear before the Board for an oral interview at which questions will be asked to determine the applicant's qualifications and knowledge of structural engineering. Specifically, questions may explore the applicant's knowledge concerning the design of concrete, structural steel, timber, masonry and foundations and analysis procedures, design codes, materials and recommended practices for design and construction.

**fd)** When the accuracy of any submitted documentation, or the relevance or sufficiency of the course work or experience, is questioned by the Division or the Board because of lack of information, discrepancies or conflicts in information given or a need for clarification, the applicant seeking a license may be requested to:

- 1) Provide information as may be necessary;
- 2) Appear for oral interviews before the Board; or
- 3) If licensed prior to January 1, 1997, upon review of the educational requirements, have the applicant's education evaluated at the applicant's expense as set forth in subsection (a)(5).

**ge)** The Division shall examine each endorsement application to determine whether the qualifications of the applicant, at the time of original or subsequent licensure, were substantially equivalent to the requirements then in force in this State. After review of the application, the Division shall either issue a license by endorsement to the applicant or notify the applicant of the reasons for the deferral or denial of the application. An applicant not qualified for licensure by endorsement shall automatically be reviewed under the provisions of Section 1480.140.

**hf)** If an applicant fails to submit all required items for licensure under the Act within three years after filing an application, the application shall expire and be denied. The applicant may submit a new application for licensure accompanied by the required fee, and furnish proof of meeting the qualifications for licensure in effect at the time of new application.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

#### Section 1480.180 Inactive Status

- a) Any licensed structural engineer who notifies the Division ~~in writing~~ on forms prescribed by the Division may elect to place ~~the his or her~~ license on inactive status and shall be excused from the payment of renewal fees until ~~the licensee~~ ~~he or she~~ notifies the Division ~~in writing~~ of a desire to resume active status.
- b) Any licensee seeking restoration from inactive status shall do so in accordance with Section 1480.160.
- c) Any licensed structural engineer or professional design firm whose license is on inactive status shall not practice structural engineering in the State of Illinois. Practicing or offering to practice on a license that is on inactive status shall be considered unlicensed activity and shall be grounds for discipline under Section 20 of the Act.
- d) ~~Any Inactive status is not available for a~~ Professional Design Firm who notifies the Division on forms prescribed by the Division and submits evidence that the firm will no longer be offering services in Illinois, may elect to place the firm license on inactive status and shall be excused from the payment of renewal fees until the licensee notifies the Division of the desire to resume active status.
- e) Any licensed structural engineer whose license is on inactive status is not required to comply with the Continuing Education requirements listed in Section 1480.185.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

#### Section 1480.195 Fees

The following fees shall be paid to the Department and are not refundable:

- a) Application Fees
  - 1) The fee for application for a license as a structural engineer is \$~~175~~~~100~~. In addition, applicants for an examination shall be required to pay the examination fee, either to the Department or to the designated testing service. Failure to appear for the examination on the scheduled date, at the time and place specified, after the applicant's application for examination has been received and acknowledged by the Department or the designated testing service, shall result in the forfeiture of the



examination fee.

2) The application fee for a license as a structural engineer intern is ~~\$55~~50.

3) The application fee for a certificate of registration as a professional design firm is ~~\$150~~75.

b) Renewal Fees

1) The fee for the biennial renewal of a structural engineer license is \$125~~shall be calculated at the rate of \$30 per year.~~

2) The fee for renewal of a certificate of registration as a professional design firm is ~~\$150~~75 for the renewal period (see Section 1480.190(c)).

c) General Fees

1) The fee for the restoration of a license other than from inactive status is \$50 plus payment of all lapsed renewal fees, but not to exceed \$425 for a structural engineer license and \$500 for a professional design firm.

2) There is no charge for the issuance of a replacement license for a license that has been lost or destroyed, or for the issuance of a license with a change of name or address. Licenses are available electronically through the Department website.

3) The fee for a certification of a licensee's record for any purpose is ~~\$25~~20.

4) ~~There is no~~The fee to change the name of a professional design firm within the same business entity type; however, there is a \$25 fee to change the business entity type of an existing professional design firm~~have the tabulation of the score of an examination administered by the Division reviewed and verified is \$20 plus any fee charged by the testing service.~~

5) The fee to change the services offered by the professional design firm is \$25~~for a roster of persons licensed as structural engineers or structural engineer interns in this State shall be the actual cost of producing the roster.~~

6) The fee to change the name of a managing agent for a professional design firm is \$25.

d) All of the fees collected pursuant to this Section shall be deposited in the Design

Professionals Administration and Investigation Fund. (See Section 17(c) of the Act [225 ILCS 340/17(c)].)

e) Additional Fees

- 1) Any person who delivers a check or other payment to the Department that is returned to the Department unpaid by the financial institution upon which it is drawn shall pay to the Department, in addition to the amount already owed to the Department, a fee of \$50.
- 2) If the returned check or other payment as described in subsection (e)(1) was for a renewal or issuance fee and that person practices without paying the renewal fee or issuance fee and the fee for a returned check, an additional fee of \$100 shall be imposed.
- 3) The fees imposed by this Section are in addition to any other discipline provided under the Act for unlicensed practice or practice on a nonrenewed license. The Division shall notify the person that payment of fees shall be paid to the Department by certified check or money order within 30 calendar days after the notification.
- 4) If, after the expiration of 30 days from the date of the notification, the person has failed to submit the necessary remittance, the Division shall automatically terminate the license or certificate or deny the application, without hearing.
- 5) If, after termination or denial, the person seeks a license or certificate, the person~~he or she~~ shall apply to the Division for restoration or issuance of the license or certificate and pay all fees due to the Division.~~The Division may establish a fee for the processing of an application for restoration of a license or certificate to pay all expenses of processing this application.~~
- 6) The Director may waive the fees due under this Section in individual cases in which the Director finds that the fees would be unreasonable or unnecessarily burdensome.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)