Engineering Ethics for New Mexico Professional Engineers

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Engineering Ethics for New Mexico Professional Engineers
Chapter 1

Overview of the NM Engineering Laws and Rules of Professional Responsibility

Engineering Ethics

Engineering ethics is (1) the study of moral issues and decisions confronting individuals and organizations involved in engineering and (2) the study of related questions about moral conduct, character, ideals and relationships of peoples and organizations involved in technological development (Martin and Schinzinger, *Ethics in Engineering*).

New Mexico Board for Licensure of Professional Engineers and Surveyors

The New Mexico Board for Licensure of Professional Engineers and Surveyors is the primary government body that regulates the practice of engineering within the State of New Mexico. The Board consists of ten members as follows: five licensed professional engineers (at least one of whom shall be in engineering education), three licensed professional surveyors and two public members. All ten members are appointed by the Governor for staggered terms of five years each.

The Board has the authority to implement provisions of Chapter 61, Article 23 of the New Mexico Statutory Authority (NMSA), “Engineering and Surveying Practice Act” or Title 16, Chapter 39 of the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC), “Professional Engineering and Professional Surveying Rules”. Pertinent sections of the laws and rules present the code of professional conduct for NM professional engineers.

New Mexico Statutory Authority (NMSA)

The New Mexico Statutes are a collection of state laws organized by subject area into a code made up of titles, chapters and articles. The New Mexico Statutes were last updated in July 2005 by laws that create, amend, or repeal statutory material. These statutes are presented in Chapter 2.

The New Mexico Legislature found that it was necessary in the interest of public health and safety to regulate the practice of engineering in the State of New Mexico and thus created Chapter 61, Article 23, “Engineering and Surveying Practice Act”. Under this law, the New Mexico State Board for Licensure of Professional Engineers and Surveyors is responsible for reviewing applications, administering examinations, licensing qualified applicants, and regulating the practice of engineering throughout the state.
New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC)

The New Mexico Administrative Code is a compilation of the rules and regulations of the New Mexico regulatory agencies. Its counterpart in the federal system is the Code of Federal Regulations. It is organized by titles with each title number representing a department, commission, board or other agency. The set has a single comprehensive index volume. The spines of the volumes indicate which titles are included.

The NMAC states the rule followed by statutory authority, implementation and a history of the rule. The set is annotated with decisions of the Federal courts, State appellate courts, State Attorney General opinions, final and recommended orders of the Division of Administrative Hearings and final agency orders. At the end of each rule in the NMAC, a history note is located starting with title number. The history note indicates when the rule has been modified, renumbered, or repealed.

Similar to Chapter 61, Article 23 of the New Mexico Statutes, Title 16, Chapter 39 of the NMAC pertains exclusively to the New Mexico Board for Licensure of Professional Engineers and Surveyors and its functions with respect to the practice of engineering. These rules are presented in Chapter 3.

New Mexico Board Disciplinary Process

The board may investigate and initiate a hearing on a complaint against a person who does not have a license, who is not exempt from the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and who acts in the capacity of a professional engineer within the meaning of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

If after the hearing the board determines that based on the evidence the person committed a violation pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, it shall, suspend, refuse to renew or revoke the certificate of licensure, impose a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars ($5,000), place on probation for a specific period of time with specific conditions or reprimand any professional engineer.

A person aggrieved by the board's decision may appeal a decision made or an order issued pursuant to Subsection B of this section to the district court pursuant to Section 39-3-NMSA 1978.

Failure to pay a fine levied by the board or to otherwise comply with an order issued by the board pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act is a misdemeanor, and upon conviction the person shall be sentenced pursuant to Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978. Conviction shall be grounds for further action against the person by the board and for judicial sanctions or relief, including a petition for injunction.

Several disciplinary cases executed by the board are discussed in Chapter 4 to familiarize the engineer with the range of violations and respective penalties. These disciplinary cases were extracted from the official website of the New Mexico Board for Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors. In selecting these cases, different scenarios of violations are depicted along with their corresponding final decisions issued by the Board.
NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers

The Code of Ethics for Engineers developed by the National Society of Professional Engineers presents a broader understanding of the code of professional conduct, responsibility and ethics. It is designed to provide the engineer with positive stimulus for ethical conduct as well as helpful guidance and advice concerning the primary and basic obligations of engineers. The Code also establishes the ethical guideposts for the NSPE Board of Ethical Review in interpreting ethical dilemmas submitted by engineers, public officials, and members of the public. The NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers is presented in Chapter 5.
Chapter 2
Engineering and Surveying Practice Act (July 2005)

61-23-1. SHORT TITLE:

Chapter 61, Article 23 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the “Engineering and Surveying Practice Act”.

61-23-2. DECLARATION OF POLICY:

The legislature declares that it is a matter of public safety, interest and concern that the practices of engineering and surveying merit and receive the confidence of the public and that only qualified persons be permitted to engage in the practices of engineering and surveying. In order to safeguard life, health and property and to promote the public welfare, any person in either public or private capacity practicing or offering to practice engineering or surveying shall be required to submit evidence that he is qualified to so practice and shall be licensed as provided in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. It is unlawful for any person to practice, offer to practice, engage in the business, act in the capacity of, advertise or use in connection with his name or otherwise assume, use or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that he is a professional, licensed engineer or surveyor unless that person is licensed or exempt under the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. A person who engages in the business or acts in the capacity of a professional engineer or professional surveyor in New Mexico, except as otherwise provided in Sections 61-23-22 and 61-23-27.10 NMSA 1978, with or without a New Mexico license, has thereby submitted to the jurisdiction of the state and to the administrative jurisdiction of the board and is subject to all penalties and remedies available for a violation of any provision of Chapter 61, Article 23 NMSA 1978. The practice of engineering or surveying shall be deemed a privilege granted by the board based on the qualifications of the individual as evidenced by the licensee's certificate, which shall not be transferable.

61-23-3. DEFINITIONS:

As used in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act:
A. "approved" or "approval" means acceptable to the board;
B. "board" means the state board of licensure for professional engineers and professional surveyors;
C. "conviction" or "convicted" means any final adjudication of guilt, whether pursuant to a plea of nolo contendere or otherwise and whether or not the sentence is deferred or suspended;
D. "engineer" means a person who is qualified to practice engineering by reason of his intensive preparation and knowledge in the use of mathematics, chemistry, physics and engineering sciences, including the principles and methods of engineering analysis and design acquired by professional education and engineering experience;
E. "engineering", "practice of engineering" or "engineering practice" means any creative or engineering work that requires engineering education, training and experience in the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical and engineering sciences to such creative work as consultation, investigation, forensic investigation, evaluation, planning and design of engineering works and systems, expert technical testimony, engineering studies and the review of construction for the purpose of assuring substantial compliance with drawings and specifications; any of which embrace such creative work, either public or private, in connection with any utilities, structures, buildings, machines, equipment, processes, work systems, projects and industrial or consumer products or equipment of a mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, chemical, pneumatic, environmental or thermal nature, insofar as they involve safeguarding life, health or property, and including such other professional services as may be necessary to the planning, progress and completion of any engineering work. The "practice of engineering" may include the use of photogrammetric methods to derive topographical and other data. The "practice of engineering" does not include responsibility for the supervision of construction, site conditions, operations, equipment, personnel or the maintenance of safety in the work place;

F. "engineering committee" means a committee of the board entrusted to implement all business of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act as it pertains to the practice of engineering, including the promulgation and adoption of rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers exclusive to the practice of engineering;

G. "engineer intern" means a person who has qualified for, taken and passed an examination in the fundamental engineering subjects as provided in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act;

H. "fund" means the professional engineers' and surveyors' fund;

I. "incidental practice" means the performance of other professional services that are related to a licensee's work as an engineer;

J. "person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture or any legal or commercial entity;

K. "professional development" means education by a licensee in order to maintain, improve or expand skills and knowledge obtained prior to initial licensure or to develop new and relevant skills and knowledge;

L. "professional engineer", "consulting engineer", "licensed engineer" or "registered engineer" means a person who is licensed by the board to practice the profession of engineering;

M. "responsible charge" means responsibility for the direction, control and supervision of engineering or surveying work, as the case may be, to assure that the work product has been critically examined and evaluated for compliance with appropriate professional standards by a licensee in that profession, and by sealing or signing the documents, the professional engineer or professional surveyor accepts responsibility for the engineering or surveying work, respectively, represented by the documents and that applicable engineering or surveying standards have been met;

N. "surveying", "practice of surveying" or "surveying practice" means any service or work, the substantial performance of which involves the application of the principles of mathematics and the related physical and applied sciences for:

   (1) the measuring and locating of lines, angles, elevations and natural and man-made features in the air, on the surface of the earth, within underground workings and on the beds or bodies of water for the purpose of defining location, areas and volumes;
   (2) the monumenting of property boundaries and for the platting and layout of lands and subdivisions;
   (3) the application of photogrammetric methods used to derive
topographic and other data;

(4) the establishment of horizontal and vertical controls that will be the basis for all geospatial data used for future design surveys, including construction staking surveys, surveys to layout horizontal and vertical alignments, topographic surveys, control surveys for aerial photography for the collection of topographic and planimetric data using photogrammetric methods, construction surveys of engineering and architectural public works projects; and

(5) the preparation and perpetuation of maps, records, plats, field notes and property descriptions;

O. "surveying committee" means a committee of the board entrusted to implement all business of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act as it pertains to the practice of surveying, including the promulgation and adoption of rules of professional responsibility for professional surveyors exclusive to the practice of surveying;

P. "surveyor" or "professional surveyor" means a person who is qualified to practice surveying by reason of his intensive preparation and knowledge in the use of mathematics, physical and applied sciences and surveying, including the principles and methods of surveying acquired by education and experience, and who is licensed by the board to practice surveying;

Q. "surveyor intern" means a person who has qualified for, taken and passed an examination in the fundamentals of surveying subjects as provided in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act;

R. "surveying work" means the work performed in the practice of surveying; and;

S. "supplemental surveying work" means surveying work performed in order to densify, augment and enhance previously performed survey work or site information but excludes the surveying of real property for the establishment of land boundaries, rights of way, easements and the dependent or independent surveys or resurveys of the public land system.

T. The board shall recognize that there may be occasions when engineers need to obtain supplemental survey information for the planning and design of an engineering project. A licensed professional engineer who has primary engineering responsibility and control of an engineering project may perform supplemental surveying work in obtaining data incidental to that project. Supplemental surveying work may be performed by a licensed professional engineer only on a project for which the engineer is providing engineering design services.

61-23-4. CRIMINAL OFFENDER’S CHARACTER EVALUATION:

The provisions of the Criminal Offender Employment Act shall govern any consideration of criminal records required or permitted by the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

61-23-5. STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS: MEMBERS; TERMS.

A. There is created the "state board of licensure for professional engineers and professional surveyors" that shall consist of five licensed professional engineers, at least one of whom shall be in engineering education, three licensed professional surveyors and two public members.

B. The members of the board shall be appointed by the governor for staggered terms of five years. The appointees shall have the qualifications required by Section 61-23-6 NMSA 1978. The appointments shall be made in such a manner that the
terms of not more than two members expire in each year. Each member of the board shall receive a certificate of appointment from the governor. Before the beginning of the term of office, the appointee shall file with the secretary of state a written oath or affirmation for the faithful discharge of official duty. A member of the board may be reappointed but may not serve more than two consecutive full terms. A member shall not be reappointed to the board for at least two years after serving two consecutive full terms. The board may designate any former board member to assist it in an advisory capacity.

C. Each member may hold office until the expiration of the term for which appointed or until a successor has been duly qualified and appointed. In the event of a vacancy for any cause that results in an unexpired term, if not filled within three months by official action, the board may appoint a provisional member to serve until the governor acts. Vacancies on the board shall be filled by appointment by the governor for the balance of the unexpired term."

61-23-6. BOARD MEMBERS: QUALIFICATIONS.

A. Each engineer member of the board shall be a citizen of the United States and a resident of New Mexico. Each shall have been engaged in the lawful practice of engineering as a professional engineer for at least ten years, including responsible charge of engineering projects for at least five years as a professional engineer licensed in New Mexico, or engaged in engineering education for at least ten years, including responsible charge of engineering education for at least five years, and shall be a professional engineer licensed in New Mexico.

B. Each surveyor member of the board shall be a citizen of the United States and a resident of New Mexico. Each shall have been engaged in the lawful practice of surveying as a professional surveyor for at least ten years, including responsible charge of surveying projects for at least five years as a professional surveyor licensed in New Mexico.

C. Each public member shall be a citizen of the United States, a resident of New Mexico, shall not have been licensed nor be qualified for licensure as an engineer, surveyor, architect or landscape architect and shall not have any significant financial interest, direct or indirect, in the professions regulated.

61-23-7. REIMBURSEMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Each member of the board shall receive per diem and mileage as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act and shall receive no other compensation, perquisite or allowance.

61-23-8. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS OF BOARD:

The governor may remove, after notice and hearing, any member of the board for misconduct, incompetency, neglect of duty, malfeasance in office or for any reason prescribed by law for removal of state officials.

61-23-9. BOARD: ORGANIZATION; MEETINGS.

A. There shall be an “engineering committee” composed of the five members of the board who serve as licensed professional engineers and one of the public members, who shall be appointed to the committee by the board. The engineering committee shall meet in conjunction with all board meetings. The bylaws or rules of the board shall provide a procedure for giving notice of all meetings and for holding special and emergency meetings. A quorum of the committee shall be a majority of the committee. In the event of a lack of a quorum and at the request of the committee, other board members may be
substituted for a non-attending member in order to have a quorum. The committee shall elect a chair and vice chair from the committee members at the last committee meeting prior to July 1 of each year.

B. There shall be a “surveying committee” composed of the three members of the board who serve as licensed professional surveyors and one of the public members, who shall be appointed to the committee by the board. The surveying committee shall meet in conjunction with all board meetings. The bylaws or rules of the board shall provide a procedure for giving notice of all meetings and for holding special and emergency meetings. A quorum of the committee shall be a majority of the committee. In the event of a lack of a quorum and at the request of the committee, other board members may serve on this committee. The committee shall elect a chair and vice chair from the committee members at the last committee meeting prior to July 1 of each year.

C. All matters that come before the board that pertain exclusively to engineering or exclusively to surveying shall be referred to the respective committee for disposition. The committee action on such matters shall be the action of the board. Committee actions shall be reported to the board.

D. There shall be a joint engineering and surveying standing committee of the board composed of two members from the professional engineering committee, the public member and the chair, and two members from the professional surveying committee, the public member and the chair. If the public member is the current chair of either committee, the vice chair will serve as the professional member on the standing committee.

E. The board shall hold at least four regular meetings each year. At least one meeting shall be held at the state capitol. The bylaws or rules of the board shall provide procedures for giving notice of all meetings and for holding special meetings. The board shall elect annually a chair, a vice chair and a secretary, who shall be members of the board. A member of the board shall not be elected to the same office for more than two consecutive years. A quorum of the board shall be a majority of the board. Any board member failing to attend three consecutive regular meetings is automatically removed as a member of the board. The board shall have an official seal.

61-23-10. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE BOARD:

A. It shall be the duty of the board to administer the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and to exercise the authority granted the board in that act. The board is the sole state agency with the power to certify the qualifications of professional engineers and professional surveyors. The board is authorized to engage such personnel, including an executive director, as it may deem necessary.

B. The board shall have the power to adopt and amend all bylaws and rules of procedure consistent with the constitution and the laws of this state that may be reasonable for the proper performance of its duties and the regulation of its procedures, meeting records, examinations and the conduct thereof. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers and professional surveyors that are not exclusive to the practice of engineering or exclusive to the practice of surveying. All such bylaws and rules shall be binding upon all persons licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

C. The professional engineering committee shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility exclusive to the practice of engineering. All such bylaws and rules shall be binding upon all individuals licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

D. The professional surveying committee shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility exclusive to the practice of surveying. All such bylaws and rules
shall be binding upon all individuals licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

E. The joint engineering and surveying standing committee shall have the exclusive authority over practice disputes between engineers and surveyors to determine if any proposed rules of professional responsibility are exclusive to the practice of engineering or exclusive to the practice of surveying so that rule-making authority is delegated to the engineering committee or to the surveying committee. Determination of exclusive practice of engineering or surveying requires an affirmative vote by not less than three members of the committee. If an affirmative vote of three members cannot be achieved, the determination of exclusivity shall be made by the full board.

F. To effect the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, the board may, under the chair's hand and the board's seal, subpoena witnesses and compel the production of books, papers and documents in any disciplinary action against a licensee or a person practicing or offering to practice without licensure. Any member of the board may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before the board. If any person refuses to obey any subpoena so issued or refuses to testify or produce any books, papers or documents, the board may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for an order to compel the requisite action. If any person willfully fails to comply with such an order, that person may be held in contempt of court.

G. The board may apply for injunctive relief to enforce the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act or to restrain any violation of that act. The members of the board shall not be personally liable under this proceeding.

H. The board may subject an applicant for licensure to such examinations as it deems necessary to determine the applicant's qualifications.

I. The Board shall create enforcement advisory committees composed of licensees as necessary. Each committee shall include at least four licensees in the same category as the respondent. An engineering enforcement advisory committee shall have at least one licensee in the same branch as the respondent. Enforcement advisory committees shall provide technical assistance to the board and its staff. The board shall select members from a list of volunteers submitting their resumes and letters of interest.

J. No action or other legal proceedings for damages shall be instituted against the board, any board member, agent, an employee or a member of an advisory committee of the board for any act done in good faith and in the intended performance of any power or duty granted pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act or for any neglect or fault in the good faith performance or exercise of any such power or duty.

K. The board, in cooperation with the board of examiners for architects and the board of landscape architects, shall create a joint standing committee to be known as the "joint practice committee". In order to safeguard life, health and property and to promote the public welfare, the committee shall have as its purpose the promotion and development of the highest professional standards in design, planning and construction and the resolution of ambiguities concerning the professions. The composition of the committee and its powers and duties shall be in accordance with identical resolutions adopted by each board.

L. As used in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, "incidental practice" shall be defined by identical rules of the board and the board of examiners for architects.

61-23-11. RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENT: FUND CREATED.

A. The "professional engineers’ and surveyors’ fund" is created in the state treasury. The executive director of the board shall receive and account for all money received under the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and shall pay that money to the state treasurer for deposit in the fund. Money in this fund shall be paid
out only by warrant of the secretary of finance and administration upon the state treasurer, upon itemized vouchers approved by the chairman and attested by the executive director of the board. All money in the fund is appropriated for the use of the board. Earnings from investment of the fund shall accrue to the credit of the fund.

B. The executive director of the board shall give a surety bond to the state in such sum as the board may determine. The premium on the bond shall be regarded as a proper and necessary expense of the board and shall be paid out of the fund.

C. The board may make expenditures of the fund for any purpose that in the opinion of the board is reasonably necessary for the proper performance of its duties pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, including the expenses of the board's delegates to the conventions of, and for membership dues to, the national council of examiners for engineering and surveying and any of its subdivisions or any other body of similar purpose.

61-23-12. RECORDS AND REPORTS:

A. The board shall keep a record of its proceedings and a register of all applications for licensure, indicating the name, age and residence of each applicant, the applicant's educational and other qualifications, whether an examination was required, whether the applicant was rejected, whether a certificate of licensure was granted, the date of the action of the board and such other information as may be deemed necessary by the board. The record and register shall be open to public inspection.

B. The following board records and papers are of a confidential nature and are not public records:

(1) examination material for examinations not yet given;
(2) file records of examination problem solutions;
(3) letters of inquiry and reference concerning applicants;
(4) board inquiry forms concerning applicants;
(5) investigation files where any investigation is ongoing or is still pending; and
(6) all other materials of like confidential nature.

C. The records of the board shall be prima facie evidence of the proceedings of the board set forth in those records, and a transcript thereof, duly certified by the secretary of the board under seal, shall be admissible in evidence with the same effect as if the original were produced.

D. Annually, on or before August 30, the board shall submit to the governor a report of its transactions of the preceding year, accompanied by a complete statement of the receipts and expenditures of the board attested by affidavits of the board's chairman, secretary and executive director.

61-23-13. ROSTER OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS:

A roster showing the names and addresses of all licensed professional engineers and professional surveyors shall be prepared by the executive director of the board prior to September 1 of each even-numbered year. A supplement to the roster shall be prepared by the executive director of the board prior to September 1 of each odd-numbered year. Copies of the roster and supplement shall be made available to each licensee no later than November 30 of each year, shall be placed on file with the secretary of state and the state commission of public records and may be distributed or sold to the public.
61-23-14. CERTIFICATION AS AN ENGINEER INTERN: REQUIREMENTS.

A. An applicant for certification as an engineer intern shall file the appropriate application that demonstrates that he:
   (1) is of good moral character and reputation;
   (2) has obtained at least a senior status in a board-approved, four-year curriculum in engineering or in a board-approved, four-year curriculum in engineering technology that is accredited by the technical accreditation commission of the accreditation board for engineering and technology; and
   (3) has three references, one of whom shall be a licensed professional engineer.

B. After acceptance of the application by the board, the applicant shall be allowed to take the appropriate examination for certification as an engineer intern.

C. An applicant may be certified as an engineer intern upon successfully completing the examination, provided that the applicant has:
   (1) graduated from a board-approved, four-year engineering curriculum; or
   (2) graduated from a board-approved, four-year engineering technology program accredited by the technical accreditation commission of the accreditation board for engineering and technology, augmented by at least two years of board-approved, post-graduate engineering experience.

D. The certification as engineer intern does not permit the intern to practice as a professional engineer. Certification as an engineer intern is intended to demonstrate that the intern has obtained certain skills in engineering fundamentals and is pursuing a career in engineering.

61-23-14.1. LICENSURE AS A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER: REQUIREMENTS.

A. Licensure as a professional engineer may be either through examination or through endorsement or comity. In either case, an applicant shall file the appropriate application in which it shall be demonstrated that the applicant:
   (1) is of good moral character and reputation;
   (2) has five references, three of whom shall be licensees practicing in the branch of engineering for which the applicant is applying and who have personal knowledge of the applicant's engineering experience and reputation. The use of nonlicensed engineer references having personal knowledge of the applicant's engineering experience and reputation other than professional engineers may be accepted by the board provided a satisfactory written explanation is given; and the applicant meets one of the following requirements:
      (a) is certified as an engineer intern and has at least four years of board-approved engineering experience after graduation from a board-approved engineering curriculum;
      (b) is certified as an engineer intern, and has, including the two years for engineer intern certification, at least six years of board-approved engineering experience after graduation from a board-approved, four-year engineering technology curriculum accredited by the technical accreditation commission of the accreditation board for engineering and technology;
      (c) has obtained a doctorate degree in an engineering discipline recognized by the board and has a minimum of four years of board-approved engineering experience subsequent to the awarding of the degree;
      (d) has obtained a master's degree in an engineering discipline recognized by the board from a board-approved program and has a minimum of six years of
engineering experience subsequent to the awarding of the degree; or
(e) has graduated from a board-approved, four-year engineering curriculum and has a minimum of twelve years of engineering experience subsequent to the awarding of the degree.

B. An applicant shall be allowed to take the appropriate examination for licensure as a professional engineer as approved by the Board.

C. Upon successfully completing the examination, required experience, and all the requirements as noted in this section, the applicant shall be eligible to be licensed as a professional engineer upon action of the board.

D. An applicant may be licensed by endorsement or comity if the applicant:
(1) is currently licensed as an engineer in the District of Columbia, another state, a territory or a possession of the United States, provided the licensure does not conflict with the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and that the standards required by the licensure or the applicant's qualifications equaled or exceeded the licensure standards in New Mexico at the time the applicant was initially licensed; or
(2) is currently licensed as an engineer in a foreign country and can demonstrate, to the board's satisfaction, evidence that the licensure was based on standards that equal or exceed those currently required for licensure by the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and can satisfactorily demonstrate to the board competence in current engineering standards and procedures."


61-23-17. APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION FEES:

A. All applicants for licensure pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall apply for examination, registration or certification on forms prescribed and furnished by the board. Applications shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee, any sworn statements the board may require to show the applicant's citizenship and education, a detailed summary of the applicant's technical work and appropriate references.

B. All application, reapplication, examination and reexamination fees shall be set by the board and shall not exceed the actual cost of carrying out the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. No fees shall be refundable.

C. Any application may be denied for fraud, deceit, conviction of a felony or for any crime involving moral turpitude.

61-23-18. ENGINEERING: EXAMINATIONS.

The examinations for engineering certification and licensure shall be held at least once a year at a time and place the board directs. The engineering committee shall determine the passing grade on examinations.

61-23-19. ENGINEERING: CERTIFICATE; SEALS.

A. The board shall issue certificates of licensure pursuant to the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. The board shall provide for the proper authentication of all documents.

B. The board shall regulate the use of seals.

C. An engineer shall have the right to engage in activities properly classified as architecture insofar as it is incidental to his work as an engineer, provided the engineer shall not hold himself out to be an architect or as performing architectural services unless
duly registered as such.

61-23-20. ENGINEERING: LICENSURE AND RENEWAL FEES; EXPIRATIONS.

A. Licensure shall be for a period of two years as prescribed in the regulations and rules of procedure. Initial certificates of licensure shall be issued in accordance with the board’s rules.

B. The board shall establish by rule a biennial fee for professional engineers. Licensure renewal is accomplished upon payment of the required fee and satisfactory completion of the requirements of professional development.

C. The executive director of the Board shall send a renewal notice to each licensee’s last known address. Notice shall be mailed at least one month in advance of the date of expiration of the license.

D. Each licensee shall have the responsibility to notify the board of any change of address.

E. Upon receipt of a renewal fee and fulfillment of other requirements, the board shall issue a licensure renewal card that shall show the name and license number of the licensee and shall state that the person named has been granted licensure to practice as a professional engineer for the biennial period.

F. Every license shall automatically expire if not renewed on or before the last day of the biennial period. A licensee, however, shall be permitted to reinstate a certificate without penalty upon payment of the required fee within sixty days of the last day of the biennial period. After expiration of this grace period, a delinquent licensee may renew a certificate by the payment of twice the biennial renewal fee at any time up to twelve months after the renewal fee became due. Should the licensee wish to renew an expired certificate after the twelve-month period has elapsed, the licensee shall submit a formal application and fee as provided in Section 61-23-17 NMSA 1978. The board, in considering the reapplication, need not question the applicant's qualifications for licensure, unless the qualifications have changed since the license expired. The board may adopt rules for inactive and retired status.

61-23-21. PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING:

A. No firm, partnership, corporation or joint stock association shall be licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. No firm, partnership, corporation or joint stock association shall practice or offer to practice engineering in the state except as provided in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

B. Professional engineers may engage in the practice of engineering and perform engineering work pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act as individuals, partners or through joint stock associations or corporations. In the case of an individual, the individual shall be a professional engineer pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. All plans, designs, drawings, specifications or reports that are involved in such practice, issued by or for the practice, shall bear the seal and signature of a professional engineer in responsible charge of and directly responsible for the work issued. In the case of practice through partnership, at least one of the partners shall be a professional engineer pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, and all plans, designs, drawings, specifications or reports that are involved in such practice, issued by or for the partnership, shall bear the seal and signature of the professional engineer in responsible charge of and directly responsible for such work when issued. In the case of practice through joint stock association or corporation, services or work involving the practice of engineering may be offered through that joint stock association or corporation; provided the person in responsible charge of the activities of the joint stock association or
corporation that constitute engineering practice is a professional engineer who has authority
to bind such joint stock association or corporation by contract; and further provided that all
plans, designs, drawings, specifications or reports that are involved in engineering practice,
issued by or for such joint stock association or corporation, bear the seal and signature of a
professional engineer in responsible charge of and directly responsible for the work when
issued.

C. An individual, firm, partnership, corporation or joint stock association may
not use or assume a name involving the terms "engineer", "professional engineer",
"engineering", "registered" or "licensed" engineer or any modification or derivative of such
terms unless that individual, firm, partnership, corporation or joint stock association is
qualified to practice engineering in accordance with the requirements in this section.

61-23-22. ENGINEERING: EXEMPTIONS.

A. A New Mexico licensed architect who has complied with all of the laws of
New Mexico relating to the practice of architecture has the right to engage in the incidental
practice, as defined by regulation, of activities properly classified as engineering; provided
that the architect shall not hold himself out to be an engineer or as performing engineering
services; and further provided that the architect shall perform only that part of the work for
which he is professionally qualified and shall utilize qualified professional engineers or others
for those portions of the work in which the contracting architect is not qualified. Furthermore, the architect shall assume all responsibility for compliance with all laws,
codes, regulations and ordinances of the state or its political subdivisions pertaining to all
documents bearing his professional seal.

B. An engineer employed by a firm, association or corporation who performs
only the engineering services involved in the operation of the employer's business shall be
exempt from the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, provided that
neither the employee nor the employer offers engineering services to the public."

61-23-23. AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE: CIVIL PENALTIES FOR
UNLICENSED PERSONS; ENGINEERING.

A. The board may investigate and initiate a hearing on a complaint against a
person who does not have a license, who is not exempt from the Engineering and Surveying
Practice Act and who acts in the capacity of a professional engineer within the meaning of
the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

B. If after the hearing the board determines that based on the evidence the
person committed a violation pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, it
shall, in addition to any other sanction, action or remedy, issue an order that imposes a civil
penalty up to five thousand dollars ($5,000) per violation.

C. In determining the amount of the civil penalty it imposes, the board shall
consider:

(1) the seriousness of the violation;
(2) the economic benefit to the violator that was generated by the
violator's commission of the violation;
(3) the violator's history of violations; and
(4) any other considerations the board deems appropriate.

D. A person aggrieved by the board's decision may appeal a decision made or
an order issued pursuant to Subsection B of this section to the district court pursuant to
Section 39-3-NMSA 1978.

E. Failure to pay a fine levied by the board or to otherwise comply with an
order issued by the board pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act is a misdemeanor, and upon conviction the person shall be sentenced pursuant to Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978. Conviction shall be grounds for further action against the person by the board and for judicial sanctions or relief, including a petition for injunction."

61-23-24. ENGINEERING: VIOLATIONS; DISCIPLINARY ACTION; PENALTIES; REISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES.

A. The board may suspend, refuse to renew or revoke the certificate of licensure, impose a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars ($5,000), place on probation for a specific period of time with specific conditions or reprimand any professional engineer who is found by the board to have:
   (1) practiced or offered to practice engineering in New Mexico in violation of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act;
   (2) attempted to use the certificate of another;
   (3) given false or forged evidence to the board or to any board member for obtaining a certificate of licensure;
   (4) falsely impersonated any other licensee of like or different name;
   (5) attempted to use an expired, suspended or revoked certificate of licensure;
   (6) falsely presented himself to be a professional engineer by claim, sign, advertisement or letterhead;
   (7) violated the rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers adopted and promulgated by the board;
   (8) been disciplined in another state for action that would constitute a violation of either or both the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act or the rules adopted by the board;
   (9) been convicted of a felony; or
   (10) procured, aided or abetted any violation of the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act or the rules of the board.

B. Except as provided in Subsection C of Section 61-23-21 NMSA 1978, nothing in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall prohibit the general use of the word "engineer", "engineered", or "engineering" so long as such words are not used in an offer to the public to perform engineering work as defined in Subsections E and L of Section 61-23-3 NMSA 1978.

C. The board may by rule establish the guidelines for the disposition of disciplinary cases involving specific types of violations. The guidelines may include minimum and maximum fines, periods of probation or conditions of probation or reissuance of a license.

D. Failure to pay any fine levied by the board or to otherwise comply with an order issued by the board pursuant to the Uniform Licensing Act is a misdemeanor and shall be grounds for further action against the licensee by the board and for judicial sanctions or relief.

E. Any person may prefer charges of fraud, deceit, gross negligence, incompetence or misconduct against any licensed professional engineer. The charges shall be in writing and shall be sworn to by the person making the charges and filed with the executive director of the board. All charges shall be referred to the engineering committee, acting for the board. No action that would have any of the effects specified in Subsection D, E, or F of Section 61-1-3 NMSA 1978 may be initiated later than two years after the discovery by the board, but in no case shall an action be brought more than ten years after the completion of the conduct that constitutes the basis for the action. All charges, unless dismissed as unfounded, trivial, resolved by reprimand, or settled informally shall be heard
in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act by the engineering committee acting for the board or by the board.

F. Persons making charges shall not be subject to civil or criminal suits, provided that the charges are made in good faith and are not frivolous or malicious.

G. The board or any board member may initiate proceedings pursuant to the provisions of this section in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act. Nothing in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall deny the right of appeal from the decision and order of the board in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act.

H. The board, for reasons it deems sufficient, may reissue a certificate of licensure to any person whose certificate has been revoked or suspended, providing a majority of the members of the engineering committee, acting for the board, or of the board votes in favor of such reissuance. A new certificate of licensure bearing the original license number to replace any certificate revoked, lost, destroyed or mutilated may be issued subject to the rules of the board with payment of a fee determined by the board.

I. The professional engineering committee shall prepare and adopt rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers as provided in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act that shall be made known in writing to every licensee and applicant for licensure pursuant to that act and shall be published in the roster. Publication and public notice shall be in accordance with the Uniform Licensing Act. The professional engineering committee may revise and amend the rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers from time to time and shall notify each licensee in writing of such revisions or amendments.

J. A violation of any provision of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act is a misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars ($5,000) or by imprisonment of no more than one year, or both.

K. The attorney general or district attorney of the proper district or special prosecutor retained by the board shall prosecute violations of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act by a non-licensee.

L. The practice of engineering in violation of the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall be deemed a nuisance and may be restrained and abated by injunction without bond in an action brought in the name of the state by the district attorney or on behalf of the board by the attorney general or the special prosecutor retained by the board. Action shall be brought in the county where the violation occurs.

61-23-24.1. ENGINEERING: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

The board shall implement and conduct a professional development program. Compliance and exceptions shall be established by the regulations and rules of procedure of the board.


61-23-26. PUBLIC WORK:

A. It is unlawful for the state or any of its political subdivisions to engage in the construction of any public work involving engineering unless the plans and specifications involving engineering have been prepared by and are under the responsible charge of a licensed professional engineer and the public work involving professional surveying has been executed under the responsible charge of a licensed professional surveyor. Nothing in this section shall be held to apply to any public work wherein the contemplated expenditure for the complete project does not exceed one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000), except
for public work involving structural design, structural modifications or surveying.

B. The Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall not apply to construction surveys of engineering and architectural public works projects, the anticipated construction cost of which is less than one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000).

61-23-27. ENGINEERING: PUBLIC OFFICER; LICENSURE REQUIRED.

No person except a licensed professional engineer shall be eligible to hold any responsible office or position for the state or any political subdivision of the state that includes the performance or responsible charge of engineering work.

61-23-27.1; 61-23-27.2. Repealed

61-23-27.3. CERTIFICATION OF SURVEYOR INTERN: REQUIREMENTS.

A. An applicant for certification as a surveyor intern shall file the appropriate application where he shall demonstrate that he:
   (1) is of good moral character and reputation;
   (2) has obtained at least a senior status in a board-approved four-year curriculum in surveying; and
   (3) has three references, two of whom shall be licensed professional surveyors having personal knowledge of the applicant's knowledge and experience.

B. After acceptance of the application by the board, the applicant shall be allowed to take the appropriate examination for certification as a surveyor intern.

C. Upon successfully completing the examination and an approved four-year surveying curriculum, then by action of the board, the applicant may be certified as a surveyor intern.

D. The certification of surveyor intern does not permit the intern to practice surveying. Certification as a surveyor intern is intended to demonstrate that the intern has obtained certain skills in surveying fundamentals and is pursuing a career in surveying.

E. If otherwise qualified, a graduate of a board-approved related science curriculum of at least four years, to be considered for certification as a surveyor intern, shall have a specific record of four years of combined office and field board-approved surveying experience obtained under the direction of a licensed professional surveyor. Time spent in obtaining the related curriculum will not be counted in the four years of required experience.

61-23-27.4. LICENSURE AS A PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

A. Licensure as a professional surveyor may be either through examination or through endorsement or comity. In either case, an applicant shall file the appropriate application to demonstrate that the applicant:
   (1) is of good moral character and reputation;
   (2) is certified as a surveyor intern;
   has at least four years of board-approved surveying experience if graduated from a four year board-approved surveying curriculum or has a minimum of eight years of board-approved surveying experience, including the four years of experience for surveying intern certification, if graduated from a board-approved, four-year related science curriculum; and
   (3) has five references, three of which shall be from licensed professional surveyors having personal knowledge of the applicant's surveying experience.

B. The applicant's experience pursuant to Paragraph (3) of Subsection A of
this section shall, at a minimum, include three years of increasingly responsible experience in boundary surveying and four years of increasingly responsible experience under the direct supervision of a licensed professional surveyor.

C. After acceptance of the application by the board, the applicant shall be allowed to take the appropriate examination for licensure as a professional surveyor.

D. Upon successfully completing the examination, the applicant shall be eligible to be licensed as a professional surveyor upon action of the board.

E. If otherwise qualified, an applicant may be licensed if the applicant is currently licensed as a professional surveyor in:
   (1) the District of Columbia, another state, a territory or a possession of the United States, provided that:
      (a) licensure does not conflict with the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and that the standards required by the licensure or the applicant's qualifications equaled or exceeded the licensure standards in New Mexico at the time the applicant was initially licensed; and
      (b) the applicant has passed examinations the board deems necessary to determine the applicant’s qualifications, including a written examination that includes questions on laws, procedures and practices pertaining to surveying in this state; or
   (2) a foreign country and can demonstrate to the board's satisfaction:
      (a) evidence that the licensure was based on standards that equal or exceed those currently required for licensure by the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act; and
      (b) competence in current surveying standards and procedures by passing examinations the board deems necessary to determine the applicant's qualification, including a written examination that includes questions on laws, procedures and practices pertaining to surveying in New Mexico.

61-23-27.5. SURVEYING: APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION FEES.

A. All applicants for licensure pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall apply for examination, licensure or certification on forms prescribed and furnished by the board. Applications shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee, any sworn statements the board may require to show the applicant's citizenship and education, a detailed summary of his technical work and appropriate references.

B. All application, reapplication, examination and reexamination fees shall be set by the board and shall not exceed the actual cost of carrying out the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. Fees shall not be refundable.

C. Any application may be denied for fraud, deceit, conviction of a felony or for any crime involving moral turpitude.

61-23-27.6. SURVEYING: EXAMINATIONS.

The examinations for surveying certification and licensure shall be held at least once a year at a time and place the board directs. The surveying committee shall determine the passing grade on examinations.

61-23-27.7. SURVEYING: LICENSURE AND RENEWAL FEES: EXPIRATIONS.

A. Licensure shall be for a period of two years as prescribed in the rules of procedure. Initial certificates of licensure shall be issued to coincide with the biennial period. Initial certificates of licensure shall be issued in accordance with the board’s rules.
B. The board shall establish by rule a biennial fee for professional surveyors. Renewal shall be granted upon payment of the required fee and satisfactory completion of the requirements of professional development.

C. The executive director of the board shall send a renewal notice to each licensee’s last known address. Notice shall be mailed at least one month in advance of the date of expiration of the license.

D. It shall be the responsibility of the licensee to notify the board of any change of address and to maintain the certificate of licensure current.

E. Upon receipt of a renewal fee and fulfillment of other requirements, the board shall issue a licensure renewal card that shall show the name and license number of the licensee and shall state that the person named has been granted licensure to practice as a professional surveyor for the biennial period.

F. Every certificate of licensure shall automatically expire if not renewed on or before the last day of the biennial period. A licensee, however, shall be permitted to reinstate a certificate without penalty upon payment of the required fee within sixty days of the last day of the biennial period. After expiration of this grace period, a delinquent licensee may renew a certificate by the payment of twice the biennial renewal fee at any time up to twelve months after the renewal fee became due. Should the licensee wish to renew an expired certificate after the twelve month period has elapsed, the licensee shall submit a formal application as provided in Section 61-23-27.4 NMSA 1978. The board, in considering the reapplication, need not question the applicant’s qualifications for licensure unless the qualifications have changed since the license expired.

61-23-27.8. SURVEYING CERTIFICATES AND SEALS:

A. The board shall issue certificates of licensure under the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. The board shall provide for the proper authentication of all documents.

B. The board shall regulate the use of seals.

61-23-27.9. SURVEYING: PRACTICE OF SURVEYING.

A. No firm, partnership, corporation or joint stock association shall be licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. No firm, partnership, corporation or joint stock association shall practice or offer to practice surveying in the state except as provided in that act.

B. Professional surveyors may engage in the practice of surveying and perform surveying work pursuant to the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act as individuals, partners or through joint stock associations or corporations. In the case of an individual, the individual shall be a professional surveyor pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. All plats, drawings and reports that are involved in the practice, issued by or for the practice, shall bear the seal and signature of a professional surveyor in responsible charge of and directly responsible for the work issued. In the case of practice through a partnership, at least one of the partners shall be a professional surveyor pursuant to that act. In the case of a single professional surveyor partner, all drawings or reports issued by or for the partnership shall bear the seal of the professional surveyor partner who shall be responsible for the work. In the case of practice through a joint stock association or corporation, services or work involving the practice of surveying may be offered through the joint stock association or corporation; provided the person in responsible charge of the activities of the joint stock association or corporation that constitute the practice is a professional surveyor who has authority to bind such joint stock
association or corporation by contract; and further provided that all drawings or reports that are involved in such practice, issued by or for the joint stock association or corporation, bear the seal and signature of a professional surveyor in responsible charge of and directly responsible for the work when issued.

C. An individual, firm, partnership, corporation or joint stock association may not use or assume a name involving the terms "surveyor", "professional surveyor" or "surveying" or any modification or derivative of those terms unless that individual, firm, partnership, corporation or joint stock association is qualified to practice surveying in accordance with the requirements in this section.

D. For all contracts and agreements for professional surveying services, the surveying services contractor shall provide a written statement indicating:
   (1) the minimum terms and conditions of professional liability insurance coverage, including limits and exceptions; or
   (2) the absence of professional liability insurance coverage.”

61-23-27.10. SURVEYING EXEMPTIONS:

An employee of a firm, association or corporation who performs only the surveying services involved in the operation of the employer’s business shall be exempt from the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, provided that neither the employee nor the employer offers surveying services to the public, and provided that the surveying services performed do not include any determination, description, portraying, measuring or monumentation of the boundaries of a tract of land.

61-23-27.11. SURVEYING: VIOLATIONS; DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS; PENALTIES; REISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES.

A. The board may suspend, refuse to renew or revoke the certificate of licensure, impose a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars ($5,000), place on probation for a specific period of time with specific conditions or reprimand any professional surveyor who is found by the board to have:
   (1) practiced or offered to practice surveying in New Mexico in violation of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act;
   (2) attempted to use the certificate of another;
   (3) given false or forged evidence to the board or to any board member for obtaining a certificate of licensure;
   (4) falsely impersonated any other licensee of like or different name;
   (5) attempted to use an expired, suspended or revoked certificate of licensure;
   (6) falsely presented himself to be a professional surveyor by claim, sign, advertisement or letterhead;
   (7) violated the rules of professional responsibility for professional surveyors adopted and promulgated by the board;
   (8) been disciplined in another state for action that would constitute a violation of either or both the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act or the rules adopted by the board pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act;
   (9) been convicted of a felony; or
   (10) procured, aided or abetted any violation of the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act or the rules adopted by the board.

B. The board may by rule establish the guidelines for the disposition of disciplinary cases involving specific types of violations. Guidelines may include minimum and
maximum fines, periods of probation or conditions of probation or reissuance of a license.

C. Failure to pay a fine levied by the board or to otherwise comply with an order issued by the board pursuant to the Uniform Licensing Act is a misdemeanor and shall be grounds for further action against the licensee by the board and for judicial sanctions or relief.

D. Any person may prefer charges of fraud, deceit, gross negligence, incompetency or misconduct against any licensee. Such charges shall be in writing, shall be sworn to by the person making them and shall be filed with the executive director of the board. No action that would have any of the effects specified in Subsection D, E, or F of Section 61-1-3 NMSA 1978 may be initiated later than two years after the discovery by the board, but in no case shall such an action be brought more than ten years after the completion of the conduct that constitutes the basis for the action. All charges shall be referred to the professional surveying committee, acting for the board, or to the board. All charges, unless dismissed as unfounded, trivial, resolved by reprimand, or settled informally shall be heard in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act by the professional surveying committee, acting for the board, or by the board.

E. Persons making charges shall not be subject to civil or criminal suits, provided the charges are made in good faith and are not frivolous or malicious.

F. The board or any board member may initiate proceedings pursuant to the provisions of this section in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act. Nothing in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall deny the right of appeal from the decision and order of the board in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act.

G. The board, for reasons it deems sufficient, may reissue a certificate of licensure to any person whose certificate has been revoked or suspended, provided a majority of the members of the professional surveying committee, acting for the board, or of the board votes in favor of reissuance. A new certificate of licensure bearing the original license number to replace any certificate revoked, lost, destroyed or mutilated may be issued subject to the rules of the board with payment of a fee determined by the board.

H. The professional surveying committee shall prepare and adopt rules of professional responsibility for professional surveyors as provided in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act that shall be made known in writing to every licensee and applicant for licensure pursuant to that act and shall be published in the roster. Such publication and public notice shall be in accordance with the Uniform Licensing Act. The professional surveying committee may revise and amend these rules of professional responsibility for professional surveyors from time to time and shall notify each licensee in writing of the revisions or amendments.

I. A violation of any provision of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act is a misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars ($5,000) or by imprisonment of no more than one year, or both.

J. The attorney general or district attorney of the proper district or special prosecutor retained by the board shall prosecute violations of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act by a non-licensee.

K. The practice of surveying in violation of the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall be deemed a nuisance and may be restrained and abated by injunction without bond in an action brought in the name of the state by the district attorney or on behalf of the board by the attorney general or the special prosecutor retained by the board. Action shall be brought in the county in which the violation occurs.
61-23-27.12. SURVEYING: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

The board shall implement and conduct a professional development program. Compliance and exceptions shall be established by the regulations and rules of procedure of the board.

61-23-27.13. SURVEYING: PUBLIC WORK.

It is unlawful for the state or any of its political subdivisions to engage in the construction of any public work involving surveying unless the surveying is under the responsible charge of a licensed professional surveyor.

61-23-27.14. SURVEYING--PUBLIC OFFICER--LICENSURE REQUIRED.

No person except a licensed professional surveyor shall be eligible to hold any responsible office or position for the state or any political subdivision of the state that requires the performance or responsible charge of surveying work.

61-23-27.15. AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE: CIVIL PENALTIES FOR UNLICENSED PERSONS; SURVEYING.

A. The board may investigate and initiate a hearing on a complaint against a person who does not have a license, who is not exempt from the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and who acts in the capacity of a professional surveyor within the meaning of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

B. If after the hearing the board determines that based on the evidence the person committed a violation under the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, it shall, in addition to any other sanction, action or remedy, issue an order that imposes a civil penalty up to five thousand dollars ($5,000) per violation.

C. In determining the amount of the civil penalty it imposes, the board shall consider:

1) the seriousness of the violation;
2) the economic benefit to the violator that was generated by the violator's commission of the violation;
3) the violator's history of violations; and
4) any other considerations the board deems appropriate.

D. A person aggrieved may appeal a decision made or an order issued pursuant to Subsection B of this section to the district court pursuant to Section 39-3-1.1 NMSA 1978.

E. Failure to pay a fine levied by the board or to otherwise comply with an order issued by the board pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act is a misdemeanor and upon conviction the person shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978. Conviction shall be grounds for further action against the person by the board and for judicial sanctions or relief, including a petition for injunction.

61-23-28. REFERENCE MARKS: REMOVAL OR OBLITERATION; REPLACEMENT.

When it becomes necessary by reason of the construction of public or private works to remove or obliterate any triangulation station, benchmark, corner, monument, stake, witness mark or other reference mark, it shall be the duty of the person in charge of the work to cause to be established by a licensed surveyor one or more permanent reference
marks which shall be plainly marked as witness corners or reference marks as near as practicable to the original mark and to record a map, field notes or both with the county clerk and county surveyor of the county wherein located, showing clearly the position of the marks established with reference to the position of the original mark. The surveys or measurements made to connect the reference marks with the original mark shall be of at least the same order of precision as the original survey.

61.23-28.1 Repealed.

61-23-28.2 SURVEYING: RECORD OF SURVEY.

A. For those surveys which do not create a division of land but only show existing tracts of record, except in the instance of remonumentation as specified in the board’s minimum standards for boundary surveys, within sixty calendar days of the completion of the survey, a professional surveyor shall file and the county clerk shall accept and records a plat of survey entitled “boundary survey plat” that shall:
   (1) contain a printed certification of the professional surveyor stating that “this is a boundary survey plat of an existing tract”, or existing tracts, if appropriate, and that “it is not a land division or subdivision as defined in the New Mexico Subdivision Act”;
   (2) identify all tracts by the uniform parcel code designation or other designation established by the county assessor, if applicable;
   (3) meet the minimum standards for surveying in New Mexico as established by the board;
   (4) not exceed a size of eighteen inches by twenty-four inches and be at least eight and one-half inches by eleven inches;
   (5) consist of two black-line copies, one of which the county clerk’s office may require to be a mylar copy made by the surveyor from a mylar original, which shall be maintained in the professional surveyor’s files. One of the two black-line copies shall be filed and recorded by the county clerk and the other, containing recording information, shall be delivered by the county clerk to the county assessor.

B. Fees for recording a boundary survey plat shall be in conformance with Sections 14-8-through 14-8-16 NMSA 1978. The county clerk shall keep a proper index of boundary survey plats by the name of the subdivision, if applicable; owner; and by section, township and range or projected section township and range if the subject tract is in a land grant. These records shall be kept in conformance with Sections 14-8-12 through 14-8-16 NMSA 1978.

C. For those surveys which do create a division of land, the survey shall be completed in conformity with the board’s minimum standards and in conformity with the State Subdivision Act and any applicable local subdivision ordinances. Filing procedures shall be prescribed in the board’s minimum standards. The record of survey required to be filed and recorded in this subsection shall be filed within sixty calendar days after completion of the survey or approval by the governing authority. The county clerk shall keep a proper index of land division plats by the name of the subdivision; by section, township and range or projected section township and range if the subject tract is in a land grant; and by the number assigned to the land division plat by the local planning department, if applicable. These records shall be kept in conformance with Sections 14-8-12 through 14-8-16 NMSA 1978.

61-23-29. Repealed.
61-23-30. RIGHT OF ENTRY ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY: RESPONSIBILITY.

The engineers and surveyors of the United States and licensed professional engineers and surveyors of the state shall have the right to enter upon the lands and waters of the state and of private persons and of private and public corporations within the state for the purpose of making surveys, inspections, examinations and maps, subject to responsibility for actual damage to crops or other property or for injuries resulting from negligence or malice caused on account of that entry.

61-23-31. LICENSURE UNDER PRIOR LAWS:

Any person holding a valid license as a professional engineer, professional surveyor, professional engineer and surveyor or certification as an engineer intern or surveyor intern granted by the board pursuant to any prior law of New Mexico shall not be required to make a new application or to submit to an examination, but shall be entitled to the renewal of licensure upon the terms and conditions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

61-23-31.1. GOOD SAMARITAN:

A. A professional engineer or professional surveyor who voluntarily, without compensation, at the request of a state or local public official acting in an official capacity, provides aircraft structure, structural, aeronautical, electrical, mechanical, other engineering services or surveying at the scene of a declared national, state or local emergency caused by a major earthquake, hurricane, tornado, fire, explosion, flood, collapse or other similar disaster or catastrophic event, such as terrorist act, shall not be liable for any personal injury, wrongful death, property damage or other loss caused by the engineer's or surveyor's acts, errors or omissions in the performance of any surveying or engineering services for any structure, building, piping or other engineered system, publicly or governmentally owned.

B. The immunity provided shall apply only to a voluntary engineering or surveying service that occurs within thirty days of the emergency, disaster or catastrophic event, unless extended by an executive order issued by the governor under the governor's emergency executive powers. Nothing in this section shall provide immunity for wanton, willful or intentional misconduct.

61-23-32. TERMINATION OF AGENCY LIFE: DELAYED REPEAL.

The state board of licensure for professional engineers and surveyors is terminated on July 1, 2011 pursuant to the Sunset Act. The board shall continue to operate according to the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act until July 1, 2012. Effective July 1, 2012, the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act is repealed."
Chapter 3
New Mexico Professional Engineering and Professional Surveying Rules

TITLE 16 OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

CHAPTER 39 ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING PRACTITIONERS

PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

16.39.1.1 ISSUING AGENCY: State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors, 4001 Office Court Drive, Suite 903, Santa Fe, NM 87507, telephone no. (505) 827-7561

[16.39.1.1 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.1.1, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.1.2 SCOPE: Provisions for Part 1 apply to staff and officers of the board and to any person licensed as a professional engineer or a professional surveyor, or to anyone applying for licensure as a professional engineer or a professional surveyor in New Mexico.


16.39.1.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: NMSA 1978, Section 61-23-10 (B) prescribes that "The board shall have the power to adopt and amend all bylaws and rules of procedure consistent with the constitution and the laws of this state that may be reasonable for the proper performance of its duties and the regulation of its procedures, meeting records, examinations and the conduct thereof. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers and professional surveyors that are not exclusive to the practice of engineering or exclusive to the practice of surveying." 16.39.1 NMAC applies to both engineering and surveying.


16.39.1.4 DURATION: Permanent.

[16.39.1.4 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.1.4, 1/01/2002]

16.39.1.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2002, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.

[16.39.1.5 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.1.5, 1/01/2002]
16.39.1.6 OBJECTIVE: The objective of Part 1 of Chapter 39 is to clearly define the organizational structure of the board, the types of meetings and order of business, the number needed for a quorum, the duties of the officers, the responsibilities of the board, the preparation and distribution of a roster of licensed professional engineers and surveyors, the establishment of fees, and retired status.

[16.39.1.6 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.1.6, 1/01/2002]

16.39.1.7 DEFINITIONS [RESERVED]

[16.39.1.7 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.1.7, 1/01/2002]

16.39.1.8 THE BOARD:

A. The name of this board shall be the state board of licensure for professional engineers and professional surveyors hereinafter referred to as the "board".

B. The headquarters of the board shall be at Santa Fe, New Mexico.

C. The official seal of the board shall be an embossed circular seal one and three-quarter inches in diameter consisting of two concentric circles; the outer circle to be one and three-quarter inches in diameter. The inner circle is to be one and one-quarter inches in diameter. The inner circle shall contain the seal of the state of New Mexico and the words, "State of New Mexico." The words, "Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors", shall be contained between the two concentric circles.

D. The fiscal year of the board shall be July 1, through June 30 of the following calendar year.

[16.39.1.8 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.1.8, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.1.9 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD: Members of the board are not employees within the meaning of that term under the Governmental Conduct Act; however, they are public officers; therefore the Governmental Conduct Act applies to all board members.

[16.39.1.9 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.1.9, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.1.10 MEETINGS OF THE BOARD:

A. Special and emergency meetings of the board may be called at any time by the chair of the board, or a majority of the board members; and meetings of either of the two committees may be called at any time by order of the respective chair of the professional engineering committee or the professional surveying committee or a majority of the committee members.

B. Proper public notice of all meetings shall be given in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act.

[16.39.1.10 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.1.10, 1/01/2002]

16.39.1.11 ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD:

A. Annually, at the last meeting of the fiscal year, the board shall elect its officers, who shall
take office on July 1.

B. Annually, at the first meeting after July 1, the chair of the board shall appoint from the board's members such additional committees as may be found appropriate by the board.

[16.39.1.11 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.1.11, 1/01/2002]


A. The board shall act as a whole in all administrative, financial and personnel matters and any other activity not specifically related to the practices of engineering or surveying.

B. The board shall appoint an executive director who shall serve as an exempt employee at the pleasure of the board.

C. The chair of the board shall preside at all meetings; shall appoint all committees; shall sign all certificates of licensure, vouchers and other official documents; and shall otherwise perform all duties pertaining to the office of the chair.

D. The vice-chair of the board shall, in the absence or incapacity of the chair, exercise the duties and shall possess all the powers of the chair.

E. The secretary of the board shall co-sign all certificates of licensure.

F. The executive director shall perform and/or supervise the following for the board and professional engineering and professional surveying committees:

(1) conduct and care for all correspondence in the name of the board, the professional engineering committee and the professional surveying committee;

(2) record and file all applications, certificates of licensure, examinations, licenses and revocations for both professional engineering and professional surveying committees;

(3) possess the official seal and affix same to all official documents upon order of the chair of the board;

(4) keep a record of all meetings of the board and committees and maintain a proper account of the business of the board; a draft of the meetings' minutes shall be mailed to each member for comment within two weeks after each meeting with a final copy to be typed and furnished to each board member at the next meeting for final approval and recording;

(5) receive and account for all funds and transfer same to state treasurer within twenty-four hours of receipt; only those invoices and vouchers for expenditures included in the board's approved operating budget shall be approved and signed by the executive director; approved vouchers and invoices shall be transmitted to the department of finance and administration; a tabulation of each financial transaction is to be maintained on a quarterly basis and submitted to the board at the next scheduled meeting for its information and approval; these tabulations are to be made part of the board's minutes;

(6) present to the board at the first meeting of the fiscal year a report as of the preceding June 30th, of the transactions of the board during the preceding fiscal year, and a complete
statement of the receipts and expenditures of the board, and upon being approved by the board, shall be included in the annual report and submitted to the governor;

(7) gather information and if necessary conduct interviews of applicants for licensure to insure that applications are sufficiently and accurately completed;

(8) schedule and arrange for the administration of written examinations provided for in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, content of which having been approved by the board or respective professional engineering or professional surveying committees; when requested by the applicant, the director shall make reasonable accommodations for the testing of an applicant with a certified disability in accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and who meets the minimum qualifications in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and these rules; when necessary qualified assistance, approved by the board, may be retained for conduct of examinations;

(9) prepare the roster and supplemental roster in accordance with Section 61-23-13; include in the roster and supplement only the names of those engineering interns and surveying interns who have been enrolled during that fiscal year;

(10) maintain a current roster on the board’s website and make available in hard copy to a licensee if requested; file a copy with the secretary of state and other required agencies, and furnish copies to the public upon request and payment of a fee as determined by the board and in accordance with the Inspection of Public Records Act;

(11) report to and inquire of the national council of examiners for engineering and surveying violations of state engineering and surveying laws;

(12) furnish to the press and state engineering and surveying societies lists of newly qualified licensees and enrolled engineering interns or surveying interns;

(13) distribute one week in advance of each meeting, copies of the agenda of the meeting to each member of the board;

(14) distribute twice in each fiscal year a newsletter regarding board actions and items of interest to licensees;

(15) direct investigations of any alleged violations or infringements of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act; a written report covering status of protest actions and alleged violations shall be presented to the appropriate committee at each meeting; this may be in the form of appropriate commentary recorded in the minutes, supported by a separate file on the case; when necessary, qualified assistance, approved by the board, may be retained for conduct of investigations;

(16) file formal disciplinary actions upon approval by the board with the appropriate jurisdiction for prosecution of alleged violations of the act and/or the board’s rules.


16.39.1.13 DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYING COMMITTEES:

A. The chair shall preside at all meetings and shall otherwise perform all duties pertaining to the office of the chair.
B. The vice-chair shall, in the absence or incapacity of the chair, exercise the duties and shall possess all the powers of the chair.


16.39.1.14 PROCEDURES AT BOARD MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

A. The order of business may be as follows:

(1) Board meetings

(a) approval of agenda
(b) approval of minutes
(c) reports of committees
(d) communications
(e) old business
(f) new business
(g) complaints and violations
(h) adjournment

(2) Committee meetings

(a) approval of agenda
(b) approval of minutes
(c) reports of sub-committees
(d) communications
(e) old business
(f) new business
(g) complaints and violations
(h) applications
(i) adjournment

B. Roberts’ rules of order shall generally govern the procedure of the board and committee meetings except as otherwise provided for in Title 16, Chapter 39 of the New Mexico administrative code or the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

C. Board members may participate in a meeting of the board or committees by means of a telephone conference or similar communications equipment and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at the meeting. Participation by telephone may only occur when it is difficult or impossible for board members to attend.


16.39.1.15 ROSTER:

A. The roster shall contain the following information for each licensee: legal name, street address or post office box number, city, state, zip code, class of licensure, branch, status, and license number.

B. Anyone may obtain a copy of the roster by paying the established fee. Also see Section 61-23-13, NMSA, 1978.

[16.39.1.15 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.1.15, 1/01/2002]
**16.39.1.16 FEES:**

A. A fee will be assessed to process an application for a license to practice, for enrollment as an engineering intern or surveying intern, and for examinations.

B. Examination fees shall be paid on or before the date specified by the board prior to the date of the scheduled examination. Said fees are earned fees and are not refundable if the applicant should fail to appear for the examination.

C. Renewal and application fees are earned fees and are not refundable.

D. All fees shall be set by the board. Changes in renewal fees, application fees, and examination fees shall become effective as designated by the board.


**16.39.1.17 STATUS OF LICENSURE:**

A. Retired status - a licensee shall become eligible for retired status with a waiver of renewal fees after meeting all the following qualifications:

1. retired from active practice;

2. at least 60 years of age; and

3. has been a licensee for a continuous period of 20 years, at least 10 of which must have been in New Mexico.

B. Licensees shall request retired status by letter. In the event the licensee on retired status desires to return to practice, the licensee shall apply to the board, comply with the continuing professional development requirements; and if approved shall pay the appropriate fee.

C. Professional engineers and professional surveyors on "retired status" with the board may use the titles "engineer", "surveyor", "professional engineer", "professional surveyor", PE or PS after their names and shall add "(Ret.)" or "(Retired)" after such title.

D. Inactive status - a licensee shall become eligible for inactive status with a waiver of renewal fees and professional development requirements after meeting all the following qualifications:

1. is not engaged in the respective professions (engineering or surveying) which requires licensure in this jurisdiction;

2. has been a licensed professional engineer or surveyor in this jurisdiction for 10 consecutive years;

3. has filed an application and application fee prescribed by the board for inactive status prior to the expiration of the license and the 60 day grace period.

E. In the event a licensee on inactive status desires to return to practice within six (6) years of acquiring inactive status, the licensee shall make proper application to the board, comply with the continuing professional development requirements (a minimum of 30 PDHs) and if
approved shall pay the appropriate fee.

F. An inactive licensee who has enjoyed inactive status in excess of six (6) consecutive years may be readmitted to active practice of the profession only upon making proper application and completion of the requirements as prescribed by the board. (In the event an inactive licensee does not maintain a current license in any jurisdiction for the six previous years prior to requesting active status, that person will be required to take the principles and practice of engineering (PE) examination or the principles and practice of surveying (PS) examination.


TITLE 16 OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

CHAPTER 39 ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING PRACTITIONERS

PART 2 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

16.39.2.1 ISSUING AGENCY: State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors, 4001 Office Court Drive, Suite 903, Santa Fe, NM 87507, telephone no. (505) 827-7561.

[16.39.2.1 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.2.1, 12/01/2001; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.2.2 SCOPE: Provisions for Part 2 apply to any person licensed as a professional engineer or a professional surveyor, or to anyone applying for licensure as a professional engineer or a professional surveyor in New Mexico.

[16.39.2.2 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.2.2, 12/01/2001]

16.39.2.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: NMSA 1978, Section 61-23-10 (B) prescribes that the board shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers and professional surveyors that are not exclusive to the practice of engineering or exclusive to the practice of surveying. 16.39.2 NMAC applies to both engineering and surveying. Sections 61-23-24.1 and 61-23-27.12, NMSA 1978 prescribe that "The board shall implement and conduct a professional development program. Compliance and exceptions shall be established by the regulations and rules of procedure (Title 16, Chapter 39 of the New Mexico administrative code) of the board."

[16.39.2.3 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39. 2.3, 12/01/2001; A, 7/01/2006 ]

16.39.2.4 DURATION: Permanent.

[16.39.2.4 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.2.4, 12/01/2001]

16.39.2.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2001, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section or paragraph.

[16.39.2.5 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.2.5, 12/01/2001]
**16.39.2.6 OBJECTIVE:** The objective of Part 2 of Chapter 39 is to clearly define requirements of a professional development program for the renewal of professional engineer and surveyor licenses.

[16.39.2.6 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.2.6, 12/01/2001]

**16.39.2.7 DEFINITIONS:**

A. **Professional development hour (PDH)** - a contact hour (nominal) of instruction or presentation -- the common denominator for other units of credit;

B. **Continuing education unit (CEU)** - unit of credit customarily used for continuing education courses. One continuing education unit equals 10 hours of class in approved continuing education course;

C. **College/unit semester/quarter hour** - credit for course from ABET approved curriculum or other related college course approved in accordance with Subsection E of 16.39.2.8 NMAC;

E. **Course/activity** - any qualifying course or activity with a clear purpose and objective which will maintain, improve, or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the licensee's field of practice;

F. **Dual licensee** - a person who is licensed as both a professional engineer and a professional surveyor.

[16.39.2.7 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.2.7, 12/01/2001; A, 7/01/2006]

[These definitions were moved from Paragraphs (1)-(5) of Subsection C of 16.39.2.8 NMAC.]

**16.39.2.8 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - MANDATORY PROGRAM:**

The purpose of the continuing professional development requirement is to demonstrate a continuing level of professional development of professional engineers and professional surveyors.

A. **Introduction** - Every licensee shall meet the continuing professional development requirements of these regulations for professional development as a condition for license renewal.

B. **Failure to meet requirements** - Submission of professional development hours (PDHs) shall be made concurrently with license renewal; failure to meet the PDH requirements will result in rejection of renewal; and correction of the deficiency must be made by submission of the appropriate PDHs and payment of the processing fee within 1 year of renewal date.

C. [Reserved]

D. **Requirements** - every licensee is required to obtain 30 professional development hours (PDH) units during a biennium, at least four of which shall be in ethics. A maximum of 10 PDH units may be earned in self-directed study. If a licensee exceeds the biennial requirement in any biennial cycle, a maximum of 15 PDH units may be carried forward into the subsequent biennium. PDH units may be earned as follows:

1. successful completion of college courses;
(2) successful completion of continuing education courses;

(3) successful completion of correspondence, televised, videotaped, and other short courses/tutorials;

(4) presenting or attending qualifying seminars, in-house courses, workshops, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions or conferences;

(5) teaching or instructing in Paragraphs (1) through (4) of Subsection D of 16.39.2.8 NMAC;

(6) authoring published papers, articles, or books;

(7) active participation in professional or technical societies and their committees;

(8) patents;

(9) subscription to a technical journal or trade publication during the first twelve (12) month of the biennium reporting period;

(10) technical reviews, including articles from periodicals, books, video/audio cassettes, tutorials and other sources, which contribute to the technical or professional education or competency of the licensee;

(11) participation in civic or community activities, relevant to the engineering and surveying professions, as a speaker, instructor, presenter or panelist;

(12) successful completion of ethics training.

E. Units - the conversion of other units of credit to PDH units is as follows:

(1) 1 college or unit semester hour..............................................................................................................45 PDH;

(2) 1 college or unit quarter hour..................................................................................................................30 PDH;

(3) 1 continuing education unit......................................................................................................................10 PDH;

(4) 1 hour of professional development in course work, seminars, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions, or conferences.................................1 PDH;

(5) for teaching apply multiple of 2 (teaching credit is valid for teaching a course or seminar for the first time only; teaching credit does not apply to full-time faculty);

(6) each published paper, article, or book.....................................................................................................10 PDH;

(7) active participation in professional and technical societies (Each organization).2 PDH/yr;

(8) each patent.....................................................................................................................................................10 PDH;

(9) 1 yr. subscription........................................................................................................................................1 PDH (max 2 PDH/ biennium);

(10) 1 hour of literature review.....................................................................................................................1 PDH (max 6 PDH/biennium);
F. 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, workshops, professional conventions, and courses/activities may be recommended by the professional societies;

(3) additional criteria for credit determination shall be included in the board policy;

G. Record keeping - licensees are charged with the responsibility of their own professional activities. The responsibility of maintaining records to be used to support credits claimed is the responsibility of the licensee. 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 PDH credits earned; 2) attendance verification records in the form of completion certificates, paid receipts or other documents supporting evidence of attendance; 3) verification of subscription to a publication in the form of a paid receipt or proof of membership in a technical organization issuing a publication as a part of its membership fee; 4) a log indicating the medium used for a technical review, the subject of the review, the author or sponsoring organization, the date the review was conducted, a brief written summary of the contents of the reviewed material and the time spent on the review; and 5) the organization sponsoring a civic or community activity, the date and location of the activity, the subject of the activity and the licensee’s involvement in the activity. These records must be maintained for a period of three years and copies may be requested by the board for audit verification purposes.

H. Exemptions - a licensee may be exempt from the professional development educational requirements for one of the following reasons:

(1) new licensees by way of examination or comity/endorsement shall be exempt for the first year directly following the issuance of their license; PDH requirements will be prorated for any remaining portion of the licensing period beyond one year;

(2) a licensee serving on temporary active duty in the armed forces of the United States for a period of time exceeding one hundred twenty (120) consecutive days in a calendar year may be exempt from obtaining the professional development hours required during that year;

(3) licensees experiencing physical disability, illness, or other extenuating circumstances as reviewed and approved by the board may be exempt; supporting documentation must be furnished to the board;

(4) licensees who have been approved for "retired status" by the board shall be exempt from the professional development hours required; in the event such a person elects to return to active practice of professional engineering or professional surveying, professional development hours must be earned before returning to active practice for the preceding biennial cycle.
I. Reinstatement - a licensee may bring an expired license to active status by obtaining all delinquent PDH units and complying with all other reinstatement requirements in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and the board's rules and regulations; however, if the total number required to become current exceeds 30, then 30 shall be the maximum number required;

J. Comity/out-of-jurisdiction resident - licensees who are residents of other jurisdictions shall meet the continuing professional development (CPD) requirements of this board. These requirements may be deemed satisfied when a non-resident licensee provides evidence of having met requirements for another state engineering/surveying licensing board that are equal to or exceed the requirements of this board.

K. Dual licensees - the number of PDH units required shall remain the same for persons who hold a dual license as a professional engineer and professional surveyor; holders of dual licenses are free to utilize PDH units approved for either field at their sole discretion; for persons who hold a dual license, half of the PDH units shall be in each profession.

L. Forms - all renewal applications will require the completion of a continuing education form specified by the board PDH credit claimed. The licensee must sign the continuing education form, and submit with the renewal application and fee.

[16.39.2.8 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.2.8, 12/01/2001; A, 7/01/2006]

TITLE 16 OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

CHAPTER 39 ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING PRACTITIONERS

PART 3 ENGINEERING: CERTIFICATES OF LICENSURE, DISCIPLINES, APPLICATIONS, EXAMS, PRACTICE, SEAL OF LICENSEE and ENDORSEMENTS

16.39.3.1 ISSUING AGENCY: State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors, 4001 Office Court Drive, Suite 903, Santa Fe, NM 87507, telephone no. (505) 827-7561.

[16.39.3.1 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.1, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.3.2 SCOPE: Provisions for Part 3 apply to any person certified as an engineer intern, licensed as a professional engineer, or to anyone applying for certification as an engineer intern or licensure as a professional engineer in New Mexico.

[16.39.3.2 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.2, 1/01/2002]

16.39.3.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: NMSA 1978, Section 61-23-10 (B) prescribes that "The board shall have the power to adopt and amend all bylaws and rules of procedure consistent with the constitution and the laws of this state that may be reasonable for the proper performance of its duties and the regulation of its procedures, meeting records, examinations and the conduct thereof. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers and professional surveyors that are not exclusive to the practice of engineering or exclusive to the practice of surveying. Section 61-23-10 (C) states the professional engineering committee shall adopt and promulgate
rules of professional responsibility exclusive to the practice of engineering. All such bylaws and rules shall be binding upon all persons licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. Section 61-23-19 prescribes, "The board shall provide for the proper authentication of all documents. The board shall regulate the use of seals."

[16.39.3.3 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.3, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

**16.39.3.4 DURATION:** Permanent.

[16.39.3.4 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.4, 1/01/2002]

**16.39.3.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2002, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.

[16.39.3.5 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.5, 1/01/2002]

**16.39.3.6 OBJECTIVE:** The objective of Part 3 of Chapter 39 is to clearly define the procedure for granting certificates of licensure to practice engineering or certificates as engineer interns, identify and provide procedures for engineering disciplines, applications and examinations, practice of engineering, seal of licensees and application by endorsement guidelines.

[16.39.3.6 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.6, 1/01/2002]

**16.39.3.7 DEFINITIONS:**

**A.** Board-approved, four-year curriculum in engineering is defined as:

(1) engineering curriculum accredited by the engineering accrediting commission (EAC) of the accreditation board for engineering and technology (ABET);

(2) graduation from an engineering curriculum that receives ABET accreditation within three years of the applicant’s graduation;

(3) non-ABET accredited engineering degree curriculum with the minimum number of engineering credits as required in an ABET-accredited degree (32 semester or 48 quarter credit hours in math/science including 12 semester credits of calculus terminating with differential equations; 32 semester or 48 quarter credit hours of engineering science; 16 semester or 24 quarter credits of engineering design; and 16 semester or 24 quarter credits of humanities/social science);

(4) graduate degree (master or doctoral) from an engineering program where the bachelor’s degree is ABET-accredited and the candidate has completed all the BS deficiencies (confirmation letter from graduate committee), even though the applicant’s bachelor’s degree was earned in a non-engineering program.

**B.** On-site wastewater engineering practice is defined as the design of septic tank systems, on-site wastewater treatment plants, leach fields, evapotranspiration fields, and similar structures that do not discharge wastewater effluent directly to a surface watercourse or stream.

[16.39.3.7 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.7, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]
16.39.3.8 ENGINEERING DISCIPLINES:

A. Licensure is granted as a professional engineer and shall be so stated on the certificate. Although the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act makes no specific designation as to the disciplines of engineering practice on the certificates as issued by the board, the records and roster of the board shall indicate the discipline(s) in which the licensee is competent to practice in accordance with this section. Only the discipline(s) of engineering for which the applicant has successfully been examined or approved by the professional engineering committee will be recorded.

B. Requests for engineering disciplines will be accepted from the following list; and the board's records and roster will be annotated with the corresponding alphabetical code:

(1) architectural A
(2) aeronautical B
(3) civil C
(4) agricultural D
(5) electrical and computer E
(6) network engineer F
(7) geological G
(8) chemical H
(9) industrial I
(10) mechanical M
(11) mining N
(12) metallurgical NN
(13) petroleum P
(14) control systems Q
(15) structural R
(16) nuclear T
(17) fire protection U
(18) environmental V
(19) construction W

C. A licensee may be listed in no more than three disciplines of engineering. Subsequent to initial licensure, a licensee may apply for licensure in another discipline of engineering. The licensee shall demonstrate competence in that discipline and may be required to appear before the board. Demonstration of competence may be accomplished by presenting evidence as follows:

(1) the licensee shall file a separate application for the additional discipline requested and pay an application fee for the additional application; and

(2) complete the application forms to indicate clearly the education, experience, and three (3) acceptable personal references which will substantiate proficiency in the discipline for which the licensee is applying; experience and personal references must be stated;

(3) an applicant for licensure by endorsement may initially apply for the three disciplines.

D. Structural discipline - except for an applicant with a B.S. degree with a structural option and a minimum of four years of post-baccalaureate structural engineering experience, listing as a structural engineer may be obtained by having gained an acceptable engineering degree which included a minimum of 6 hours of structural design; having licensure as a
professional engineer; and having four years of structural experience gained after licensure and acceptable to the board.

(1) Passing the NCEES structural tests part I & II may be substituted for two years of the required experience.

(2) A master’s degree in structures may be substituted for one year of the required experience.

(3) An applicant for licensure as a structural engineer by endorsement shall meet the requirements of Paragraphs (1) and (2) of Subsection D of 16.39.3.8 NMAC.

E. Specialty sub-disciplines - The professional engineering committee of the board may determine that the special practice of engineering within one or more of the engineering disciplines in Subsection B of 16.39.3.8 NMAC requires unique training/education and experience to adequately protect the public safety and health, and the professional engineering committee of the board shall declare this special practice of engineering to be a specialty sub-discipline. The declaration of a specialty sub-discipline shall be based on a need identified by the state or any of its political subdivisions, availability of appropriate and timely training/education within the state of New Mexico, and the ability of the identification of a specialty sub-discipline to inform the public of the needed special practice of engineering. If the professional engineering committee of the board declares a specialty sub-discipline, after a rules hearing, the requirements for the special practice of engineering shall be included in Title 16, Chapter 39 of the New Mexico administrative code for engineering and surveying:

(1) the specialty sub-discipline rules shall specify the training/education and experience requirements to obtain certification for the special engineering practice, including provisions for equivalent training when a particular course of training/education is specified; in anticipation that more than one discipline identified in Subsection B of 16.39.3.8 NMAC will qualify for the specialty sub-discipline, the rules shall identify which engineering disciplines in Subsection B of 16.39.3.8 NMAC, are most likely to qualify for the specialty sub-discipline;

(2) the board shall maintain a list of engineers who have been certified as meeting the requirements for the specialty sub-discipline; the list shall be available to the public upon request and pursuant to the inspection of public records; the professional engineering committee of the board shall establish a form for the application to obtain a certification for the specialty sub-discipline; upon approval by the professional engineering committee of the board, the qualified licensee’s name shall be added to the list of licensees having the specialty sub-discipline;

(3) a licensee’s name may be removed from the list of persons certified for the specialty sub-discipline, upon determination of the professional engineering committee of the board that the licensee no longer qualifies for the certification specialty sub-discipline; such removal shall be only after the appropriate process/hearing by the professional engineering committee of the board;

(4) the failure to obtain certification for the specialty sub-discipline shall not limit the practice of engineering within any of the engineering disciplines identified in Subsection B of 16.39.3.8 NMAC, and the failure to obtain certification in the specialty sub-discipline shall not constitute practice outside the licensee’s area of competence; however, the failure to obtain certification for a specialty sub-discipline and a determination by the professional
engineering committee of the board of inappropriate practice of engineering within the engineering specialty may be cause for determination that the engineering practice is not within the licensee’s authorized discipline, and that appropriate disciplinary action can be taken;

(5) the certification of a specialty sub-discipline shall be for a period established by the professional engineering committee of the board, but not less than two years or more than six years; renewal of the specialty sub-discipline shall be concurrent with license renewal;

(6) the professional engineering committee of the board may remove the specialty sub-discipline from the rules for engineering and surveying, after a rules hearing, upon the finding that the training/education is no longer available or that the designation of the specialty sub-discipline in no longer needed to protect the public safety and health.

F. Establishment of specialty sub-disciplines - The following specialty sub-discipline(s) for the practice of engineering are established. On-site wastewater engineering as defined in Subsection B of 16.39.3.7 NMAC.

(1) New Mexico governmental agency identifying the need for this specialty sub-discipline - New Mexico environment department.

(2) Training/education within New Mexico - a course of training/education conducted in cooperation with the New Mexico environment department and approved by the professional engineering committee of the board. The course content shall include NM laws, unique NM conditions requiring special design practice, site testing that must be performed, procedures of approval of plans and specifications, and requirements for certification of construction.

(3) The engineering disciplines in Subsection B of 16.39.3.8 NMAC that may be applicable to this specialty sub-discipline are: architectural, civil, agricultural, geological, industrial, petroleum, environmental and construction.

(4) The certification of specialty sub-discipline for on-site wastewater engineering shall expire at the end of the license renewal period that is three years after the granting of the certification for specialty sub-discipline. The certification may be renewed by submitting documentation of updated training/education.

G. Fire protection discipline - professional responsibility for professional engineers practicing fire protection engineering - the overall design of a fire protection system involves a broad range of hazards and protection schemes in the development of a workable, integrated solution to a fire system problem. This process includes the practice of engineering as defined by Section 61-23-3(E), NMSA 1978 (New Mexico Engineering and Surveying Practice Act). This rule clarifies the practice of engineering relating to fire protection systems.

(1) Licensed professional engineers, who design fire detection, fire alarm, or fire sprinkler systems including the identification of the water source shall sign, seal and prepare all plans in accordance with the New Mexico Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, Title 16, Chapter 39 of the New Mexico administrative code as it pertains to the practice of engineering:

(a) prepare construction plans and documents that depict all required components and devices for a complete fire detection, fire alarm, and/or fire sprinkler system in accordance with the applicable codes and standards;
(b) be responsible for any change orders, additions or corrections to bring a deficient layout into compliance with the applicable national fire protection association (NFPA) standard(s) and/or applicable local or state codes.

(2) Licensed professional engineers shall specify the installation of fire detection, fire alarm and/or fire sprinkler systems. A professional engineer’s responsibilities are to identify on the construction plans/design drawings and documents/specifications the following:

(a) the applicable prescriptive codes and/or standards;

(b) the specific building use and/or occupancy classification; and/or;

(c) describe the function, placement, performance and operation of the devices and components to correctly layout the system(s);

(d) sprinkler system: the density and water flow and pressure requirements of the sprinkler system design, classification of the commodities to be protected, and confirmation of the water supply, hydraulic data and preliminary hydraulic design as shown on plans and documents signed and sealed by an engineer; the plans prepared by the engineer shall include details, location and design of the fire sprinkler riser, fire department connections, test station and sprinkler head location;

(e) alarm system: appropriate building system interfaces, effect of construction on system design, selection of devices and systems, device location and spacing, control panel location, and preliminary riser diagrams as shown on plans and documents signed and sealed by an engineer.

(3) Engineering for fire detection, fire alarm, and/or fire sprinkler systems by a New Mexico licensed professional engineer shall be limited to:

(a) those engineers who have been approved by the board to practice in the discipline of fire protection engineering, or

(b) an engineer who is competent by experience or education in designing such systems and can demonstrate continuing professional competency by attending and reporting sufficient professional development hours including, but not limited to, the fire protection codes and standards.

[16.39.3.8 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.8, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

**16.39.3.9 APPLICATION - ENGINEERING INTERN AND PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER:**

**A.** Board members may not be used as references.

**B.** A copy of the New Mexico Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and Title 16, Chapter 39 of the New Mexico administrative code shall be provided to each applicant.

**C.** Applications for the fundamentals of engineering examination will be accepted from the following undergraduates: A person who has obtained at least a senior status in a board-approved four-year curriculum in engineering, or in a board-approved four-year curriculum in engineering technology that is accredited by the technical accreditation commission of the accreditation board for engineering and technology; applications may be submitted on the
D. Applicants, with board-approved engineering degrees, wishing to take the fundamentals of engineering examination shall submit their application on the long application form with official transcript(s) provided directly from the university.

E. Applicants for the principles and practices of engineering examination with an accreditation board engineering and technology (ABET) accredited engineering curriculum of four years or more or equivalent as determined by the board shall have a minimum of two years of post-baccalaureate experience acceptable to the professional engineering committee at the date of application and shall have passed the fundamentals of engineering examination. Applicants with an ABET accredited engineering technology degree shall have a minimum of four years of post-baccalaureate experience acceptable to the professional engineering committee at the date of application and shall have passed the fundamentals of engineering examination. To satisfy the statutory requirement for board-approved engineering experience prior to licensure, a candidate with an ABET accredited engineering curriculum of four years or more or equivalent as determined by the board shall have four years of post-baccalaureate experience acceptable to the professional engineering committee, and a candidate with an ABET accredited engineering technology degree shall have six years of post-baccalaureate experience acceptable to the professional engineering committee. After successfully completing the professional engineering examination, an applicant, if necessary to meet the licensing requirements in the New Mexico Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, shall update the application as provided by Subsection H of 61.39.3.9 NMAC.

F. Any application, to be complete, other than those referred to in Subsection C of 16.39.3.9 NMAC above, must include acceptable replies from five references, pursuant to Section 61-23-14.1(A)(2), NMSA 1978 official transcript(s) provided directly from the university; and if applicable, verification(s) of prior examinations taken in other states.

G. No applicant will be eligible to take any examination whose application for eligibility has not been completed as set forth in Subsection F of 16.39.3.9 NMAC for professional engineering committee approval no less than thirteen (13) weeks prior to the next scheduled examination. Once eligibility has been approved, each applicant shall then submit a second application which identifies type and location of examination desired. This second application must be completed and examination fees paid on or before the date specified by the board.

H. To update a professional engineer (PE) application file in relation to experience, the applicant must complete the appropriate portions of the application form and provide references acceptable to the professional engineering committee to verify each additional experience record.

I. Applications for licensure or certification by examination or comity/endorsement which have been approved by the professional engineering committee shall remain valid for three years from the date of approval.

J. An applicant with foreign credentials requesting licensure by examination or endorsement shall provide to the professional engineering committee's satisfaction, evidence that the applicants' qualifications are equal to, or exceed those in New Mexico.

K. All applicants shall also show proficiency in the English language and shall have a minimum of four years experience working in the United States under the direction of an...
engineer who will attest to the applicant's ability and knowledge as a competent engineer.

[16.39.3.9 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.9, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.3.10 EXAMINATIONS--ENGINEERING INTERN AND PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER:

A. Regularly scheduled written examinations shall be held biannually in the spring and autumn respectively. Other examinations may be held at times and places as determined by the professional engineering committee.

B. Any applicant that fails any written examination will be notified of the next. A written request to retake the examination and payment of the examination fee shall be received on or before the date specified by the board.

C. An examinee that has made three unsuccessful attempts at achieving a passing score on an examination, shall only be eligible to take the next scheduled examination after providing documentation to the board of further study in preparation of the exam.

D. The type of examination will be disclosed to the examinee at a time to be set by the professional engineering committee. Type of examination will be one of the following:

(1) an "open book" examination shall be an examination during which the examinee may use reference material as specified by the national council of examiners for engineering and surveying;

(2) a "closed book" examination shall mean that absolutely no reference material of any shape or form may be used by the examinee except as provided by the board during the examination;

(3) the examinations given by the professional engineering committee may be "open" or "closed book" or any combination thereof;

(4) only calculators specified by the national council of examiners for engineering and surveying shall be admitted in the examination room during the administration of the licensing examinations;

E. An examinee who has a question regarding the completed examination, shall put the matter in writing to the professional engineering committee; it will be considered at the next professional engineering committee meeting; the professional engineering committee's answer to the examinee shall be in writing.

[16.39.3.10 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.10, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.3.11 PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING:

A. Neither a person nor an organization shall advertise or offer to practice engineering work in a discipline of engineering unless the person or a member of the organization has been approved by the professional engineering committee in the appropriate discipline and who is legally able to bind that organization by contract.

B. Neither persons nor organizations shall circumvent these rules. Licensees or organizations may advertise for work only in those disciplines of engineering in which they...
are approved by the professional engineering committee to practice. Nothing in this section is intended to prevent the existence of an association of professionals in different disciplines.

C. In the event a question arises as to the competence of a licensee in a specific technical field which cannot be otherwise resolved to the board’s satisfaction, the board shall, either upon request of the licensee or of its own volition, require the licensee to pass an appropriate examination.

D. The professional engineering committee will consider the use of the terms, "engineer", "engineering", or any modification or derivative of such terms, in the title of a firm or organization to constitute the offering of engineering. The board will also consider the use of these terms or any modification or derivative of such terms in a corporation’s name or its articles of incorporation or in a foreign corporation’s certificate of authority as published by the New Mexico public regulation commission to constitute the offering of engineering services.

[16.39.3.11 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.11, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.3.12 SEAL OF LICENSEE:

A. Each licensed professional engineer shall obtain a seal/stamp, which must appear on all design drawings, and the certification page of all specifications and engineering reports prepared by the licensee in responsible charge. Adjacent to the seal/stamp shall appear the original signature of the licensee along with the date the signature was applied. Rubber stamps signatures are not acceptable. Electronic signatures as provided by law and board’s policy shall be acceptable.

B. The seal/stamp shall be either the impression type seal, the rubber type, or a computer-generated facsimile. Computer generated seals shall be bona fide copies of the actual seal/stamp.

C. The design of the seal/stamp shall consist of three concentric circles, the outermost circle being one and one-half inches in diameter, the middle circle being one inch in diameter, and the innermost circle being one-half inch in diameter. The outer ring shall contain the words, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER" and the licensee’s name. The inner ring shall contain the words " NEW MEXICO". The center circle shall contain the license number issued by the board. Any border pattern used by the manufacturer is acceptable.

D. Professional engineers who were licensed prior to the enactment of these current rules and who have maintained that license without lapse, may retain and use the seals, stamps, and wall certificates previously approved.

E. For the purposes of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, a licensee of this board has "responsible charge of the work" as defined in Section 61-23-3 (M), NMSA 1978 and may sign, date and seal/stamp plans, specifications, drawings or reports which the licensee did not personally prepare when plans, specifications, drawings or reports have been sealed only by another licensed engineer, and the licensee and/or persons directly under his personal supervision have reviewed the plans, specifications, drawings or reports and have made tests, calculations or changes in the work as necessary to determine that the work has been completed in a proper and professional manner.

F. The board shall recognize that there may be occasions when engineers need to obtain
supplemental survey information for the planning and design of an engineering project. A licensed professional engineer who has primary engineering responsibility and control of an engineering project may perform supplemental surveying work in obtaining data incidental to that project. Supplemental surveying work may be performed by a licensed professional engineer only on a project for which the engineer is providing engineering design services. A licensed professional engineer may apply photogrammetric methods to derive topographic and other data and shall certify the work by affixing the licensee's seal and signature.

[16.39.3.12 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.12, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.3.13 ENDORSEMENTS: For the purpose of New Mexico licensees by endorsement from other states, or possessions, the professional engineering committee will only recognize licensure granted by those authorities when the professional engineering committee has determined that the applicant possesses qualifications which "do not conflict with the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and are of standard not lower than that specified in Sections 61-23-14 and 61-23-14.1, NMSA 1978". Conditions establishing eligibility for licensure by endorsement shall have been met at the time of initial licensure. Additionally, the applicant must have a current license in another state, the District of Columbia, a territory or a possession of the United States, or in a foreign country. Conditions for endorsement for licensure as a professional engineer shall be as follows:

A. graduation from an approved engineering curriculum, four years of experience satisfactory to the professional engineering committee, and passing of the 8-hour fundamentals and 8-hour professional examinations; (1979 law and 1987 law);

B. graduation from an ABET accredited engineering technology program or from an engineering or related science curriculum approved by the committee, six years of experience satisfactory to the professional engineering committee, and passing of the 8-hour fundamentals and 8-hour professional examination (1993 law);

C. licensure prior to July 1, 1993 by graduation from an engineering or related science curriculum other than the ones approved by the committee, eight years of experience satisfactory to the professional engineering committee, and passing of the 8-hour fundamentals and 8-hour professional examination (1979 law and 1987 law);

D. licensure prior to July 1, 1993, by graduation from an engineering or related science curriculum, twenty years experience satisfactory to the professional engineering committee, and passing the 8-hour professional examination (1979 law and 1987 law);

E. licensure prior to July 1, 1940, by twelve years of experience satisfactory to the professional engineering committee (1934 law);

F. licensure prior to July 1, 1957, by graduation from an approved curriculum, and four years or more of experience satisfactory to the professional engineering committee (1935 law);

G. licensure prior to July 1, 1957, by passing a written and oral examination designed to show knowledge and skill approximating that attained through graduation from an approved curriculum, and four years or more of experience satisfactory to the professional engineering committee (1952 law);

H. licensure prior to July 1, 1967, by twenty-four years of experience satisfactory to the professional engineering committee, and by passing an oral examination (1957 law);
I. licensure prior to July 1, 1967, by graduation from an approved curriculum prior to July 1, 1957, and passing the 8-hour professional examination (1957 law);

J. licensure prior to July 1, 1979, by eight years of experience satisfactory to the professional engineering committee, and by having passed the 8-hour fundamentals and 8-hour professional examinations (1969 law);

K. licensure prior to July 1, 1979, by thirty years of experience, the last twelve years of which must have been of outstanding nature and by having been nationally eminent among his peers (1967 law);

L. for the purposes of endorsement, an approved engineering curriculum shall be an ABET accredited engineering curriculum of four years or more or equivalent as determined by the board.

[16.39.3.13 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.3.13, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

TITLE 16 OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

CHAPTER 39 ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING PRACTITIONERS

PART 4 INCIDENTAL PRACTICE

16.39.4.1 ISSUING AGENCY: State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors, 4001 Office Court Drive, Suite 903, Santa Fe, NM 87507, telephone no. (505) 827-7561

[16.39.4.1 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.4.1, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.4.2 SCOPE: Provisions for Part 4 apply to any person licensed as a professional engineer.

[16.39.4.2 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.4.2, 1/01/2002]

16.39.4.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: NMSA 1978, Section 61-23-10 (B) prescribes that "The board shall have the power to adopt and amend all bylaws and rules of procedure consistent with the constitution and the laws of this state that may be reasonable for the proper performance of its duties and the regulation of its procedures, meeting records, examinations and the conduct thereof. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers and professional surveyors "...that are not exclusive to the practice of engineering or exclusive to the practice of surveying...(C) The professional engineering committee shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility exclusive to the practice of engineering. All such bylaws and rules shall be binding upon all persons licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.” NMSA 1978, Section 61-23-10 (K) states "The board, in cooperation with the board of examiners for architects and the board of landscape architects shall create a joint standing committee to be known as the 'joint practice committee'...; as used in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, Section 61-23-10 (L) 'incidental practice' shall be defined by identical regulations of the board of licensure for professional engineers and professional surveyors and the board of examiners for architects."
16.39.4.4 DURATION: Permanent

16.39.4.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2002, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.

16.39.4.6 OBJECTIVE: The objective of Part 4 of Chapter 39 is to define architectural work incidental to engineering and engineering work incidental to architecture as approved by the Joint Practice Committee and as an identical rule to 16.30.1.7.12 NMAC (Board of Examiners for Architects).

16.39.4.7 DEFINITIONS: [RESERVED]

16.39.4.8 INCIDENTAL PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING - as defined in Section 61-23-22(A), NMSA 1978 means

A. Architectural work incidental to engineering shall be that architectural work provided on projects with a building construction value not greater than four hundred thousand dollars ($400,000) and having a total occupant load not greater than fifty (50);

B. Engineering work incidental to architecture shall be that engineering work provided on projects with a building construction value not greater than four hundred thousand dollars ($400,000) and having a total occupant load not greater than fifty (50);

C. All buildings and related structures within the regulatory provisions of the New Mexico Uniform Building Code (NMUBC) will require the proper authentication of the building construction documents by all participating disciplines in accordance with their respective governing acts on projects with a building construction value greater than four hundred thousand dollars ($400,000) or having a total occupant load greater than fifty (50), with the exception of:

(1) single-family dwellings not more than two (2) stories in height;

(2) multiple dwellings not more than (2) stories in height containing not more than four (4) dwelling units of wood-frame construction; provided this paragraph shall not be construed to allow a person who is not registered under the Architectural Act to design multiple clusters of up to four (4) dwelling units each to form apartment or condominium complexes where the total exceeds four (4) dwelling units on any lawfully divided lot;

(3) garages or other structures not more than two (2) stories in height which are appurtenant to buildings described in 16.39.4.8. C (1) and 16.39.4.8.C (2); or

(4) nonresidential buildings, as defined in the uniform building code, or additions having a total occupant load of ten (10) or less and not more than two (2) stories in height, which
shall not include E-3 (Day Care), H (Hazardous), or I (Institutional) occupancies;

(5) alterations to buildings or structures which present no unusual conditions, hazards or change of occupancy.

D. The owner, user or using agency shall select the prime design professional (architect or engineer) for any project based on the requirements and nature of the project.

E. Occupant load shall be defined and determined by the method set forth in Table 33-A of the Uniform Building Code (UBC).

[16.39.4.8 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.4.8, 1/01/2002]

TITLE 16 OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

CHAPTER 39 ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING PRACTITIONERS

PART 5 SURVEYING--APPLICATIONS, EXAMINATIONS, PRACTICE OF SURVEYING, SEAL OF LICENSEE

16.39.5.1 ISSUING AGENCY: State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors, 4001 Office Court Drive, Suite 903, Santa Fe, NM 87507, telephone no. (505) 827-7561

[16.39.5.1 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.5.1, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.5.2 SCOPE: Provisions for Part 5 apply to any person certified as a Surveyor Intern, licensed as a professional surveyor, or to anyone applying for certification as a Surveyor Intern or licensure as a professional surveyor in New Mexico.

[16.39.5.2 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.5.2, 1/01/2002]

16.39.5.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: NMSA 1978, Section 61-23-10 (B) prescribes that “the board shall have the power to adopt and amend all bylaws and rules of procedure consistent with the constitution and the laws of this state that may be reasonable for the proper performance of its duties and the regulation of its procedures, meeting records, examinations and the conduct thereof. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers and professional surveyors that are not exclusive to the practice of engineering or exclusive to the practice of surveying...(D) The professional surveying committee shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility exclusive to the practice of surveying. All such bylaws and rules shall be binding upon all persons licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.”

[16.39.5.3 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.5.3, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.5.4 DURATION: Permanent

[16.39.5.4 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.5.4, 1/01/2002]

16.39.5.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2002, unless a later date is cited at the end of a
section.

[16.39.5.5 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.5.5, 1/01/2002]

16.39.5.6 OBJECTIVE: The objective of Part 5 of Chapter 39 is to clearly define the application and examination procedures, practice of surveying, and seal of licensee.

[16.39.5.6 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.5.6, 1/01/2002]

16.39.5.7 DEFINITION [RESERVED]

[16.39.5.7 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.5.7, 1/01/2002]

16.39.5.8 APPLICATION - SURVEYOR INTERN AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR:

A. Board members may not be used as references.

B. A copy of the New Mexico Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and the Title 16, Chapter 39 of the New Mexico Administrative Code shall be provided to each applicant.

C. Any application, to be complete, must include acceptable replies from references, official transcript(s) provided directly from the university; and if applicable, verification(s) of prior examinations taken in other states.

D. An applicant whose application for eligibility has not been completed as set forth in Subsection D of 16.39.5.8 NMAC thirteen (13) weeks prior to the examination will not be eligible to take any examination. Once eligibility has been approved, each applicant shall then submit a second application which identifies type and location of examination desired. This second application must be completed and examination fees paid on or before the specified date set by the board.

E. To update an application file in relation to experience, the candidate must complete appropriate portions of the application form and provide references acceptable to the professional surveying committee to verify each additional experience record.

F. Applications for the principles & practice of surveying and the fundamentals of surveying examinations which have been approved by the board shall remain valid for three (3) years.

G. An applicant with foreign credentials requesting licensure by examination or endorsement shall provide to the professional surveying committee's satisfaction, evidence that the applicant's qualifications are equal to or exceed the qualifications for licensure in effect in New Mexico at the time of application. All applicants shall show proficiency in the English language and shall have a minimum of four years experience working in the United States under the direction of a licensed professional surveyor who can attest to the applicant's ability and knowledge as a competent surveyor.

[16.39.5.8 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.5.8, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.5.9 EXAMINATIONS--SURVEYOR INTERN AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR:

A. Regularly scheduled written examinations shall be held biannually in the spring and autumn respectively. Other examinations may be held at times and places as determined by
the professional surveying committee.

B. An applicant that fails any written examination will be notified of the next available
examination session. A written request to retake the examination and payment of the
examination fee shall be on or before the specified date set by the board.

C. An examinee that has made three unsuccessful attempts at achieving a passing score on
an examination shall only be eligible to take the next scheduled examination after providing
documentation to the board of further study in preparation of the exam.

D. An examinee who has a question regarding an examination shall put the question in
writing to the professional surveying committee. The question will be considered at the next
professional surveying committee meeting. The committee's answer to the examinee shall
be in writing.

[16.39.5.9 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.5.9, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.5.10 PRACTICE OF SURVEYING:

A. A person or any organization shall not advertise or offer to practice surveying work
unless that person or a member of the organization is licensed by the board and is legally
able to bind that organization by contract.

B. Neither persons nor organizations shall circumvent these rules.

C. Nothing in this section is intended to prevent the existence of an association of
professionals in different disciplines.

D. The board will consider the use of the terms, "surveyor", "surveying" or any modification
or derivative of such terms, in the title of a firm or organization to constitute the offering of
surveying services. The board also considers the use of these terms or any modification or
derivative of such terms in a domestic corporation's articles of incorporation or in a foreign
corporation's certificate of authority as published by the New Mexico public regulation
commission to constitute the offering of surveying services.

[16.39.5.10 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.5.10, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

16.39.5.11 SEAL OF LICENSEE:

A. Each licensed professional surveyor shall obtain a seal/stamp which must be impressed
on all plats, reports, etc., prepared by the licensee in responsible charge. Adjacent to the
seal/stamp shall appear the original signature of the licensee along with the date the
signature was applied. Rubber stamps and all facsimiles of signatures are not acceptable.
Electronic signature as provided by law and board’s policy shall be acceptable.

B. The seal/stamp shall be either the impression type seal, the rubber type, or a computer-
generated facsimile. Computer-generated seals shall be bona fide copies of the actual
seal/stamp.

C. The design of the seal/stamp shall consist of three concentric circles, the outermost one
being one and one-half inches in diameter, the middle circle being one inch in diameter and
the innermost circle being one-half inch in diameter. The outer ring shall contain the words,
"Professional Surveyor", and the licensee's name. The inner ring shall contain the words "
New Mexico”. The center circle shall contain the license number issued by the board. Any border pattern used by the manufacturer is acceptable.

**D.** Professional surveyors who were licensed prior to the enactment of these current rules and who have maintained that license without lapse, may retain and use the seals, stamps, and wall certificates previously approved.

[16.39.5.11 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.5.11, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

**TITLE 16 OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**

**CHAPTER 39 ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING PRACTITIONERS**

**PART 7 MISC.--PROCEDURES FOR REVOCATION, SUSPENSION, IMPOSITION OF FINES, REISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

**16.39.7.1 ISSUING AGENCY:** State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors, 4001 Office Court Drive, Suite 903, Santa Fe, NM 87507, telephone no. (505) 827-7561

[16.39.7.1 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.7.1, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

**16.39.7.2 SCOPE:** Provisions for Part 7 apply to persons certified as engineer interns or surveyor interns, persons licensed as, professional engineers or professional surveyors, applicants for either licensure or certification, and persons who engage in the business or act in the capacity of a professional engineer or professional surveyor without being licensed by the board.

[16.39.7.1 NMAC - Rp 16 NMAC 39.7.2, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

**16.39.7.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** NMSA 1978, Section 61-23-10 (B) prescribes that "the board shall have the power to adopt and amend all bylaws and rules of procedure consistent with the constitution and the laws of this state that may be reasonable for the proper performance of its duties and the regulation of its procedures, meeting records, examinations and the conduct thereof. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers and professional surveyors that are not exclusive to the practice of engineering or exclusive to the practice of surveying.” Part 7 applies to both engineering and surveying.

[16.39.7.3 NMAC - Rp 16 NMAC 39.7.3, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

**16.39.7.4 DURATION:** Permanent

[16.39.7.4 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.7.4, 1/01/2002]

**16.39.7.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2002, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section. [16.39.7.5 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.7.5, 1/01/2002]

**16.39.7.6 OBJECTIVE:** The objective of Part 7 is to define procedures for revocation, suspension, imposition of fines, reissuance of certificates and disciplinary action. It is also to
define actions constituting violations of the Act.

[16.39.6 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.7.6, 1/01/2002]

16.39.7.7 DEFINITIONS: [RESERVED]

[16.39.7.7 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.7.7, 1/01/2002]

16.39.7.8 REVOCATION, SUSPENSION, IMPOSITION OF FINES, REISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

A. The Board may impose fines as may be determined by the nature of the violation.

B. A lost, mutilated or destroyed certificate shall be replaced only upon the written request of the licensee and payment of the required fee. The reissued certificate shall show the original license number and original date, shall be signed by the current Chair and Secretary of the Board in office at that date, and shall carry the notation "Reissued (DATE)."

[16.39.7.8 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.7.8, 1/01/2002]

16.39.7.9 VIOLATIONS:

A. For organizations using the words "engineering" or "surveying" in their titles or offering engineering or surveying services, the board's executive director shall write the organization, enclosing an affidavit to be completed which identifies the member of the organization who is licensed to practice in the state of New Mexico and who is legally able to bind the organization by contract. If no response to this request is received within thirty (30) days, a second letter shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested. If the second letter does not result in a response, the matter may be turned over to the attorney general's office for action.

B. It shall be considered "misconduct" under NMSA 1978, Sections 61-23-24 (A)(1) (2005) and 61-23-27.11(A)(1) (2005) of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act for any engineer or surveyor to practice or offer to practice outside their field(s) of demonstrated competence or in contravention of any of the provisions of these rules. It shall also be considered “misconduct” under NMSA 1978, Sections 61-23-23.1(A) (2003) and 61-23-27.15(A) (2003) of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act for any person to act in the capacity of a professional engineer or a professional surveyor without being licensed by the board.

C. The practice or offer to practice engineering and/or surveying by a licensee of the board in any state, territory and/or country where the licensee is in violation of that jurisdiction's licensing requirement shall be considered to be professional misconduct which may be actionable by the board.

D. Each applicant or licensee shall notify the board, in writing, within ninety (90) days, of the imposition of any disciplinary action by any other applicable licensing board or any conviction of or entry of plea of nolo contendere to any crime under the laws of the United States, or any state, territory or county thereof, which is a felony, whether related to practice or not; any conviction of or entry of plea of nolo contendere to any crime, whether a felony, misdemeanor, or otherwise, an essential element of which is moral turpitude, or which is directly related to the practice of engineering or surveying.
E. The board shall comply with the provisions of the Parental Responsibility Act as they relate to the denial, suspension or revocation of certificates of licensure for nonpayment of child support.

[16.39.7.9 NMAC - Rp 16 NMAC 39.7.9, 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]

TITLE 16 OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING CHAPTER

39 ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING PRACTITIONERS

PART 8 CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT--ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING

16.39.8.1 ISSUING AGENCY: State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors, 4001 Office Court Drive, Suite 903, Santa Fe, NM 87507, telephone no. (505) 827-7561


16.39.8.2 SCOPE: Provisions for part 8 apply to persons certified as engineer interns or surveyor interns, licensed as professional engineers or professional surveyors or anyone applying for certification as an engineer intern or surveyor intern or licensed as a professional engineer or professional surveyor.


16.39.8.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: NMSA 1978, Section 61-23-10 (B) prescribes that "the board shall have the power to adopt and amend all bylaws and rules of procedure consistent with the constitution and the laws of this state that may be reasonable for the proper performance of its duties and the regulation of it procedures, meeting records, examinations and the conduct thereof. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers and professional surveyors that are not exclusive to the practice of engineering or exclusive to the practice of surveying." Part 8 applies to both engineering and surveying.


16.39.8.4 DURATION: Permanent


16.39.8.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2002, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.

[16.39.8.5 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.8.5, 1/01/2002]

16.39.8.6 OBJECTIVE: The objective of part 8 is to establish and maintain rules of professional conduct for professional engineers and professional surveyors.

[16.39.8.6 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.8.6; 1/01/2002; A, 7/01/2006]
16.39.8.7 DEFINITIONS: In these Rules of Professional Conduct, the word "licensee" shall mean any person holding a current license or certification issued by the Board.


16.39.8.8 PREAMBLE:

A. In order to safeguard life, health and property, to promote the public welfare, and to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity and practice, the following Rules of Professional Conduct shall apply to every person holding a certificate of licensure to perform engineering or surveying services in the State of New Mexico.

B. The Rules of Professional Conduct as promulgated herein are an exercise of the regulatory power vested in the Board by virtue of the acts of the legislature. These rules are in addition to but are not intended to supersede, the provisions of the New Mexico Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

C. All persons licensed under the New Mexico Engineering and Surveying Practice Act are charged with having knowledge of the existence of these Rules of Professional Conduct and shall be deemed to be familiar with the provisions of these rules and to understand them. Such knowledge shall encompass understanding these rules of Professional Conduct and failure to follow these rules may be considered misconduct by the Board.

[16.39.8.8 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.8.8, 1/01/2002]

16.39.8.9 RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT:

A. The protection of the public safety, health, welfare and property in the performance of professional duties.

(1) In order to protect public safety, health, welfare and property in the performance of their professional duties, licensees shall at all times:

(a) Perform those duties in conformance with accepted engineering and surveying practices.

(b) Notify their employer or client and such other authority as may be appropriate of any instance in which their professional judgment is overruled under circumstances endangering the public safety, health, welfare or property.

(c) Approve and seal only those engineering documents and surveys which conform to accepted engineering and surveying standards.

(d) Refuse to associate in a business venture with any person or firm which they may have reason to believe is engaging in fraudulent or dishonest business or professional practices as an engineer or surveyor and refuse to use or permit the use of their name or firm in connection with any such business venture.

(e) Inform the Board of any known violation of these Rules of Professional Conduct. Cooperate with the Board in furnishing information or assistance as may be requested by the Board in matters concerning violations.

B. Specialization and the performance of services only in specific areas of competence.
Licensees shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education, experience or examination in the specific technical fields of engineering or surveying involved.

Licensees shall not affix their signatures or seals to any plans or documents dealing with subject matter in which they lack competency, nor to any such plan or documents not prepared under their responsible charge.

Licensees may accept an assignment when the total work involves technical fields beyond those in which they are qualified, providing their services are limited to those phases in which they are qualified and that the phases in which they are not qualified are performed by licensees who are properly qualified. In this instance, each qualified licensee will sign and seal the documents for their phase of the assignment.

C. The issuance of public statements.

A professional report or professional opinion issued by or under the responsible charge of a licensee shall not contain any intentionally false, misleading or deceitful statements or testimony. Any report, statement or testimony by a licensee shall contain all relevant and pertinent information as required by accepted engineering or surveying principles.

If a licensee issues statements on technical matters in his or her capacity as a professional engineer or professional surveyor on behalf of an interested party, the licensee must expressly preface his or her remarks by identifying said interested party and by revealing the existence and nature of any interest the licensee may have in the matter.

D. Professional relationships with employer or client.

Licensees shall act in professional matters for each employer or client as fiduciaries and shall avoid conflicts of interest. Licensees shall disclose all known or potential conflicts of interest to their employers or clients by promptly informing them of any business association, interest or other circumstances which could reasonably be expected to influence their judgment or the quality of their services.

Licensees shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services on the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed to, and agreed to, by all interested parties.

Licensees shall not solicit or accept any gratuity, material favor, or any valuable consideration, directly or indirectly, from contractors, their agents, servants or employees or from any other party dealing with his client or employer in connection with any project for which he is performing or has contracted to perform engineering or surveying services. (The phrase "valuable consideration" is defined to mean any act, article, money or other material possession which is of such value or proportion that its acceptance creates a clandestine obligation on the part of the receiver or otherwise compromises his ability to exercise his own judgment.)

Licensees in public service as a member or employee of a governmental body, agency or department shall not participate, directly or indirectly in deliberations or actions which would constitute a conflict of interest with respect to services offered or provided by him, his associates, or the licensee’s organization to such governmental body, agency or department.
(5) 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, except upon public disclosure of all pertinent facts and circumstances and consent of appropriate public authority.

(6) Licensees shall not reveal facts, data or information obtained in a professional capacity without prior consent of the client or employer except:

(a) As provided in 16.39.8.A (1) (b) & (e) of this section.

(b) As authorized or required by law.

(c) Any document that is a matter of public record by virtue of it being on file with a public agency.

(d) Any fact, data or information which is clearly the property of the engineer or surveyor.

E. Solicitation of professional employment.

(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 or for the subject matter of prior assignments. Brochures or other representations incident to the solicitation of employment shall not misrepresent pertinent facts concerning employers, employees, associates, joint ventures or past accomplishments with the intent and purpose of enhancing their qualifications and their work.

(2) Licensees shall not offer, give, solicit or receive, either directly or indirectly, any commission, gift, or other valuable consideration in order to secure or influence the award of work and shall not make any political contribution in an amount intended to influence the award of a contract by public authority, and which may be reasonably construed by the public as having the effect or intent to influence the award of a contract.

[16.39.8.9 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 39.8.9, 1/01/2002]
Chapter 4

Review of Disciplinary Cases

The following disciplinary cases were extracted from the website of the New Mexico Board for Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors. In selecting these cases, different scenarios of violations are depicted along with their corresponding final decisions issued by the Board.

CASE No: 05-05-38B
VIOLATION: Retaining the Services of an Engineer not Licensed in NM

Case Review:

The Board’s Notice of Contemplated Action alleged Respondent issued a request for proposal and subsequently signed the resulting contract in 2005 that included the provision for engineering services by an engineer who was not licensed to practice engineering in New Mexico at the time in violation of NMSA 1978, Sections 61-23-24 (7), violation of the rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers and 61-23-24 (10), aided and abetted a violation by a non-licensed engineer.

Board Decision:

August 21, 2007 Agreement of Settlement: Respondent did not admit the allegations made against him, but wished to resolve the matter by waiving his rights to a hearing; Respondent hired an engineer not licensed in NM during the relevant time of the allegations against him but who became licensed thereafter; letter of reprimand; successfully complete twenty (20) hours of professional ethics.

CASE No: 04-04-08
VIOLATION: Failing to Protect Public Safety, Health, Welfare and Property

Case Review:

Respondent violated the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and the Board’s Rules of professional Conduct with regard to building foundation design plans done in 2000 and building shell design plans in 2000. Part of the violations also included the rules on incidental practice between engineers and architects because his engineering design work was provided on a project with a building construction value greater than $400,000.00 and with a total occupant load greater than fifty (50) people; Respondent failed to protect public safety, health, welfare and property when he did not perform his professional duties in conformance with accepted engineering practices, one, by his structural engineering design of a building shell that included at least four design and safety deficiencies and he had no structural engineering experience for more than ten years and, two, by his signing and
sealing design plans that should properly be signed and sealed by other professionals

**Board Decision:**

March 5, 2007 Decision & Order: pay fine of $5,000.00; pay costs of the administrative disciplinary proceedings - $5,125.20; suspension of the license for (1) year. Failure to timely pay the fine and/or administrative proceedings costs shall result in the Board’s issuance of an order to show cause why his license to practice engineering in New Mexico should not be immediately revoked. Respondent appealed the Board’s decision in the 2nd Judicial District Court, April 4, 2007 and was granted a stay on the enforcement of the Board’s decision pending the Court appeal proceeding.

**CASE No:** 05-04-15  
**VIOLATION:** Practicing Outside Area of Expertise

**Case Review:**

The Board’s Notice of Contemplated Action alleged practice outside Respondent’s area of expertise [71-23-24(A)(7) and 16.39.8.9(A)(1)(a)(b) and 16.39.8.9(B)(1) and (2) code of professional conduct. Respondent failed to request a hearing before the Board. Board found Respondent to be in violation of the cited statutes and rules.

**Board Decision:**

August 22, 2006 Decision & Order: Revocation of license.

**CASE No:** 04-03-14  
**VIOLATION:** Stamping and Sealing Plans for Others

**Case Review:**

Board found Respondent to be in violation of the Act and the Board’s rules of professional conduct (by stamping and sealing plans for which he was neither in responsible charge of nor directly responsible for the work issued.)

**Board Decision:**

May 8, 2005 Decision & Order with conditions:  
Probation - 2 years (with no valid complaints during this period filed against him that would result in adverse action by Board)

Fine - $2,000  
Costs - $452  
Education - 20 hours of engineering ethics
CASE No: 99-99-51/53/55/57
VIOLATION: Performing Incomplete and Faulty Work

Case Review

Respondent was served with four notices of contemplated actions for violations of the statutes and rules and regulations, which included unethical practices (allegations of deception, incomplete and faulty work, and breach of contracts).

Respondent was served with an Order to Show Cause why the license should not be permanently revoked since conditions of the Stipulated Order were not met. Hearing was held 12/14/2001.

Respondent was found to have violated the NM Engineering & Surveying Practice Act and the Board’s rules by not complying with the terms and conditions of the October 20, 1999 Stipulated Agreement and Order.

Board Decision:

December 18, 2001 Decision & Order: Permanent Revocation. History: October 20, 1999

Respondent agreed to enter into a Stipulated Agreement with the Board for the Suspension of his license for a period of six months from 1/1/00 to 6/30/00. If conditions were not met, automatic suspension/revocation would occur. Respondent agreed that from 10/99 through 12/99 he would make complainants “whole” in the four cases & complete all on-going projects prior to suspension.

Fine: $2,000
Costs of Proceedings: $93.78
Course completion: Surveying Ethics
Appearance before board prior to reinstatement of license

CASE No: 01-00-12
VIOLATION: Issuing Misleading Public Statements

Case Review

Respondent violated NMAC, title 16, chapter 39, part 8, paragraph 9.3.1, The issuance of public statements. A professional report or professional opinion issued by or under the responsible charge of a licensee shall not contain any intentionally false, misleading or deceitful statements or testimony. Any report, statement or testimony by a licensee shall contain all relevant and pertinent information as required by accepted engineering or surveying principles.

Board Decision:

Letter of Reprimand issued on July 21, 2001
Chapter 5

NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers

NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers

The NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers is designed to provide positive stimulus for ethical conduct as well as helpful guidance and advice concerning the primary and basic obligations of engineers. The Code also establishes the ethical guideposts for the NSPE Board of Ethical Review in interpreting ethical dilemmas submitted by engineers, public officials, and members of the public.

Preamble

Engineering is an important and learned profession. As members of this profession, engineers are expected to exhibit the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Engineering has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness, and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior that requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct.

I. Fundamental Canons

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
5. Avoid deceptive acts.
6. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.

II. Rules of Practice

1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
   
   a. If engineers’ judgment is overruled under circumstances that endanger life or property, they shall notify their employer or client and such other authority as may be appropriate.
   
   b. Engineers shall approve only those engineering documents that are in conformity with applicable standards.
   
   c. Engineers shall not reveal facts, data, or information without the prior consent of the client or employer except as authorized or required by law or this Code.
d. Engineers shall not permit the use of their name or associate in business ventures with any person or firm that they believe is engaged in fraudulent or dishonest enterprise.

e. Engineers shall not aid or abet the unlawful practice of engineering by a person or firm.

f. Engineers having knowledge of any alleged violation of this Code shall report thereon to appropriate professional bodies and, when relevant, also to public authorities, and cooperate with the proper authorities in furnishing such information or assistance as may be required.

2. Engineers shall perform services only in the areas of their competence.

a. Engineers shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical fields involved.

b. Engineers shall not affix their signatures to any plans or documents dealing with subject matter in which they lack competence, nor to any plan or document not prepared under their direction and control.

c. Engineers may accept assignments and assume responsibility for coordination of an entire project and sign and seal the engineering documents for the entire project, provided that each technical segment is signed and sealed only by the qualified engineers who prepared the segment.

3. Engineers shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.

a. Engineers shall be objective and truthful in professional reports, statements, or testimony. They shall include all relevant and pertinent information in such reports, statements, or testimony, which should bear the date indicating when it was current.

b. Engineers may express publicly technical opinions that are founded upon knowledge of the facts and competence in the subject matter.

c. Engineers shall issue no statements, criticisms, or arguments on technical matters that are inspired or paid for by interested parties, unless they have prefaced their comments by explicitly identifying the interested parties on whose behalf they are speaking and by revealing the existence of any interest the engineers may have in the matters.

4. Engineers shall act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.

a. Engineers shall disclose all known or potential conflicts of interest that could influence or appear to influence their judgment or the quality of their services.

b. Engineers shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services on the same project, or for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to by all interested parties.

c. Engineers shall not solicit or accept financial or other valuable consideration, directly or indirectly, from outside agents in connection with the work for which they are responsible.

d. Engineers in public service as members, advisors, or employees of a governmental or quasi-governmental body or department shall not participate in decisions with respect to services solicited or provided by them or their organizations in private or public engineering practice.

e. Engineers shall not solicit or accept a contract from a governmental body on which a principal or officer of their organization serves as a member.
5. Engineers shall avoid deceptive acts.
   a. Engineers shall not falsify their qualifications or permit misrepresentation of their or their associates’ qualifications. They shall not misrepresent or exaggerate their responsibility in or for the subject matter of prior assignments. Brochures or other presentations incident to the solicitation of employment shall not misrepresent pertinent facts concerning employers, employees, associates, joint venturers, or past accomplishments.
   b. Engineers shall not offer, give, solicit, or receive, either directly or indirectly, any contribution to influence the award of a contract by public authority, or which may be reasonably construed by the public as having the effect or intent of influencing the awarding of a contract. They shall not offer any gift or other valuable consideration in order to secure work. They shall not pay a commission, percentage, or brokerage fee in order to secure work, except to a bona fide employee or bona fide established commercial or marketing agencies retained by them.

III. Professional Obligations

1. Engineers shall be guided in all their relations by the highest standards of honesty and integrity.
   a. Engineers shall acknowledge their errors and shall not distort or alter the facts.
   b. Engineers shall advise their clients or employers when they believe a project will not be successful.
   c. Engineers shall not accept outside employment to the detriment of their regular work or interest. Before accepting any outside engineering employment, they will notify their employers.
   d. Engineers shall not attempt to attract an engineer from another employer by false or misleading pretenses.
   e. Engineers shall not promote their own interest at the expense of the dignity and integrity of the profession.

2. Engineers shall at all times strive to serve the public interest.
   a. Engineers are encouraged to participate in civic affairs; career guidance for youths; and work for the advancement of the safety, health, and well-being of their community.
   b. Engineers shall not complete, sign, or seal plans and/or specifications that are not in conformity with applicable engineering standards. If the client or employer insists on such unprofessional conduct, they shall notify the proper authorities and withdraw from further service on the project.
   c. Engineers are encouraged to extend public knowledge and appreciation of engineering and its achievements.
   d. Engineers are encouraged to adhere to the principles of sustainable development in order to protect the environment for future generations.

3. Engineers shall avoid all conduct or practice that deceives the public.
   a. Engineers shall avoid the use of statements containing a material misrepresentation of fact or omitting a material fact.
   b. Consistent with the foregoing, engineers may advertise for recruitment of
personnel.
c. Consistent with the foregoing, engineers may prepare articles for the lay or
technical press, but such articles shall not imply credit to the author for work
performed by others.

4. Engineers shall not disclose, without consent, confidential information concerning the
business affairs or technical processes of any present or former client or employer,
or public body on which they serve.

a. Engineers shall not, without the consent of all interested parties, promote or
arrange for new employment or practice in connection with a specific project for
which the engineer has gained particular and specialized knowledge.
b. Engineers shall not, without the consent of all interested parties, participate in or
represent an adversary interest in connection with a specific project or
proceeding in which the engineer has gained particular specialized knowledge on
behalf of a former client or employer.

5. Engineers shall not be influenced in their professional duties by conflicting interests.

a. Engineers shall not accept financial or other considerations, including free
engineering designs, from material or equipment suppliers for specifying their
product.
b. Engineers shall not accept commissions or allowances, directly or indirectly, from
contractors or other parties dealing with clients or employers of the engineer in
connection with work for which the engineer is responsible.

6. Engineers shall not attempt to obtain employment or advancement or professional
engagements by untruthfully criticizing other engineers, or by other improper or
questionable methods.

a. Engineers shall not request, propose, or accept a commission on a contingent
basis under circumstances in which their judgment may be compromised.
b. Engineers in salaried positions shall accept part-time engineering work only to
the extent consistent with policies of the employer and in accordance with ethical
considerations.
c. Engineers shall not, without consent, use equipment, supplies, laboratory, or
office facilities of an employer to carry on outside private practice.

7. Engineers shall not attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the
professional reputation, prospects, practice, or employment of other engineers.
Engineers who believe others are guilty of unethical or illegal practice shall present
such information to the proper authority for action.

a. Engineers in private practice shall not review the work of another engineer for
the same client, except with the knowledge of such engineer, or unless the
connection of such engineer with the work has been terminated.
b. Engineers in governmental, industrial, or educational employ are entitled to
review and evaluate the work of other engineers when so required by their
employment duties.
c. Engineers in sales or industrial employ are entitled to make engineering
comparisons of represented products with products of other suppliers.

8. Engineers shall accept personal responsibility for their professional activities,
provided, however, that engineers may seek indemnification for services arising out of their practice for other than gross negligence, where the engineer’s interests cannot otherwise be protected.

a. Engineers shall conform with state registration laws in the practice of engineering.

b. Engineers shall not use association with a non-engineer, a corporation, or partnership as a “cloak” for unethical acts.

9. Engineers shall give credit for engineering work to those to whom credit is due, and will recognize the proprietary interests of others.

a. Engineers shall, whenever possible, name the person or persons who may be individually responsible for designs, inventions, writings, or other accomplishments.

b. Engineers using designs supplied by a client recognize that the designs remain the property of the client and may not be duplicated by the engineer for others without express permission.

c. Engineers, before undertaking work for others in connection with which the engineer may make improvements, plans, designs, inventions, or other records that may justify copyrights or patents, should enter into a positive agreement regarding ownership.

d. Engineers’ designs, data, records, and notes referring exclusively to an employer’s work are the employer’s property. The employer should indemnify the engineer for use of the information for any purpose other than the original purpose.

e. Engineers shall continue their professional development throughout their careers and should keep current in their specialty fields by engaging in professional practice, participating in continuing education courses, reading in the technical literature, and attending professional meetings and seminars.

Footnote 1: “Sustainable development” is the challenge of meeting human needs for natural resources, industrial products, energy, food, transportation, shelter, and effective waste management while conserving and protecting environmental quality and the natural resource base essential for future development.

As Revised July 2007

“By order of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, former Section 11(c) of the NSPE Code of Ethics prohibiting competitive bidding, and all policy statements, opinions, rulings or other guidelines interpreting its scope, have been rescinded as unlawfully interfering with the legal right of engineers, protected under the antitrust laws, to provide price information to prospective clients; accordingly, nothing contained in the NSPE Code of Ethics, policy statements, opinions, rulings or other guidelines prohibits the submission of price quotations or competitive bids for engineering services at any time or in any amount.”
Appendix A

References

NM Statutes, Chapter 61, Article 23, Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, 2005
http://www.sblpes.state.nm.us/act.html

NM Administrative Code, Title 16, Chapter 39, Professional Engineering and Surveying Rules
http://www.sblpes.state.nm.us/docs/2007RevTitle16ForPublication.pdf

NM Board Disciplinary Actions
http://www.sblpes.state.nm.us/docs/WebsiteEnforcementActions1107.pdf

NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers
http://www.nspe.org/Ethics/CodeofEthics/index.html