

Notice

This document is an extract of pertinent sections of the Rules and is provided for information only. The Rules of the Board, (Title 46 Professional and Occupational Standards, Part LXI, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, Subpart 1, Rules) contain the official text of the Rules. View the complete rules on our website <http://www.lapels.com/LawsRules.htm>. For a fee payable in advance, copies may be obtained from the Office of State Register, PO Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095 (225) 342-5015.

Chapter 23. Firms

§2301. General

A. The following rules with regard to firms providing or offering to provide professional services shall apply equally to domestic or foreign firms, partnerships, associations, cooperatives, ventures, corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and any other entities, unless otherwise provided:

1. use of the term *professional services* in this Chapter will refer to either professional engineering services or professional land surveying services; and
2. use of the term *licensed professional* in this Chapter will refer to either a professional engineer or a professional land surveyor duly licensed in Louisiana.

B. A firm must be licensed with the board before it may provide or offer to provide professional services in the state of Louisiana.

1. A firm which has in its title the word *engineering* or *surveying* or any derivative thereof shall be construed to be offering to provide professional services and therefore must be licensed with the board before doing business in the state of Louisiana, unless it has in its title modifying or explanatory words which would, in their ordinary meaning, negate the inference of the professional practice of engineering or land surveying.
2. A firm may provide or offer to provide both professional engineering and professional land surveying services; provided, however, that the firm must qualify separately as an engineering firm and as a land surveying firm, and the requirements of this Chapter will apply separately to providing or offering to provide professional engineering services and professional land surveying services.
3. A firm may provide or offer to provide both professional services and related licensed professional services, such as architecture and landscape architecture; provided, however, the firm must be licensed under and comply with the provisions of this Chapter.

C. Unless otherwise provided, non-firm individual proprietorships which bear the full name of the owner who is a licensed professional are exempt from the application of this Chapter. Such proprietorships are not required to be licensed as engineering or land surveying firms with the board. Non-firm individual proprietorships that do not bear the full name of the owner who is a licensed professional must be licensed with the board as an engineering or land surveying firm and must comply with all the provisions of this Chapter.

D. Joint ventures that provide or offer to provide professional services will not be required to be licensed as separate entities. Nevertheless, any firm (including those non-firm individual proprietorships otherwise excluded under §2301.C) that provides or offers to provide professional services in conjunction with its participation in a joint venture can do so only if it complies with the provisions of these rules. In addition, any supervising professional who participates in a joint venture shall be responsible for assuring that all professional services performed by the joint venture are rendered in conformity with the provisions of these rules.

§2305. Supervising Professional

A.1. In the case of firms providing or offering to provide professional services in the state of Louisiana, all such professional services shall be executed under the responsible charge of one or more licensed professionals, and designated by the firm as supervising professionals. Such licensed professionals shall be active employees of the firm:

- a. whose primary employment is with the firm on a full-time basis; or
- b. whose secondary employment is with the firm, provided the firm is totally owned by one or more of the supervising professionals whose license is used to qualify the firm for licensure.

2. When the work consists of plans, designs, specifications, reports or maps, such licensed professional shall affix his/her seal, signature and date to them, as required by law. The appearance of a seal on a document of any type shall constitute a representation that such document was prepared by the licensed professional or under his/her responsible charge.

B. Nothing in these rules shall be construed to give a professional engineer the power to practice professional land surveying, unless that professional engineer is licensed as a professional land surveyor.

C. Nothing in these rules shall be construed to give a professional land surveyor the power to practice professional engineering, unless that professional land surveyor is licensed as a professional engineer.

D. It is the intent of these rules to guarantee that all professional services provided by a licensed firm are performed under the responsible charge of or by a licensed professional. To this end, the board may also require a licensed firm to identify those licensed professionals who will be providing professional services. In addition, the board may require the individual licensees identified by the licensed firm as the supervising professionals to acknowledge this responsibility, and assume the change of employment. No licensed professional shall be designated as a supervising professional by more than one firm, except in the case of secondary employment by a firm which is totally owned by one or more of the supervising professionals whose license is used to qualify the firm for licensure. A failure to comply with any of the provisions of this rule may subject both the licensed firm and the licensed professional to disciplinary action by the board.

E. Compliance with the above rules will not be met by a contractual relationship between the firm and a licensed professional or a firm of licensed professionals in which such licensed professional or firm of licensed professionals is available on a consultative basis. Nor will it be considered compliance if a licensed professional is related to the firm solely in a nominal or inactive capacity.

§2307. Professional Identification

A. Letterheads, business cards, advertisements and other similar identifying items issued by firms providing or offering to provide professional services in the state of Louisiana shall reflect the exact firm name contained on its certificate of licensure issued by the board.

§2309. Enforcement

A. In the event that a firm providing or offering to provide professional services within the state of Louisiana shall fail to comply with these rules, the board, after investigation of the facts, may take whatever action is necessary against such firm to require compliance or to enjoin further practice or offers to practice professional engineering or professional land surveying.

B. Any firm that is licensed by the board is subject to all disciplinary provisions provided for in the licensure law.