

Notice

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Chapter 31. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

§3101. Introduction

A. This Chapter provides for a continuing professional development (CPD) program to insure that all professional engineers practicing engineering and professional land surveyors practicing land surveying be informed of those technical and professional subjects necessary to safeguard life, health and property and promote the public welfare. Beginning on January 1, 1999, every licensee shall meet the continuing professional development requirements of this Chapter as a condition for license renewal.

B. The primary purpose of licensing for professional engineers and professional land surveyors is to protect the public from unqualified or unethical practitioners. The requirement for continuing professional development is also intended to protect the public by reinforcing the need for lifelong learning in order to stay more current with changing technology, equipment, procedures, processes, tools, and established standards. This Chapter provides flexibility in selecting among a broad range of activities that are intended to strengthen or maintain competency in technical, managerial (business) or ethical endeavors. Licensees are encouraged to select meaningful CPD activities which will be of benefit in the pursuit of their chosen fields.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:697.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Transportation and Development, Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, LR 24:2152 (November 1998), amended by the Department of Transportation and Development, Professional Engineering and Surveying Board, LR 27:1046 (July 2001), LR 30:1729 (August 2004).

§3103. Definitions

A. Terms used in this Chapter are defined as follows.

Acceptable Activity—subject matter which is technical in nature or addresses business management practices, professional ethics, quality assurance, codes or other similar topics which facilitate the licensee's professional development as a professional engineer or professional land surveyor, and/or serves to safeguard life, health and property and promote the public welfare. Any *Course/Activity* offered or approved by a *Board-Approved Sponsor/Provider* will qualify as an *Acceptable Activity* (see definition of *Board-Approved Sponsor/Provider*). It will be the responsibility of

the licensee to determine if a *Course/Activity* offered by an unapproved sponsor/provider is an *Acceptable Activity*.

Board—the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board.

Board-Approved Sponsor/Provider—the Louisiana Engineering Society; the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors; professional and technical engineering or land surveying societies; federal, state or local governmental agencies; colleges or universities; and any individual, firm or educational institution approved by the board on a case-by-case basis. All sponsors/providers must conduct courses which will enhance and improve a licensee's professional development as a professional engineer or a professional land surveyor, and/or serve to safeguard life, health and property and promote the public welfare. Failure to do so will be grounds for the board to revoke its sponsorship/provider approval.

Continuing Education Unit (CEU)—a unit of credit customarily used for continuing education courses. One continuing education unit equals 10 hours of in-class time in approved continuing education courses.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)—the educational process whereby a professional engineer or professional land surveyor licensee engages in a continuing program to maintain, improve or expand skills and knowledge.

Course/Activity—any program with a clear purpose and objective which will maintain, improve or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the licensee's field of practice.

Dual Licensee—a person who is licensed in both land surveying and one or more disciplines of engineering.

License Status—

a. *Active Status*—a licensee of the board as defined in §2103.

b. *Expired Status*—a licensee of the board as defined in §2103.

c. *Inactive Status*—a licensee of the board as defined in §2103.

d. *Retired Status*—a licensee of the board as defined in §2103.

Professional Development Hour (PDH)—a nominal contact hour of instruction, presentation, or activity.

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§3105. Requirements

A. During each biennial licensure renewal period, every professional engineer licensee, including those licensed in two or more disciplines, is required to obtain 30 PDHs in engineering related activities.

1. At least one PDH shall be in professional ethics. Professional ethics concerns the standard of professional conduct and responsibility required of a professional engineer.

2. A minimum of eight PDHs shall be earned in Life Safety Code, building codes and/or Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines by every professional engineer licensee who designs buildings and/or building systems.

B. During each biennial licensure renewal period, every professional land surveyor licensee is required to obtain 15 PDHs in land surveying related activities.

1. At least one PDH shall be in professional ethics. Professional ethics concerns the standard of professional conduct and responsibility required of a professional land surveyor.

2. A minimum of two PDHs shall be earned in the Minimum Standards for Property Boundary Surveys in Louisiana.

C. During each biennial licensure renewal period, each dual licensee shall obtain 30 PDHs; however, at least one-third of the PDHs shall be obtained separately for each profession.

1. At least one PDH shall be in professional ethics. Professional ethics concerns the standard of professional conduct and responsibility required of a professional engineer and/or professional land surveyor.

2. A minimum of two PDHs shall be earned in the Minimum Standards for Property Boundary Surveys in Louisiana.

3. A minimum of eight PDHs shall be earned in Life Safety Code, building codes and/or Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines by every professional engineer licensee who designs buildings and/or building systems.

D. Excess PDHs

1. If a licensee exceeds the biennial licensure renewal period requirements, a maximum of 15 PDHs may be carried

forward into the subsequent biennial licensure renewal period.

2. Excess PDHs may include, without limitation, those obtained in professional ethics, Minimum Standards for Property Boundary Surveys in Louisiana, Life Safety Code, building codes and/or Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

E. Licensees will be required to verify compliance with these CPD requirements at the end of their first full biennial licensure renewal period which begins after the effective date of these rules and at the end of each subsequent biennial licensure renewal period.

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§3107. Reciprocity/Out-of-Jurisdiction Resident

A. The CPD requirements for Louisiana will be deemed as satisfied when a non-resident engineer or land surveyor provides evidence of having met the requirements of the licensee's resident jurisdiction; provided, however, that as part of satisfying these requirements, non-resident licensees must meet the professional ethics requirements of §3105.A.1 or §3105.B.1, as applicable, non-resident licensees practicing engineering in Louisiana who design buildings and/or building systems in Louisiana must meet the requirements of §3105.C.3, as applicable, and non-resident licensees practicing land surveying in Louisiana must meet the requirements of §3105.B.2.

B. If the non-resident engineer or land surveyor resides in a jurisdiction that has no CPD requirements applicable to that licensee, the licensee must meet all requirements of Louisiana as set forth in this Chapter.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:697.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Transportation and Development, Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, LR 24:2153 (November 1998), amended by the Department of Transportation and Development, Professional Engineering and Surveying Board, LR 27:1048 (July 2001), LR 30:1731 (August 2004).

§3109. Exemptions

A. A licensee may be exempt from the CPD requirements for any one of more of the following reasons.

1. New licensees shall be exempt at their first renewal. Compliance with the CPD requirements must be certified upon the licensee's second renewal and thereafter.

2. Licensees serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States for a period of time exceeding 180 consecutive days in a biennial licensure renewal period shall be exempt from obtaining the PDHs required during that biennial licensure renewal period.

3. Licensees experiencing physical disability, serious illness, or serious injury of a nature and duration which has prevented the licensee from completing his/her CPD requirements for the past renewal period may be exempted from CPD requirements for said renewal period. Supporting documentation such as a letter from a physician who has treated the disability, illness or injury is required. This letter shall be on the letterhead of the physician and set forth the nature of the disability, illness or injury and the period of time under treatment by the physician, and contain a statement by the physician as to any limitations placed upon the licensee which would limit his ability to complete any type of CPD. This exemption may be granted for one biennial licensure renewal period. Additional exemptions for medical reasons may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

4. Licensees working outside of the United States for more than 180 days in a biennial licensure renewal period where the completion of CPD is impractical due to location, working hours, mail restrictions, etc., may be granted an exemption from CPD requirements for the period of time the licensee is in the foreign location. Supporting documentation of the foreign assignment must be provided by the employer on the employer's letterhead or by other documentation satisfactory to the board. The letter shall at a minimum set forth both the location and the period of time the person has been in the foreign location.

5. Licensees who certify their status as *Inactive* on the board-approved renewal form and who further certify that they are no longer offering or practicing professional engineering and/or professional land surveying in Louisiana shall be exempt. In the event such a person elects to return to *Active Status*, the licensee must meet the requirements set forth in §3121.

6. Licensees who certify their status as *Retired* on the board-approved renewal form and who further certify that they are no longer offering or practicing professional engineering and/or professional land surveying in Louisiana shall be exempt. In the event such a person elects to return to *Active Status*, the licensee must meet the requirements set forth in §3121.

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§3111. Determination of Credit

A. PDHs may be earned as indicated in §3113 for the following *Acceptable Activities*:

1. successful completion of college courses, correspondence courses, continuing education courses, seminars, tutorials, short courses and/or by teaching/instructing these items;

2. attending or presenting qualifying seminars; in-house courses sponsored by corporations, governmental

agencies or other organizations; workshops; or professional/technical presentations made at meetings, conventions, or conferences;

3. obtaining teaching credit for teaching/instructing or presenting. To obtain credit for teaching/instructing or presenting, licensees must be able to document that research and preparation were necessary, such as in the case of first-time teaching;

4. membership in engineering and land surveying professional associations or technical societies;

5. authoring and publishing articles in engineering or land surveying journals;

6. obtaining patents; and

7. formal, documented problem preparation for NCEES or state professional exams.

B. PDHs may not be earned through informal, non-structured activities such as reading technical journals.

C. The board has final authority with respect to the acceptability of courses, PDH credit, PDH value for courses, and other methods of earning credit. PDH credit for acceptable college or correspondence courses may be based upon course credit established by the college or school.

D. Selection of activities is the responsibility of the licensee; however, guidance is available from the board (see §3103. *Acceptable Activity*, and §3111).

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§3113. Units

A. The conversion of other units of credit to PDHs is as follows:

1. one college or unit semester hour = 45 PDHs;

2. one college or unit quarter hour = 30 PDHs;

3. one continuing education unit = 10 PDHs.

B. PDH credit will be awarded as follows:

1. fifty contact minutes of instruction or verified attendance at an activity, or problem preparation for a NCEES or state professional exam = one PDH. A maximum of 10 PDHs will be allowed per biennial licensure renewal period for problem preparation;

2. membership in engineering and land surveying professional associations or technical societies = one PDH per biennial licensure renewal period for each professional or technical association or society. A maximum of three PDHs will be allowed per biennial licensure renewal period for all such memberships;

3. in accordance with §3111.A.1-3, credit for teaching or making presentations may be earned at twice the PDHs allowed for attending a course, but shall not exceed 30 PDHs in any biennial licensure renewal period;

4. authoring and publishing peer reviewed (refereed) articles/papers in engineering or land surveying journals = 10 PDHs;

5. authoring and publishing non-peer reviewed (nonrefereed) articles/papers in engineering or land surveying journals = 5 PDHs;

6. each patent = 10 PDHs.

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§3115. Record Keeping

A. All licensure renewal applications will require the completion of a board-approved renewal form. By completing and returning this form, the licensee is certifying that he/she has met all requirements for licensure renewal, including CPD requirements. This form will also contain an affirmation which must be completed if the licensee desires to change his/her license status.

B. In addition, the licensee will be required to maintain the board-approved Professional Development Activity Log outlining PDHs claimed. The licensee must complete all sections of the form and be prepared to submit the completed form and any corresponding documentation to the board upon request. Blank forms can be obtained from the board's website.

C. Maintaining records to be used to support PDHs claimed is the responsibility of the licensee. These records must be maintained for at least three consecutive biennial licensure renewal periods (six years) and copies may be requested by the board at any time.

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§3117. Audit and Review of Records

A. The board may request, at any time, that a licensee provide proof of compliance with all CPD requirements.

B. Additionally, the board will conduct random audits of biennial renewals of up to 30 percent of all board licensees.

C. Additionally, the board will require that all licensees against whom formal disciplinary charges are pending in

Louisiana provide proof of compliance with all CPD requirements.

D. Should the licensee fail to provide proof of compliance, or if discrepancies or deficiencies are discovered as the result of any of the reviews provided for in §3117.A-C, the licensee will be deemed not in compliance.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:697.1.

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§3119. Failure to Comply

A. When a licensee is deemed not in compliance with the CPD requirements of the board, the licensee will be so notified and will be given 120 days to satisfy the board requirements. The licensee must provide documented evidence of compliance accompanied by payment of an administrative fee of \$200. Failure to comply will subject the licensee to disciplinary action as provided in the licensure law.

B. CPD hours acquired and used to satisfy a not-in-compliance situation may not be used to meet the CPD hours required for the current licensure renewal period.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:697.1.

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§3121. CPD Reinstatement

A. To become reinstated, an *Expired*, *Inactive*, or *Retired* licensee must show proof of having obtained all delinquent PDHs; however, the maximum number required will be the number of PDHs required for one biennial licensure renewal period as provided in §3105.

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Chapter 33. Disciplinary and Enforcement Proceedings

§3301. Disciplinary and Enforcement Proceedings

A. Any disciplinary or enforcement proceedings initiated by or with the board will be governed by the substantive and procedural provisions of the licensure law and by the provisions of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act (R.S. 49:950 et seq.).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:688.

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