RULE

Department of Transportation and Development
Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board

Examinations and Continuing Professional Development
(LAC 46:LXI.707, 1301, and Chapter 31)

Under the authority of the Louisiana professional engineering and land surveying licensure law, R.S. 37:681 et seq., and in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board has amended its rules contained in LAC 46:LXI.707, 1301, 3103, 3105, 3109, 3111, 3113, 3115, 3119 and 3121.

This is a technical revision of existing rules under which LAPELS operates. The revisions: (a) eliminate the requirement that applications to take the principles and practice of land surveying and Louisiana laws of land surveying examinations must be received by the board by certain dates; (b) remove the ability of the board to pre-approve individuals, firms and certain educational institutions as continuing professional development sponsor/providers; (c) change the continuing professional development requirements from a biennial licensure renewal period basis to a calendar year basis; and (d) permit licensees to obtain continuing professional development credit for serving on technical committees that are assisting federal, state or local governmental agencies in developing standards related to engineering or land surveying.

Title 46
PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

Part LXI. Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
Chapter 7. Bylaws
§707. Board Organization
A. - E.10. …
11. Continuing Professional Development Committee.
The chairman of the board shall appoint a continuing professional development committee composed of not less than two board members. The continuing professional development committee shall review and make recommendations to the board regarding continuing professional development rules and policies.
12. - 13. …

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

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Transportation and Development, Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, LR 2:52 (February 1976), amended LR 5:110 (May 1979), LR 11:1797 (December 1985), and June 1 for the October examination administration.
4. To be considered for the following examinations, the application for the examination must be submitted to the board:
   a. principles and practice of land surveying;
   b. Louisiana laws of land surveying.

D. - F.2. …

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


Chapter 31. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

§3103. Definitions
A. Terms used in this Chapter are defined as follows.

** 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; and colleges or universities. 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.

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


§3105. Requirements
A. During each biennial licensure renewal period beginning before January 1, 2017, every professional engineer licensee, including those licensed in two or more disciplines, is required to obtain 30 PDHs in engineering related activities. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with professional engineer licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, every professional engineer licensee, including those licensed in two or more disciplines, is required to obtain 15 PDHs per calendar year in engineering related activities. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with professional engineer licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin
after January 1, 2017, professional engineer licensees may not obtain more than 8 PDHs within a single calendar day.

1. During each biennial licensure renewal period beginning before January 1, 2017, at least one PDH shall be in professional ethics. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with professional engineer licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, at least one PDH per calendar year shall be in professional ethics. Professional ethics concerns the standard of professional conduct and responsibility required of a professional engineer.

2. During each biennial licensure renewal period beginning before January 1, 2017, 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. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with professional engineer licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, a minimum of four PDHs per calendar year 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 beginning before January 1, 2017, every professional land surveyor licensee is required to obtain 15 PDHs in land surveying related activities. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with professional land surveyor licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, every professional land surveyor licensee is required to obtain 8 PDHs per calendar year in land surveying related activities.

1. During each biennial licensure renewal period beginning before January 1, 2017, at least one PDH shall be in professional ethics. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with professional land surveyor licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, at least one PDH per calendar year shall be in professional ethics. Professional ethics concerns the standard of professional conduct and responsibility required of a professional land surveyor.

2. During each biennial licensure renewal period beginning before January 1, 2017, a minimum of two PDHs shall be earned in the Standards of Practice for Boundary Surveys in Louisiana. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with dual licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, a minimum of one PDH per calendar year shall be earned in the Standards of Practice for Boundary Surveys in Louisiana.

3. During each biennial licensure renewal period beginning before January 1, 2017, 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. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with dual licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, a minimum of four PDHs per calendar year 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. Effective for biennial licensure renewal periods beginning before January 1, 2017, 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. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, if a licensee exceeds the annual requirements, a maximum of 7 PDHs may be carried forward into the subsequent calendar year.

D.2. - E. …

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


§3109. Exemptions

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

1. …

2. Effective for biennial licensure renewal periods beginning before January 1, 2017, 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. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January
1, 2017, licensees serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States for a period of time exceeding 180 consecutive days in a calendar year shall be exempt from obtaining the PDHs required during that calendar year.

3. Effective for biennial licensure renewal periods beginning before January 1, 2017, 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. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, 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 calendar year may be exempted from CPD requirements for said calendar year. 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. Effective for biennial licensure renewal periods beginning before January 1, 2017, this exemption may be granted for one biennial licensure renewal period. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, this exemption may be granted for one calendar year. Additional exemptions for medical reasons may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

4. Effective for biennial licensure renewal periods beginning before January 1, 2017, 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. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, licensees working outside of the United States for more than 180 days in a calendar year 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. - 6. …

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


§3111. Determination of Credit

A. PDHs may be earned as indicated in §3113 for the following acceptable activities:

1. - 6. …

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

8. serving as thesis directors for students pursuing a masters or doctoral degree in engineering; and

9. serving on technical committees that are assisting federal, state or local governmental agencies in developing standards related to engineering or land surveying.

B. - D. …

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


§3113. Units

A. - A.3. …

B. Effective for biennial licensure renewal periods beginning before January 1, 2017, PDH credit will be awarded as follows:

1. - 6. …

7. serving as thesis directors for students pursuing a masters or doctoral degree in engineering = 1 PDH per hour of thesis credit. A maximum of 10 PDHs will be allowed per biennial licensure renewal period for each such thesis director;

8. serving on technical committees that are assisting federal, state or local governmental agencies in developing standards related to engineering or land surveying = 1 PDH per 50 contact minutes of attendance at committee meetings. A maximum of 10 PDHs will be allowed per biennial licensure renewal period for service on all of such committees.

C. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, 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 five PDHs will be allowed per calendar year for problem preparation;

2. membership in engineering and land surveying professional associations or technical societies = one PDH per calendar year for each professional or technical association or society. A maximum of two PDHs will be allowed per calendar year 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 15 PDHs in any calendar year;

4. authoring and publishing peer reviewed (refered) articles/papers in engineering or land surveying journals; or authoring and publishing peer reviewed (refered) books related to engineering or land surveying = 10 PDHs;
§3115. Record Keeping
A. - B. ...

C. Maintaining records to be used to support PDHs claimed is the responsibility of the licensee. Effective for biennial licensure renewal periods beginning before January 1, 2017, 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. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, these records must be maintained for at least six consecutive calendar years and copies may be requested by the board at any time.

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


§3119. Failure to Comply
A. ...

B. Effective for biennial licensure renewal periods beginning before January 1, 2017, 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. Effective January 1, 2017 and beginning with licensees whose biennial licensure renewal periods begin after January 1, 2017, 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 calendar year.

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