

THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION'S POSITION

Self-regulation of the engineering profession protects and enhances public health, safety, welfare, and the environment for all Canadians.

Engineering regulators set high professional and ethical standards, establish codes of conduct, and administer regulatory processes and standards of practice to ensure protection of the public.

Engineering regulators in each jurisdiction serve the public's interest by making sure that only qualified individuals engage in professional engineering services by:

- Licensing qualified individuals based on their ability to practise professional engineering with competence and integrity.
- Administering registration practices that are timely, transparent, objective, impartial, and fair.
- Providing outreach and mentoring to prospective licensees to facilitate their understanding of the requirements for licensure and their entry into the profession.
- Acting against those who are practising engineering but who are not licensed professional engineers.
- Administering continuing professional development programs that support licence holders to maintain their professional competencies.
- Implementing national labour mobility agreements to facilitate interprovincial mobility.
- Facilitating foreign qualification recognition through international agreements and other activities.
- Working together with governments and allied organizations to foster new ideas and improvements to the regulation of the practice of engineering.

The issue

The public interest is protected by the twelve provincial and territorial engineering regulators who:

- Establish and maintain professional and ethical standards.
- Hold engineering professionals accountable for their work.
- Govern the conduct of 295,000 members of the engineering profession in Canada.

Professional engineers are required to be licensed in each province or territory in which they practise.

How Engineers Canada has contributed

Engineers Canada is working with provincial and territorial engineering regulators to build a framework for engineering regulation to harmonize requirements and practices in admissions, licensing, practice review, and discipline and enforcement procedures to:

- Ensure only qualified individuals are permitted to practise engineering in Canada.
- Make it easier for applicants to understand what information must be submitted through the development of specific criteria.

- Allow assessors to make objective decisions on whether an applicant has met the requirement.

Provincial and territorial engineering regulators across Canada ensure that those individuals having the required education, engineering work experience, knowledge of relevant law, commitment to the code of ethics, and appropriate language competency can obtain a licence to practise independently.

When it is deemed appropriate, engineering regulators in Canada issue licences and classes of licences that are subject to conditions such as specific scopes of practice.

Provincial and territorial regulators across Canada work within legislation that provides comprehensive regulatory authority over all aspects of professional accountability, admissions, practice, complaints, discipline, enforcement, professional standards, continuing professional development, and mobility. These regulators have the authority to prevent unqualified or unlicensed individuals from practising engineering.

Engineering regulators have exemplary processes to welcome applicants, assess credentials, and provide pathways to licensure for:

- New graduates: those who are ready to enter their engineer-in-training period.
- International engineering graduates: the engineering profession has been a leader among all professions in recognizing the qualifications of professionals from abroad.

- Licence-holders transferring between Canadian jurisdictions: the engineering regulators have been leaders in the implementation of the Agreement on Internal Trade.
- Individuals with non-standard engineering work experience and technical education, such as a degree in engineering technology.

Recommendations to the federal government

The federal government must recognize and respect the jurisdiction of the provincial and territorial engineering regulators and acknowledge that provincial and territorial governments have delegated the authority to regulate the engineering profession to the regulators.

Provincial and territorial regulators consistently strive to ensure that their admissions and licensure practices are timely, transparent, objective, impartial, and fair. They also set high professional and ethical standards, establish codes of conduct, and administer regulatory processes of practice to ensure protection of the Canadian public. It is important for the federal government to continue to recognize and support the self-regulation of the engineering profession in Canada.