



Laws and Rules for Florida Engineers (Valid for Renewal 2/28/27)

An Online Continuing Education Course for Engineers

Course Number: L-1053

Credit: 1 Hour / 1 PDH / 1 CPD

Laws and Rules for Florida Engineers Renewal Cycle 2025-2027 (valid for renewal date 2-28-27)

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Section 1 – Introduction

Overview

The course is divided into five (5) sections.

1 – Brief overview of the Florida Administrative Code and Florida Statutes applicable to professional engineers; the role of the Board; and the Florida Engineering Management Corporation (FEMC).

2 – Changes to Chapter 455, F.S., Relating to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation made between March 1, 2023 and February 28, 2025

3 – Changes to Chapter 471, F.S., The Florida Engineer Licensure Law made between March 1, 2023 and February 28, 2025

4 – Changes to Rule 61G15-26, The Rules of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, made between March 1, 2023 and February 28, 2025

5 – Disciplinary Actions

Florida Statutes

The Florida statutes are designed to provide agencies with the authority to make rules to carry out statutes. In many cases, the statute does not define specifically what can and cannot be done; that's the purpose of the Florida Administrative Code. The statutes can only be added, amended, or deleted by the legislature. There are two (2) chapters in the Florida Statutes that are of primary interest to Engineers.

Title XXXII, Chapter 455 – Business and Professional Regulation: General Provisions

Title XXXII applies to Regulation of Professions and Occupations. Chapter 455 includes general provisions that are applicable to all regulated professions, not just engineers. Some of the language in Chapter 455 is very prescriptive. Other language contains qualifiers. For example, Chapter 455.2178 states that if a Board requires continuing education, then the Board shall approve continuing education providers. In other words, the statute does not specifically require continuing education for all professions. But if a Board or department requires continuing education, then certain rules apply.

Some requirements in Chapter 455 that are applicable to engineers are:

- A Board may provide by rule that distance learning is acceptable for continuing education.
- A Board may issue a citation for certain offenses, and the Board is authorized to define the offenses for which a citation may be issued.
- The Board may provide a licensee with a notice of noncompliance for an initial offense of a minor violation. The Board is responsible for identifying those offenses for which a notice of noncompliance may be issued.
- The determination as to whether there is probable cause that a violation occurred shall be made by majority vote of a probable cause panel of the board.
- A formal hearing before an administrative law judge from the Division of Administrative Hearings shall be held if there are any disputed issues of material fact regarding a complaint.
- Allows the Board to assess an administrative fine not to exceed \$5,000 for each offense.

Title XXXII, Chapter 471 – Engineering

Chapter 471, which is specific to engineering, is also a Florida Statute that can only be amended by the legislature. Some of the requirements in Chapter 471 are:

- Defines who must be licensed as an engineer, as well as persons who are exempt from licensure.
- Defines the number of members who must serve on the Florida Board of Professional Engineers and the required background for each member.
- Places a limit on fees for licensure, renewal, certificates of authorization, etc.
- Defines the minimum requirements for licensure and licensure by endorsement.
- Establishes the creation of the Florida Engineers Management Corporation and defines the purpose, financing and operation of the management corporation.

Florida Administrative Code

The Florida Administrative Code is the official compilation of the administrative rules and regulations of state agencies. Chapter 61G15 in the Florida Administrative Code covers the Board of Professional Engineers.

Unlike the Florida Statutes, amendments, additions or deletions to Chapter 61G15 do NOT require a vote by the legislature. The Board of Professional Engineers is empowered to revise Chapter 61G15. All proposed changes to the Florida Administrative Code are published in the Florida Administrative Weekly. The website is (<https://www.flrules.org/>).

Chapter 61G15 contains very specific rules regarding the practice of engineering in the state of Florida. Some examples are:

- Defines grounds for disciplinary proceedings, in addition to those specified in the Statutes.
- Defines penalty guidelines for specific infractions of the rules.
- Defines very specific requirements for demonstration of substantial equivalency for applicants with degrees from non-EAC/ABET accredited programs.
- Prescribes exactly the form and size of seals that are acceptable.
- Prescribes procedures for sealing, signing and dating documents.
- Prescribes fees for licensure, renewal, etc. that are not in excess of the maximum fees allowed by the Florida Statutes.
- Defines procedures for the adoption of another engineer's work.

The FEMC

The Florida Statutes establish that the Florida Board of Professional Engineers and other boards may contract with a nonprofit corporation to provide services for the regulation of professions. Below is the applicable language from Chapter 455.

- Pursuant to Chapter 455.32, the Florida Engineers Management Corporation was established. The FEMC provides administrative, investigative, and prosecutorial services to the Board.
- The FEMC has a seven-member board of directors, five of whom are appointed by the board and must be registrants regulated by the board and two of whom are appointed by the secretary and must be laypersons not regulated by the board. The management corporation may hire staff as necessary to carry out its functions. Staff of the FEMC are not public employees.
- It is important to note that the FEMC is empowered by the Board to investigate and prosecute disciplinary cases. However, the Board retains the sole authority to:
 - determine probable cause in the pursuit of disciplinary action against a licensee,
 - take final action on license applications or in disciplinary cases, and
 - adopt administrative rules.

Section 2 – Changes to Chapter 455, F.S. Relating to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation made between March 1, 2023 and February 28, 2025

Changes to the rules are summarized for your convenience.

A second document that includes the full text of the laws and rules is included with this course and should be used to further investigate areas that are of specific importance to you and your practice. Please remember that both the summary and the full text of the laws and rules were current as of the date of publication, but changes do occur regularly. You may wish to research critical issues using the most current versions of the laws and rules that can be found online.

455.2123 Continuing education

A board, or the department when there is no board, shall allow by rule that distance learning may be used to satisfy continuing education requirements. A board, or the department when there is no board, shall approve distance learning courses as an alternative to classroom courses to satisfy continuing education requirements. A board, or the department when there is no board, may not require centralized examinations for completion of continuing education requirements for the professions licensed under part VIII, part XV, or part XVI of chapter 468 or part I or part II of chapter 475.

History.—s. 2, ch. 21885, 1943; s. 5, ch. 79-36; s. 95, ch. 83-329; s. 1, ch. 84-15; s. 71, ch. 85-81; s. 6, ch. 93-220; s. 186, ch. 97-103; s. 5, ch. 2010-106; s. 4, ch. 2010-182; s. 2, ch. 2017-135; s. 7, ch. 2018-7; s. 1, ch. 2022-185.
Note.—Former s. 485.02.

455.2124 Proration of or not requiring continuing education

(1) A board, or the department when there is no board, may:

(a) Prorate continuing education for new licensees by requiring half of the required continuing education for any applicant who becomes licensed with more than half the renewal period remaining and no continuing education for any applicant who becomes licensed with half or less than half of the renewal period remaining; or

(b) Require no continuing education until the first full renewal cycle of the licensee.

These options shall also apply when continuing education is first required or the number of hours required is increased by law or the board, or the department when there is no board.

(2)(a) A board, or the department when there is no board, shall exempt an individual from completing the continuing education required for renewal of a license for a renewal period if:

1. The individual holds an active license issued by the board or department to practice the profession;
2. The individual has continuously held the license for at least 10 years; and
3. No disciplinary action is imposed on the individual's license.

(b) This subsection does not apply to engineers regulated pursuant to chapter 471; to certified public accountants regulated pursuant to chapter 473; to brokers, broker associates, and sales associates regulated pursuant to part I of chapter 475; to appraisers regulated pursuant to part II of chapter 475; to architects, interior designers, or landscape architects regulated pursuant to chapter 481; or to contractors regulated pursuant to chapter 489.

(3) The department shall implement the provisions of sections 489.01 and 120.54 to

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