

SECTION THREE: LICENSING

INTRODUCTION

ACTIVITY: Lecture & Discussion

TIME: 30 minutes

LEARNING OUTCOME:

Participants will understand the relative advantages and disadvantages to becoming a licensed engineer as well as the basic requirements.

DESCRIPTION:

- ❑ Explain to participants that, unlike many other regulated professions, engineers do not need to be licensed in order to work in the field in Ontario. If they are not licensed as a professional engineer, however, a professional engineer must supervise their work.
- ❑ Engage participants in a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of attempting to gain a license. Answers may include:

Advantages	Disadvantages
Greater employment opportunities	Costly
Higher salary expectations	Time-consuming
Prestige	
Allows self-employment	

Lesson Plan (cont.)

- ❑ Explain that for many foreign-trained engineers, a license is an important asset in the job search. Because many employers are wary of foreign qualifications, they look for some indication that the applicant is qualified to work in Ontario. A license gives them that guarantee.

- ❑ Describe the basic requirements for an engineering license:
 - At least 18 years of age

 - Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada

 - Good Character - You will be required to answer questions and make a written declaration on your application form, attesting to the absence of any past conduct that would afford grounds for the belief that you will not practice professional engineering with honesty and integrity. In addition, PEO will solicit opinions about your suitability for PEO membership from referees whose names you provide.

 - Assessment of Your Degree - There are two options:
 - Your degree may be assessed as being from an accredited or recognized institution
 - If your degree is conferred outside Canada and/or is not from an accredited institution or one that is recognized by PEO, you may be assigned a set of technical examinations to prove what you know. PEO may grant an exemption from technical examinations if you have an engineering degree that PEO believes to be equivalent to one from an accredited Canadian engineering degree program or you have completed postgraduate studies in a Canadian University, in the same discipline as that of your foreign undergraduate engineering degree; or you have an undergraduate engineering degree from an institution in a country that has a Mutual Recognition Agreement with the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers. These countries are: Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States (after 1989), Hong Kong (1995), and South Africa (1999). (Please note that to be recognized as equivalent, the degree must have been granted during or after the year indicated after the name of the country.)
 - More information is available on line www.peo.on.ca click Licensing & Registration then Educational Requirements

Lesson Plan (cont.)

Describe the basic requirements for an engineering license (cont'd):

- Professional Practice Examination - The Professional Practice Examination is a three-hour, closed book exam on ethics, professional practice, engineering law and liability. Note that the PPE also acts as an English proficiency test as it requires a high level of fluency.
- Four years of verifiable engineering experience, including one year in Canada. The mandatory requirement for Canadian experience ensures that you are conversant with Canadian engineering codes, legislation, technical standards and regulations as they pertain to engineering practice in your field.

Your engineering experience will be assessed against the following five criteria:

- application of theory;
- practical experience;
- management of engineering;
- communication skills;
- awareness of the social implications of engineering.

If your academic qualifications satisfy PEO's licensing requirements, all of your engineering experience gained from the date your engineering degree was awarded is eligible for credit toward PEO's four-year experience requirement. In addition, you will normally receive a one-year experience credit for the successful completion of a postgraduate degree in engineering in the same discipline as your undergraduate degree

Explain that many foreign-trained engineers have difficulty obtaining their licence because they lack Canadian Engineering experience, which is one of the requirements for licensing. Discuss some strategies that will be helpful toward overcoming this difficulty – for example:

- Getting an independent assessment of your degree, for use in proving to employers that you have the qualifications:

Lesson Plan (cont.)

- ❑ Mentoring;

- ❑ Becoming an Engineer-in-Training (EIT) through the PEO means you have met the other criteria and are just gaining work experience under the supervision of one or more professional engineers. The EIT program is not a job search or placement program. The Engineer in Training is still responsible for finding employment and demonstrating to the PEO that the experience that is gained is in compliance with the standards set by the PEO. You can apply to become an EIT if your academic qualifications have been assessed and you have been assigned or completed technical exams. Benefits of being recorded as an EIT with the PEO include:
 - Access to the password-protected sections of the PEO website for questions and answers of concern to PEO's engineering interns
 - Subscription to Engineer Mentor, PEO's on-line newsletter for engineering interns, the association's official journal Engineering Dimensions and The Link
 - On-line discussions with other engineering interns and with professional engineers
 - Advice on reporting work experience and confidential work experience reviews from the EIT manager. At your request, PEO will review your experience upon changing jobs, upon completion of any temporary work assignment and after obtaining your first six months of engineering practice in Canada
 - Demonstrates that the applicant is serious about being licensed as a professional engineer
 - Permits the applicant to participate in the CCPE and Ontario Society of Professional Engineers sponsored insurance and financial security programs and to access relevant counselling and mentoring

Lesson Plan (cont.)

Getting an independent assessment of your degree, for use in proving to employers that you have the qualifications:

- Apply to obtain a provisional licence. On February 28, 2003 the Ontario government proclaimed changes to the Professional Engineers Act to permit Professional Engineers of Ontario to grant provisional licences. A provisional licence may be issued to an applicant for a professional engineer (P.Eng) licence who has satisfied all of PEO's licensing requirements except for the minimum 12 months of verifiable and acceptable engineering experience in a Canadian jurisdiction, under the supervision of a professional engineer. More specifically, to qualify for a provisional licence the applicant must:
 - satisfy PEO's academic requirements for licensing
 - pass PEO's Professional Practice Examination
 - demonstrate to PEO's satisfaction at least 36 months of acceptable and verifiable engineering experience outside Canada

The provisional licence is valid for 12 months from the date of issue and the holder is entitled to practice professional engineering only under the supervision of a professional engineer. The main purpose of this licence is to address the concern that foreign-trained engineers have reported encountering difficulty in finding employment that enabled them to obtain the Canadian experience for licensing. By issuing a provisional licence, PEO is affirming that the applicant has satisfied the academic, the majority of engineering experience and ethics requirements for licensing as a professional engineer in Ontario.