

Issues Policies

ISSUE OF SPECIALIZATION AND CERTIFICATION POLICY STATEMENTS

Date of Adoption: May 31, 2002 Motion #4586

Date of Latest Amendment: Motion

Level 1:

The engineering profession recognizes that there is a growing public desire to be able to identify professional engineers qualified to practise engineering in certain specialized areas.

Specialization in engineering is defined as the practice in a particular narrow area of engineering.

Certification is defined as the attestation that the holder of a certificate is a specialist with a set of defined skills, knowledge and abilities demonstrated through an assessment and/or evaluation process designed for that purpose. The certification may or may not include a title that certificate holders are permitted to use to identify themselves to the public as a holder of such certification. For the engineering profession, certification would be in addition to the registration/licensing as a professional engineer.

Provincial/territorial associations/Ordre should avoid adopting any program of registration/licensing by specialized areas of engineering.

Communication

Level 2: All provincial/territorial associations/Ordre shall keep each other and the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers apprised of the evolving demand for certification and of the development or introduction of any certification programs within their respective jurisdictions.

Competency

Level 2: The associations/Ordre should be proactive in reminding engineers that they have a responsibility to be cognizant of the existence of specialized areas of practice and that they must not practise outside their area(s) of competency.



Specialization/ Certification

Level 2: If there is a demand to identify special qualifications for engineers, then certification should be proposed as the solution to meet that demand. The profession will not provide certification only for member self-interest or to support marketing, or individual economic gain; it will only implement certification if it is in the public interest.

Level 2: Certification can be granted either internally by the profession or by external providers authorized or recognized by individual associations/Ordre. The profession should recognize certification as complementary to licensing to address the need to identify those professional engineers who are qualified to practise in certain specialized areas of engineering.

Level 3: Certification should be voluntary for the individual engineer, however, provincial/territorial associations/Ordre should inform their members and/or licensees that certification may be a prerequisite to practise in some specialized areas of engineering.

Level 3: Certification should be granted by the provincial/territorial association/Ordre in the jurisdiction in which the professional engineer wishes to practice.

Level 3: Any certification program adopted by a provincial/territorial association/Ordre will not impede the mobility of engineers because it will not affect a member's or licensees registration, nor the ability for a member of one association/Ordre to become registered/licensed with another association/Ordre.

Level 3: The requirements for a particular certification should be the same or similar in all associations/Ordre, subject to the local conditions.