

Mobility of Canadian Engineers

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The Challenge of Globalization

- Canada is the 3rd or 4th largest exporter of engineering services worldwide, but:
 - different national/state/provincial relationships
 - different educational systems
 - different quality assurance systems
 - different licensing systems and purposes
 - mobility can be inhibited by the accumulated effect of many small differences

International Agreements - Why?

- Agreement on Internal Trade has made mobility of engineers within Canada fairly seamless (engineering profession had pan-Canadian mobility agreement in place since 1999)
- Minimize requirement for detailed examination of credentials for applicants for professional registration
- Means of establishing international standards around the world
- Improved mobility for engineers

International Agreements - Why?

- Awareness of engineering education and practice around the world
- Opportunity to examine in detail the registration policies and criteria from other countries which accelerates re-evaluation and improvement of our own system
- Forum to promote Canadian policies and practices and to influence activities in other countries

Engineers Canada's Negotiations of Mutual Recognition Agreements

On behalf of its constituent associations, Engineers Canada has negotiated a number of agreements to assist in the registration of off-shore engineers and to assist Canadian engineers to be mobile internationally.



Mutual Recognition Agreements

Principles

- Restrictions only on the basis of competence and protection of public health and safety
- Credible system to validate individual engineering competence
- Strong emphasis on academic preparation (accreditation); high academic standards
- Profession is well-regarded either through statute or convention
- Monitoring/exchange of information



Mutual Recognition Agreements

Types of Agreements

- Education level (accreditation)
- Professional level

Current Agreements

Education

- Canada / USA (ABET Agreement)
- Canada / USA / United Kingdom / Ireland / Australia / New Zealand / Hong Kong / South Africa / Japan / Singapore / Chinese Taipei / Malaysia / Korea (Washington Accord)
- Canada / France

Current Agreements

Professional Qualifications

- Canada / Texas / Mexico (NAFTA)
- Canada/Texas (improvement on NAFTA)
- Canada / Hong Kong
- Canada / France
- Canada / Australia
- Canada / Ireland



The ABET Agreement

- Mutual Recognition Agreement between the ABET and Engineers Canada
- First signed in 1980, most recently renewed in 1997
- Applicable to graduates of all accredited programs (1936 for ABET; 1965 for CEAB)



The ABET Agreement

- Key components
 - accreditation is a key foundation for the practice of engineering in each country
 - accreditation criteria, policies and procedures are comparable
 - accreditation decisions rendered by one party are acceptable to the other
 - regular monitoring

The Washington Accord

- Recognition of Equivalency of Accredited Engineering Education Programs
- Signatories: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Hong Kong, South Africa, Japan, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia and Korea
- Applicable to graduates from time of joining accord

The Washington Accord

- Key components
 - Economy has a system that has demonstrated accreditation of engineering academic programs is a key foundation for the practice of engineering at the professional level
 - criteria, policies and procedures are comparable
 - accreditation decisions rendered by one party are acceptable to the other signatories
 - mutual monitoring and exchange of information



The Washington Accord

- Monitoring
 - biennial meeting of signatories as part of the International Engineering Alliance meetings updates to criteria, policies, procedures, list of accredited programs
 - regular reviews by team from Washington Accord
 - invitations to observe accreditation visits and decision meetings



The NAFTA MRD

- Mutual Recognition of registered/licensed engineers by jurisdictions of Canada, Texas and Mexico to facilitate mobility in accordance with the North American Free Trade Agreement
- Signatories - COMPII, USCIEP, Engineers Canada
- Agreement ratified by 10 of 12 Canadian jurisdictions, Texas and Mexico



The NAFTA MRD

- Key components
 - temporary licence for individual practitioner
 - licensed in home jurisdiction
 - 12 years of acceptable engineering experience (16 if not a graduate of an accredited program) of which at least 8 must be after licensure (12 if not a graduate of an accredited program)



The NAFTA MRD

- Key components cont'd
 - local laws, regulations, codes governing engineering
 - language
 - client protection
 - acceptance of cross-border discipline and enforcement

The France Agreement

- Mutual recognition agreement between La Commission des titres d'Ingénieur for France and Engineers Canada
- Signed in 1999, renewed in 2006

The France Agreement

- Key components
 - accreditation of engineering academic programs is a key foundation for the practice of engineering of both countries
 - accreditation processes used by both countries are substantially equivalent



The France Agreement

- Key components cont'd
 - simplified procedure for registering engineers:
 - in Canada - ingénieur diplômé has academic qualifications recognized without having to take technical examinations;
 - in France - P.Eng. recognized as equivalent to ingénieur diplômé, CEAB grad with one year of experience recognized as equivalent to ingénieur diplômé



The France Agreement

- Monitoring and information exchange
 - updates to criteria, policies, procedures, list of accredited programs
 - invitations to observe accreditation visits and decision meetings
 - invitations to attend annual meetings



Mutual Recognition Agreements

- Agreement between the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) and Engineers Canada signed in 2004
- Agreement between the Engineers Australia and Engineers Canada signed in 2007
- Agreement between the Engineers Ireland and Engineers Canada signed in 2009



Mutual Recognition Agreements

- Key components:
 - Based on recognition of education accreditation systems through the Washington Accord
 - Members can be registered in Canadian jurisdictions once they have demonstrated one year of Canadian experience and have written the Professional Practice Examination (engineering law and ethics)
 - P.Eng.s from Canada can be registered as members with demonstration of area of expertise



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