PROFESSIONALS AUSTRALIA

PROFESSIONALS AUSTRALIA'S ASSESSMENT SCHEME FOR ENGINEERING REGISTRATION (RPEng)

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1. Introduction

Professionals Australia's Registered Professional Engineer (RPEng) assessment scheme provides guidelines for assessing the qualifications and competencies of engineers across designated disciplines, in line with national standards for the recognition of professional engineers. The assessment process is conducted in an independent, transparent, and professional manner.

These assessment guidelines establish the eligibility criteria that Professionals Australia uses to evaluate applicants for Registered Professional Engineer (RPEng) accreditation. This document ensures that only engineers who meet rigorous, clearly defined standards are granted RPEng status.

Professionals Australia provides assessment in the following disciplines:

- Civil
- Mechanical
- Structural
- Electrical
- Geotechnical

The definitions of the terms within the assessment guidelines can be found on our website.
For any queries regarding the assessment process, please contact the Engineer Assessment Team
rpeng@professionalsaustralia.org.au

2. Engineering Disciplines

Professionals Australia is unable to provide advice on which discipline an engineer should be registered in. Engineers should seek independent legal advice about which discipline to be assessed in.

2.1 Civil Engineering

Civil engineering involves the design, construction, and maintenance of the physical and naturally built environment, e.g. dams, bridges, pipelines, roads, towers and buildings, transport systems, gas and water supplies, sewerage systems, harbours, airports and railways. Civil engineering also involves assessing the impact large scale projects have on the environment, and the collection and treatment of sewage and industrial wastes. Other environmental areas include pollution control, environmental control, transport, urban development and municipal services, resource protection of building and construction of other infrastructure and service industries.

2.2 Mechanical Engineering

Mechanical engineering is a diverse discipline that encompasses the teaching, practice and leadership of others in the development and application of scientific principles to mechanical systems. Mechanical engineering covers the ability to solve problems that deliver and optimise safe, sustainable and ethical solutions for the design, production and operation of devices, machines, structures, processes and systems involving mechanical elements. Mechanical engineering frequently overlaps and/or combines with other engineering technologies to create multi-disciplinary projects/solutions.

2.3 Structural Engineering

Structural engineering deals with the understanding, prediction, and calculation of the stability, strength and rigidity of built structures. Structures can include buildings, bridges, in-ground structures, footings, frameworks and space frames.

2.4 Electrical Engineering

Electrical engineering involves the research, design, development, manufacture, installation, operation, maintenance and management of equipment, plant and systems within the electrical, electronic, communication and computer systems areas.
These activities can apply to electricity generation, transmission, distribution, electrical installations in buildings and on industrial sites, electrical equipment manufacturing, instrumentation and control systems applications in industry, communications networks, electronic plan and equipment, and also the integration and control of computer systems.

2.5 Geotechnical Engineering

Geotechnical engineering deals with the mechanics of soil and rock and its applications to engineering elements. It deals with the analysis, design and construction of structures or systems that are made of or are supported by soil or rock.

Geotechnical engineers identify, design and implement practical solutions to engineering problems concerning soil, rock and groundwater. They apply scientific and engineering techniques to predict and manage the behaviour of the ground where it interacts with or responds to human activity.

Some of the indicative activities that may be undertaken when practising geotechnical engineering are: construction, consultancy, design, development, project management and research.

These activities could take place in any of the following geotechnical engineering domains: airports, embankments and dams, environmental, transport infrastructure, deep basement and retaining walls, foundations & piling, mining, ports, rock slope engineering, site reclamation and formation, soft ground engineering, specialist testing and instrumentation, subdivisional geotechnics, retaining walls, roads and rails and tunnelling.

3. Assessment Guidelines

3.1 Fees

Members of Professional Australia are eligible for assessment as part of their overall membership fees. Membership fees are set annually and listed on the Professionals Australia website. Click here to view the full list of fees.

3.2 Eligibility

For an engineer applying for RPEng accreditation, they must satisfy the following requirements:

Category	Requirement	Detailed Criteria
Membership	Professionals Australia Membership	Must be a **financial member of Professionals Australia**.
Qualifications	Recognised Engineering Qualification	Must meet **one** of the following: **a) Washington Accord qualification:** • Bachelor or Master of Engineering listed under the Washington Accord (1989) in the relevant or related discipline. • If applying in a different discipline, must provide evidence of **additional training**. **b) Non-Washington Accord qualification:** Australian or overseas engineering qualification assessed as **substantially equivalent** to a Washington Accord qualification by the Australian Signatory to the Washington Accord (Stage 1 Competency). **c.) Historically recognised qualification:** Engineering degree obtained prior to the Washington Accord previously recognised as equivalent by the Australian Signatory to the Washington Accord.
Work Experience	Professional Engineering Experience Minimum Threshold Guidance	Must demonstrate: • Minimum **5 years full-time experience** (or part-time equivalency) • Minimum **4 years post-graduation** experience* • Experience at a professional engineer level • Experience **relevant to the discipline** applied for • Ability to work **without direct supervision** • Obtained **within the last 10 years** *If only 4 years post-graduate experience: • Must include **1 year full-time equivalent professional-level experience** prior to graduation (within last 10 years) • Meeting the minimum experience does **not guarantee competency**, • Applicants are **strongly encouraged to exceed minimum experience** requirements. Part-time professional level work during final year of study does not meet minimum experience requirements.
Referees	Professional Referees	Must provide: • Eligible Professional Referees, a combination of verbal and written references may be requested. • Eligibility requirements for referees can be found on the website
CPD	Continuing Professional Development	Must have completed: • **50 hours of CPD** within the **12 months prior to application** • Refer to CPD Practice Note for acceptable activities and logging process
Competency Standards	Stage 2 Competency Demonstration	Must demonstrate competency across **5 elements** of the *Australian Engineering Competency Standards Stage 2*: • **Element 1**: Deal with ethical issues • **Element 2:** Practice competently • **Element 4:** Develop safe and sustainable solutions • **Element 6:** Identify, assess, and manage risks, and • **Element 13:** Engineering knowledge – according to their area of practice including a knowledge of standards and practices

3.3 Mutual recognition pathways

Applicants who meet the mutual recognition requirements have a simplified and streamlined assessment process.

Category	Requirement	Detailed Criteria
Eligibility	Recognised Registration	Eligible if holding **current state registration** in: • Queensland (RPEQ) • Victoria • Western Australia • Australian Capital Territory Eligible if holding **current industry registration** in: • **CPEng**
Assessment Approach	Streamlined Process	Applicants undergo a **simplified assessment pathway** under mutual recognition arrangements
Required Documents	Application Evidence	Must submit: • Current CV • Certified copy of registration certificate • Certified identity documents (100 points) • Evidence of **50 hours CPD (last 12 months)**
CPD Exemption	Recent Assessment or Audit	CPD evidence **not required** if: • CPEng or RPEQ awarded within last 12 months; or • CPD audit completed within last 12 months with supporting confirmation letter

3.4 How to Apply

To apply for assessment or mutual recognition, applicants must submit an application via the official website.

Applicants are required to provide supporting information and evidence as part of the application process to enable assessment against the relevant requirements.

Detailed guidance on application requirements, including the types of supporting evidence to be submitted, is published on the website. Applicants are responsible for reviewing and complying with these assessment guidelines prior to submission to ensure their application is complete and can be assessed without unnecessary delay.

Professionals Australia reserves the right to request additional information or clarification where required to support the assessment process.

Privacy
All personal information collected will be managed in accordance with the National Privacy Principles, as set out in Schedule 3 of the Commonwealth Privacy Act, and all other applicable privacy laws.

3.5 Assessment process

All assessments must be conducted in an independent and professional manner.

3.6 Notification of Outcome

Applicants will be notified via email with a Letter of Outcome advising them of the result of their application.

3.7 Australian Professional Engineers Register (APER)

Engineers who have been assessed and received a successful letter of outcome will be included on Professionals Australia's approved list (APER).

The APER will include the following information for each engineer:

- Title, first name and last name
- Discipline(s) for which the engineer assessed
- Conferral Date highlighting day, month, and year in which the assessment was approved

Refer to the eligibility criteria to remain on the APER as outlined in section 3.9.

3.8 Use of Post-Nominals

Members of Professionals Australia who have been granted RPEng accreditation may refer to themselves as a "Registered Professional Engineer of Australia" and are permitted to use the RPEng post-nominal. The use of the RPEng post-nominal is strictly limited to individuals who have been formally assessed and granted accreditation under the RPEng program. Any unauthorised use, including by individuals who have not been assessed, have not been approved, or whose accreditation has lapsed, is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.
Disciplinary action may include, where appropriate, referral to relevant regulatory bodies, including Australian state and territory regulators and applicable international regulatory authorities.

Professionals Australia does not confer or manage the use of post-nominals related to State-based registration schemes. Engineers who have also been assessed for registration with a State or Territory Authority must comply with that authority's requirements regarding the use of post-nominals and professional titles.

3.9 Renewal of RPEng Accreditation

RPEng accreditation is valid for **three years from the date of conferral**.

To remain listed on the Australian Professional Engineers Register (APER) and maintain ongoing accreditation, members of Professionals Australia who hold RPEng accreditation must:

1. Remain a Professionals Australia Member
2. Continue to adhere to the Professionals Australia Code of Ethics
3. Continue to practise as a professional engineer in their nominated discipline
4. Meet the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements as defined in the CPD practice note over the most recent three-year period

Renewal applications cannot be submitted more than three months prior to the accreditation expiry date. Members may submit one renewal application per renewal period, and the outcome of the renewal is final.

It is the responsibility of each Registered Professional Engineer (RPEng) to ensure that their

renewal application is submitted prior to the expiry of their current registration period if they wish to maintain their RPEng status.

3.9.1 Lapsed or Expired Renewal

Failure to submit a renewal application before the expiry date will result in the lapse of RPEng status. Individuals whose registration has lapsed are not entitled to use the RPEng title or post-nominal and may be required to reapply in accordance with the requirements in place at the time of reapplication.
Late renewals *may* be accepted under extenuating circumstances.

3.9.2 Career Break Consideration for Renewal

A career break is a minimum period of 3 continuous months over the last 3 years during which you did not work as a professional engineer. For example, due to illness, parental or carers leave, extended travel, cultural or ceremonial commitments, broadening knowledge, starting retirement or involuntary unemployment.

In circumstances of career breaks, reduced or part-time work, applicants must still provide evidence of 150 hours of professional development. However, leniency may be requested regarding the limits imposed in the various categories and/or extend the period in gaining the 150 hours by the period of the break(s) in practice to no more than 5 years.

3.9.3 Staying Informed of Scheme Requirements for Renewal

Applicants are expected to remain up to date with all scheme requirements. It is the responsibility of the applicant to follow the most current requirements of the scheme at the time of renewal. This includes any updates to the CPD Practice Note and other eligibility or documentation standards.

Professionals Australia reserves the right to amend or update the scheme at any time, following due process and approval by relevant committees, divisions, and boards.

Professionals Australia will endeavour to notify members of any changes, and the most current information will be made available on the Professionals Australia website.

3.10 Breaches, Complaints and Cancellation of Accreditation

All matters relating to complaints, breaches, disciplinary action, and potential cancellation of RPEng accreditation are managed in accordance with the Complaints Handling Policy. Breaches may result in disciplinary action, including removal of the engineer from the Australian Professional Engineers Register (APER). Where applicable, relevant State or Territory engineering registration authorities will also be notified.

3.11 Conflict between assessment guidelines

Where there exists a conflict between these assessment guidelines and the guidelines of a state body, the respective state body shall prevail.

Appendix A: Code of Ethics

Professional Engineers' Code of Ethics demonstrates Professionals Australia members' responsibility and commitment to society and professional engineering. The Code of Ethics is not a behavioural guide or rulebook. It provides the foundations of an ethical culture, sets ethical benchmarks, and inspires society's confidence in Professionals Australia members.

Registered Professional Engineers of Professionals Australia shall:

- At all times further the standing of the engineering profession through conducting themselves with professionalism and by displaying integrity, diligence, and decency.
- Uphold the safety, health, and wellbeing of the community.
- Practice solely in their areas of competence and communicate to relevant stakeholders when the scope of work falls outside their area of competence.
- Understand the environmental impact of their engineering services and adhere to environmentally sustainable practices.
- Provide engineering services beneficial to the economy.
- Communicate honestly and clearly to their employers and clients in relation to safety, risk, cost, time, fitness for purpose, quality, reliability, environmental impact, and economic benefit.
- Put foremost the interests of public safety when there is a conflict of interest between the interests of the public and the instructions of your employer.
- Bring evidence of poor public and private decision-making to light to authorities or the public more generally when compelled by poor practice, instruction, or negligence.
- Continue professional development in their chosen areas of competence and remain informed of major changes within their industry.
- Provide mentoring and training to ensure knowledge and skills are transferred to others.
- Not behave in a manner that would damage the reputation of themselves and others.
- Report unlawful/unethical behaviour and conflicts of interest.
- Promote ethical behaviour.
- Comply with relevant Government legislation and regulations.
- Abide by the rules of disclosure and use of classified information.
- Not misuse company, public and private property.