

Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation

Responsive. Innovative. Transparent. Efficient.



Division of Professional Regulation: *Design Unit*

The Design Unit of the Division of Professional Regulation is responsible for maintaining the public health, safety, and welfare and to be subject to regulation and control in the public interest. Each Profession is governed by its respective Act that merits the confidence of the public, and that only qualified persons shall be authorized to engage in the practice of that profession in the State of Illinois.

The Design Unit oversees the Licensing and Registration for:

- ◆ Architecture
- ◆ Professional Land Surveying
- ◆ Professional Engineering
- ◆ Structural Engineering
- ◆ Professional Design Firm

Did you know?

Illinois licenses Professional Engineers and Structural Engineers separately. There is no overlap of licensure. Each profession has separate and distinct requirements for education, examination and experience.

A Professional Engineer in Illinois cannot offer or perform any Structural Engineering services and a Structural Engineer can only offer Structural Engineering services.

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Application Changes.

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In keeping with the Department's R.I.T.E. initiative, the Application process for the design professions will soon be transitioning to a paperless online format.

Design professionals looking for enrollment as an intern or for licensure with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) will now be required to submit and pay for their application online via IDFPR's Online Services Portal.

The new online portal enables applicants to enter all required information electronically, including attachment of supplemental electronic documents. Once submitted, applicants may monitor their application's status online as it moves through IDFPR's review process.

Impacted professions include: Architecture, Professional Land Surveyors, Professional Engineering & Structural Engineering as well as the Professional Design Firm license.

"Migrating our initial application process to an online format allows for a mutually beneficial arrangement that affords the added convenience and accuracy of online forms, while providing an added layer of transparency and security," said Bryan A. Schneider, IDFPR Secretary.

"By transitioning away from the paper application, we are able to streamline tasks that, ultimately, allow us to better serve our applicants and licensees with a faster,

more modernized regulatory experience."

IDFPR's Division of Professional Regulation currently licenses over 1.1 million professionals in more than 200 license categories throughout the State of Illinois.

The actual deployment date for each profession is not yet determined, however the roll-out is expected to be in mid-July to early August of 2017.

For the most current information regarding the change, please visit the Department website here:

<http://www.idfpr.illinois.gov/News/latestnews.asp>

POINT OF INTEREST

Professional Engineer renewal

The Professional Engineer license is due to renew on **11/30/2017**.

Active licensees should receive a renewal notice email from the Department in September.

Make certain that you have a valid email address listed with the Department in order to receive the renewal notices and new license email.

FILE A COMPLAINT ONLINE

Help us protect the public.

Complaints against any individual or entity regulated by the **Division of Professional Regulation** may be filed by contacting the Complaint Intake Unit.

To file a complaint, please use:

[Online Complaint Form](#)

Have Questions?

Call the Complaint Intake Unit at **312.814.6910**.



Design Profession Trivia



Q: How many times can I sit for the FE exam in a calendar year?

A: Three.

Approved applicants may sit for the FE exam one time per quarter with a maximum attempts of three per year.

DESIGN BOARD SPOTLIGHT:

Professional Engineering

Engineering the future!

Beginning in 2018, the NCEES Principles and Practice examination will transition to a Computer Based Testing (CBT) examination platform. The first one to be available in CBT format will be the PE-Chemical exam. The new format will allow applicants to take these exams throughout the year, similar to the Fundamentals of Engineering examination.

The new format will also allow for the use of alternative item types. AITs are items other than traditional multiple-choice questions with one correct answer.

The question type may expand and could include the following:

- Multiple select (require examinees to select multiple answers)
- Point and click (require examinees to click on part of a graphic to answer)
- Drag and drop (require examinees to click on and drag items to match, sort, rank, or label)
- Fill in the blank (provide a space for examinees to enter a response to a question)

For now, all other PE exams will remain pencil-and-paper exams. The PE Chemical is the first PE exam to make the transition, but NCEES is continuing to work toward moving the other PE exams to CBT. The exams, which cover 25 engineering disciplines, are each following their own transition timetable. More information will be forthcoming by NCEES.

Adapted from NCEES *Licensure Exchange*, April 2017 issue



Want to serve on a Board?

The office of citizen is the highest office in the land. One of the best ways to participate in our democracy is by serving on a state board, commission or committee.

These groups advise Illinois' state agencies and organizations on a wide range of issues that affect public policy and welfare.

Current Board Openings:

Architecture Board
Licensed Member

Link:
[Board Member Application Form](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

To assist potential applicants for examinations and/or licensure, the Department has created an F.A.Q. document for each design profession to address the most common questions the Department receives.

Architecture : click [here](#)
Professional Land Surveyor : click [here](#)
Professional Engineering : click [here](#)
Structural Engineering : click [here](#)

Many basic functions available online.

To better serve our applicants and licensees, several important functions may be found on the Department website to ensure quick and accurate interaction with the Department.

License Look-up -
<https://ilesonline.idfpr.illinois.gov/DPR/Lookup/LicenseLookup.aspx>

License Renewal (during renewal period) -
<https://www.idfpr.illinois.gov/Renewals/defaultSSL.asp>

Download a license -
<https://www.idfpr.illinois.gov/Applications/GetMyLicense/select.asp>

Review the Code Enforcement Manual -
http://www.idfpr.illinois.gov/forms/DPR/Design_Code_Manual.pdf

Review the requirements for Professional Design Firm Registration -
<https://www.idfpr.illinois.gov/Applications/GetMyLicense/select.asp>



Continuing Education

Visit the following sites for resources on available Continuing Education courses for your renewal requirements.

Architecture

www.aiail.org
www.alatoday.org

Professional Land Surveyor

www.iplsa.org

Professional Engineering

www.illinoisengineer.com

Structural Engineering

www.seaoi.org

Upcoming Board Meetings

We invite the public to attend the open session of our Board Meetings to gain a better understanding of what issues are prevalent in the respective professions.

September:

Architect – September 7, 2017 – Chicago

Structural Engineer – September 27, 2017 – Chicago

Land Surveyor – September 29, 2017 – Chicago

Professional Engineer – September 28, 2017 – Chicago

DESIGN Times

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Monthly Discipline Report

You may review the latest monthly discipline report here:

<http://www.idfpr.illinois.gov/News/Disciplines/DiscReports.asp>

Update your Contact Information

To receive Department renewal notices, verify your information here:

[Change Your Address](#)

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