



FL Laws and Rules for Engineers

Course Number: SL-02-635

PDH: 1

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Overview

The course is divided into six sections:

1. Brief overview of the of the Florida Administrative Code and Florida Statutes applicable to professional engineers; the role of the Board; and the Florida Engineering Management Corporation (FEMC).
2. Changes to Chapter 455, F.S., Relating to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation made between March 1, 2023 and February 28, 2025
3. Changes to Chapter 471, F.S., The Florida Engineer Licensure Law made between March 1, 2023 and February 28, 2025
4. Changes to Rule 61G15-26, The Rules of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, made between March 1, 2023 and February 28, 2025
5. Chapter 61G15-23: Seals
6. Disciplinary Actions



Section 1 – Introduction and Overview

Florida Statutes

The Florida statutes are designed to provide agencies with the authority to make rules to carry out statutes. In many cases, the statute does not define specifically what can and cannot be done; that's the purpose of the Florida Administrative Code. The statutes can only be added, amended, or deleted by the legislature. There are two (2) chapters in the Florida Statutes that are of primary interest to Engineers.

Title XXXII, Chapter 455 – Business and Professional Regulation: General Provisions

Title XXXII applies to Regulation of Professions and Occupations. Chapter 455 includes general provisions that are applicable to all regulated professions, not just engineers. Some of the language in Chapter 455 is very prescriptive. Other language contains qualifiers. For example, Chapter 455.2178 states that if a Board requires continuing education, then the Board shall approve continuing education providers. In other words, the statute does not specifically require continuing education for all professions. But if a Board or department requires continuing education, then certain rules apply.

Some requirements in Chapter 455 that are applicable to engineers are:

- A Board may provide by rule that distance learning is acceptable for continuing education.
- A Board may issue a citation for certain offenses, and the Board is authorized to define the offenses for which a citation may be issued.
- The Board may provide a licensee with a notice of noncompliance for an initial offense of a minor violation. The Board is responsible for identifying those offenses for which a notice of noncompliance may be issued.
- The determination as to whether there is probable cause that a violation occurred shall be made by majority vote of a probable cause panel of the board.
- A formal hearing before an administrative law judge from the Division of Administrative Hearings shall be held if there are any disputed issues of material fact regarding a complaint.
- Allows the Board to assess an administrative fine not to exceed \$5,000 for each offense.



Title XXXII, Chapter 471 – Engineering

Chapter 471, which is specific to engineering, is also a Florida Statute that can only be amended by the legislature. Some of the requirements in Chapter 471 are:

- Defines who must be licensed as an engineer, as well as persons who are exempt from licensure.
- Defines the number of members who must serve on the Florida Board of Professional Engineers and the required background for each member.
- Places a limit on fees for licensure, renewal, certificates of authorization, etc.
- Defines the minimum requirements for licensure and licensure by endorsement.
- Establishes the creation of the Florida Engineers Management Corporation and defines the purpose, financing and operation of the management corporation.

Florida Administrative Code

The Florida Administrative Code is the official compilation of the administrative rules and regulations of state agencies. Chapter 61G15 in the Florida Administrative Code covers the Board of Professional Engineers.

Unlike the Florida Statutes, amendments, additions or deletions to Chapter 61G15 do NOT require a vote by the legislature. The Board of Professional Engineers is empowered to revise Chapter 61G15. All proposed changes to the Florida Administrative Code are published in the Florida Administrative Weekly. The website is (<https://www.flrules.org/>).

Chapter 61G15 contains very specific rules regarding the practice of engineering in the state of Florida. Some examples are:

- Defines grounds for disciplinary proceedings, in addition to those specified in the Statutes.
- Defines penalty guidelines for specific infractions of the rules.
- Defines very specific requirements for demonstration of substantial equivalency for applicants with degrees from non-EAC/ABET accredited programs.
- Prescribes exactly the form and size of seals that are acceptable.
- Prescribes procedures for sealing, signing and dating documents.
- Prescribes fees for licensure, renewal, etc. that are not in excess of the



maximum fees allowed by the Florida Statutes.

- Defines procedures for the adoption of another engineer's work.

The FEMC

The Florida Statutes establish that the Florida Board of Professional Engineers and other boards may contract with a nonprofit corporation to provide services for the regulation of professions. Below is the applicable language from Chapter 455.

- Pursuant to Chapter 455.32, the Florida Engineers Management Corporation was established. The FEMC provides administrative, investigative, and prosecutorial services to the Board.
- The FEMC has a seven-member board of directors, five of whom are appointed by the board and must be registrants regulated by the board and two of whom are appointed by the secretary and must be laypersons not regulated by the board. The management corporation may hire staff as necessary to carry out its functions. Staff of the FEMC are not public employees.
- It is important to note that the FEMC is empowered by the Board to investigate and prosecute disciplinary cases. However, the Board retains the sole authority to:
 - determine probable cause in the pursuit of disciplinary action against a licensee,
 - take final action on license applications or in disciplinary cases, and
 - adopt administrative rules.



Section 2 – Changes to Chapter 455, F.S. Relating to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation made between March 1, 2023 and February 28, 2025

Changes to the rules are summarized for your convenience.

455.02 Licensure of members of the Armed Forces in good standing and their spouses or surviving spouses with administrative boards or programs.—

A change was made that expedites the professional applications submitted by the spouses of active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(d) The department shall expedite all applications submitted by a spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to this subsection and shall issue a license within 7 days after receipt of a complete application that includes all required documentation under subparagraphs (a)1.-4.

History.—s. 2, ch. 21885, 1943; s. 5, ch. 79-36; s. 95, ch. 83-329; s. 1, ch. 84-15; s. 71, ch. 85-81; s. 6, ch. 93-220; s. 186, ch. 97-103; s. 5, ch. 2010-106; s. 4, ch. 2010-182; s. 2, ch. 2017-135; s. 7, ch. 2018-7; s. 1, ch. 2022-185.
Note.—Former s. 485.02.

455.116 Regulation trust funds.—

A change was made to the list of trust funds placed in the department. Specifically, the “Pri-mutuel Wagering Trust Fund” has been removed from the list.

The following trust funds shall be placed in the department:

- (1) Administrative Trust Fund.
- (2) Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Trust Fund.
- (3) Cigarette Tax Collection Trust Fund.
- (4) Hotel and Restaurant Trust Fund.
- (5) Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes Trust Fund.
- (6) Professional Regulation Trust Fund.

History.—s. 8, ch. 93-220; s. 44, ch. 96-418; s. 22, ch. 2008-240; s. 1, ch. 2011-30; s. 2, ch. 2012-143.



Section 3 – Changes to Chapter 471, F.S., The Florida Engineer Licensure Law made between March 1, 2023 and February 28, 2025

471.055 Structural Engineering Recognition Program for Professional Engineers.

A new program has been implemented to provide recognition for Professional Engineers who “specialize in structural engineering and have gone above and beyond the required minimum professional engineer licensing standards.” This recognition may be identified in professional practice, including marketing and advertising.

- (1) The board shall establish the Structural Engineering Recognition Program for Professional Engineers to recognize professional engineers who specialize in structural engineering and have gone above and beyond the required minimum professional engineer licensing standards. The board shall establish minimum requirements to receive recognition through the program. The board must recognize any licensed professional engineer who has successfully passed the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying Structural Engineering 16-hour PE Structural examination or any other examination approved by the board. In addition, the board may recognize any licensed professional engineer who specializes in structural engineering based on alternative criteria determined by the board.
- (2) Upon application to the board, a professional engineer who has the minimum program requirements shall be recognized as a professional engineer who has gone above and beyond in the field of structural engineering. The board may not collect a fee for such application or for recognition by the program.
- (3) A professional engineer who is recognized by the program may identify such recognition in her or his professional practice, including in marketing and advertising materials.
- (4) Recognition by the program is not required for a professional engineer to practice structural engineering.
- (5) The board shall adopt rules to implement this section.

History.—s. 1, ch. 2022-81.



Section 4 – Changes to Chapter 61G-15, F.A.C. during the period of March 1, 2021 to February 28, 2023

A second document that includes the full text of the laws and rules is included with this course and should be used to further investigate areas that are of specific importance to you and your practice.

61G15-26.001 Standards for Supervision of Governmental Employees by Professional Engineers.

A rule was removed from this section that prohibited an individual to act in the capacity of “municipal,” “city” or “county engineer” unless that individual is licensed as a Professional Engineer in the state of Florida. The removed rule is reproduced below for ease of comparison.

(2) No individual may be entitled or act in the capacity of "municipal", "city" or "county engineer" unless that individual is licensed as a professional engineer in this State.

(1) As required by section 471.003(2)(b)2., F.S. employees of governmental entities must act under the responsible charge of professional engineers as defined in subsection 61G15-18.011(1), F.A.C., whenever they are performing engineering as that term is defined in section 471.005(7), F.S. The supervision exercised over such employees by the professional engineer in responsible charge must be of such a quality as to be equivalent to that required of private firms. Further, all documents or reports which would be equivalent to those requiring a professional engineer's seal when filed for public record in the private sector will require the seal, signature and date of the supervising professional engineer when such documents or reports are filed or promulgated on behalf of a governmental entity. This rule shall prohibit non-professional employees governed by this rule from overriding, or approving, accepting or rejecting, or modifying engineering documents prepared by professional engineers unless such actions are concurred in by a professional engineer in responsible charge of the employee and that said professional engineer takes full responsibility for such a decision.

(2) This rule shall be reviewed, and if necessary, repealed, modified, or renewed through the rulemaking process five years from the effective date.

Rulemaking Authority 471.003(2)(b)2. FS. Law Implemented 471.003(1), (2)(b)2., (e), 471.005(7), 471.025(1), 471.023(1), 471.031(1)(b) FS. History-New 4-2-87, Formerly 21H-26.001, Amended 10-30-22.

Section 5 – Chapter 61G15-23: Seals

There have been significant changes to the practice and use of seals in the last several biennium. Some of the rules regarding the practice and use of seals have been reproduced below for your convenience. For the full rules, please refer to the document provided with this course's materials.

61G15-23.002 Seals Acceptable to the Board

(1) Only the following seals are authorized to be used pursuant to Section 471.025, F.S.;

- (a) Wet Seals: A Wet Seal is any seal physically applied to a printed document capable of leaving a permanent ink representation or other form of opaque permanent impression on the printed document that complies with subsection 61G15-23.002(2), F.A.C.;
- (b) Embossing Seals: An Embossing Seal is any seal physically applied to a printed document capable of leaving a permanent crimped representation or other form of permanent raised impression on the printed document that complies with subsection 61G15-23.002(2), F.A.C.; or
- (c) Digitally Created Seals: A Digitally Created Seal is any seal created as part of the document and not physically applied that is an opaque permanent representation that complies with subsection 61G15-23.002(2), F.A.C.

(2) Wet Seals, Embossing Seals and Digitally Created Seals shall be a minimum of 1-7/8 inches in diameter and shall be of a design similar to those set forth in subsections (a), (b) and (c) below. When utilizing Digitally Created Seals, the requirement of a minimum diameter of 1-7/8 inches shall be met when the image is represented in native (unreduced) document size.

- (a) The seal must contain the licensee's given name, the licensee's license number immediately preceded by the designation "No", the words "PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER" and the words "STATE OF FLORIDA" similar to that depicted here:



- (b) If the seal is for a temporary license, it must also contain the words "TEMPORARY LICENSE" and the date that the license expires in the form of



“Month – Day – Year”

immediately preceded by the word “EXPIRES” similar to that depicted here:



- (a) For Professional Engineers who are in good standing under both Chapters 471 and 472, F.S., a seal similar to that depicted here may be used.



- (b) Seals may contain an abbreviated form of the licensee’s given name or a combination of initials representing the licensee’s given name provided the surname listed with the Board appears on the seal and in the signature.

Rulemaking Authority 471.025, 471.033(2) FS. Law Implemented 471.025, 471.033(1)(a) FS. History–New 1-8-80,

Amended 1- 20-85, Formerly 21H-23.02, Amended 5-14-86, Formerly 21H-23.002, Amended 11-15-94, 8-18-98, 2-3-00, 2-22-01, 2-5-04, 1-31- 08, 5-6-09, 11-3-15, 11-16-20.

61G15-23.003 Procedures for Physically Signing and Sealing Plans, Specifications, Reports or Other Documents.

Engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents which must be signed, dated and sealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 471.025, F.S., and Rule 61G15-23.001, F.A.C. may be physically signed, dated and sealed as provided herein by the professional engineer in responsible charge.



(1) The licensee shall sign by hand an original of the licensee's signature on each page required to be sealed. A scanned, facsimile, digitally created or copied image of the licensee's signature shall not be used.

(2) The licensee must then use a wet seal, a digitally created seal, or an embossing seal placed partially overlapping the licensee's signature on each page required to be sealed. The placement of the seal shall not render the signature illegible.

Rulemaking Authority 471.025(1), 668.006 FS. Law Implemented 471.025 FS. History—New 8-18-98, Amended 9-4-05, 5-6-09, 1-5-12, 8-20-12, 12-10-13, 11-3-15.

61G15-23.004 Procedures for Digitally Signing and Sealing Electronically Transmitted Plans, Specifications, Reports or Other Documents.

(1) Engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents which must be signed, dated and sealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 471.025, F.S., and Rule 61G15-23.001, F.A.C., may be signed digitally as provided herein by the professional engineer in responsible charge. As used herein, the terms "certification authority," and "digital signature" shall have the meanings ascribed to them in Sections 668.003(2) and (3), F.S.

(2) A professional engineer utilizing a digital signature to electronically sign and seal engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents shall have their identity authenticated by a certification authority and shall assure that the digital signature is:

- (a) Unique to the person using it;
- (b) Capable of verification;
- (c) Under the sole control of the person using it; and,
- (d) Linked to a document in such a manner that the digital signature and correspondingly the document is invalidated if any data in the document is changed.

(3) The affixing of a digital signature to engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents as provided herein shall constitute the signing and sealing of such items.

(a) A digitally created seal as set forth in Rule 61G15-23.002, F.A.C., may be placed where it would appear if the item were being physically signed, dated and sealed.

(b) The date that the digital signature was placed into the document must appear on the document in accordance with subsection 61G15-23.001(4), F.A.C., and where it would appear if the item were being physically signed, dated and sealed.

(c) The engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents being digitally signed and sealed shall include text to indicate the following and place it where an original signature would appear if the item were being physically signed, dated and sealed:

- 1. The same information required by subsection 61G15-23.002(2), F.A.C., if a digitally created image of the seal is not use.
- 2. The item has been digitally signed and sealed; and,
- 3. Printed copies of this document are not considered signed and sealed and all signatures must be verified on any electronic copies.

(d) Formatting of seals and text like that depicted below shall be used. While the formatting may



be altered, the text must remain identical.

1. When a digitally created seal is used:



This item has been digitally signed and sealed by [NAME] on the date adjacent to the seal.

Printed copies of this document are not considered signed and sealed and the signature must be verified on any electronic copies.

2. When a digitally created seal is not used:

[NAME], State of Florida, Professional Engineer, License No. [NUMBER]

This item has been digitally signed and sealed by [NAME] on the date indicated here.

Printed copies of this document are not considered signed and sealed and the signature must be verified on any electronic copies.

- (e) When engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents contain multiple sheets or pages, the licensee may apply a single digital signature per electronically transmitted item as set out in Rule 61G15-23.001, F.A.C. A digital signature applied to an item in electronic form shall have the same force and effect as signing all of the individual sheets or pages contained within that item unless otherwise limited as specified in subsection 61G15-30.003(3), F.A.C.
- (f) In the case where multiple licensees sign and seal a single item, each licensee shall apply their digital signature and include qualifying language with those items required in paragraph (e) of this rule, thoroughly describing what portions the licensee is taking responsibility for.
- (g) Beginning on the effective date of this rule amendment, November 2, 2020, and continuing until December 31, 2020, the restriction contained in subparagraph (3)(c)3., above, and the text of required language illustrated in subparagraphs (3)(d)1. and 2., that printed copies of digitally signed and sealed plans or documents are not considered signed and sealed is removed, and printed copies of said plans or documents are deemed validly signed and sealed for any purpose allowed by law. After December 31, 2020, the existing restriction is reinstated. Any licensee seeking to use printed copies of digitally signed and sealed plans or documents must retain an original copy of the signed and sealed plans.

Rulemaking Authority 471.025(1), 471.033(2), 471.008 FS. Law Implemented 471.025, 471.033(1)(j), 668.003, 668.006 FS. History—New 11-3-15, Amended 9-7-17, 6-19-18, 11-2-20.

61G15-23.005 Procedures for Electronically Signing and Sealing Electronically Transmitted Plans, Specifications, Reports or Other Documents.

(1) Engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents which must be signed, dated and



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sealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 471.025, F.S., and Rule 61G15-23.001, F.A.C., may be signed electronically as provided herein by the professional engineer in responsible charge. As used herein, the term “electronic signature” shall have the meanings ascribed to them in Sections 668.003(2), (3) and (4), F.S.

(2) The SHA or Secure Hash Standard authentication code is described in Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 180-4 “Secure Hash Standard,” August 2015, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference by the Board and can be obtained from the internet website: <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-05976>.

(3) A professional engineer utilizing an electronic signature to sign and seal engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents shall:

- (a) Create a static electronic version, such as PDF, of the engineering document(s) that is to be electronically transmitted;
- (b) Compute an SHA-1 authentication code for each electronic engineering document;
- (c) Create a printable “signature report” that contains the licensee’s given name, the licensee’s license number, and a list of the electronic files to be signed and sealed that includes a brief description of each engineering document and the SHA authentication code of each engineering document;
- (d) Print and physically sign, date and seal the “signature report” in compliance with Rule 61G15-23.003, F.A.C.; and,
- (e) Transmit the signed, dated and sealed “signature report” to the receiving party along with each electronically signed, dated and sealed engineering document either by hardcopy or electronic scan. If scanned and sent electronically, the hardcopy of the signed and sealed report shall be retained by the licensee in accordance with Rule 61G15-30.009, F.A.C. Each engineering document is considered to be electronically signed and sealed if the document’s SHA authentication code matches the SHA authentication code on the physically signed, dated and sealed “signature report.”

(4) The affixing of an electronic signature to engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents as provided herein shall constitute the signing and sealing of such items.

- (a) digitally created seal as set forth in Rule 61G15-23.002, F.A.C., may be placed where it would appear if the item were being physically signed, dated and sealed.
- (b) The date that the electronic signature is to be placed into the document must appear on the document in accordance with subsection 61G15-23.001(5), F.A.C., and where it would appear if the item were being physically signed, dated and sealed.
- (c) The engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents being electronically signed and sealed shall include text to indicate the following and place it where an original signature would appear if the item were being physically signed, dated and



sealed:

1. The same information required by subsection 61G15-23.002(2), F.A.C. if a digitally created seal is not used,
2. The item has been electronically signed and sealed using a SHA authentication codes; and,
3. Printed copies of the document are not considered signed and sealed and all SHA authentication code must be verified on any electronic copies.

(d) Formatting of seals and text similar to that depicted below shall be used.

While the formatting may be altered, the text must remain identical.

1. When a digitally created seal is used:



This item has been electronically signed and sealed by [NAME] on the date adjacent to the seal using a SHA authentication code.

Printed copies of this document are not considered signed and sealed and the SHA authentication code must be verified on any

2. When a digitally created seal is not used:

[NAME], State of Florida, Professional Engineer, License No. [NUMBER]

This item has been electronically signed and sealed by [NAME] on the date indicated here using a SHA authentication code.

Printed copies of this document are not considered signed and sealed and the SHA authentication code must be verified on any electronic copies.

(e) Beginning on the effective date of this rule amendment, November 2, 2020, and continuing until December 31, 2020, the restriction contained in subparagraph (4)(c)3., above, and the text of required language illustrated in subparagraphs (4)(d)1. and 2., that printed copies of electronically signed and sealed plans or documents are not considered signed and sealed is removed, and printed copies of said plans or documents are deemed validly signed and sealed for any purpose allowed by law. After December 31, 2020, the existing restriction is reinstated. Any licensee seeking to use printed copies of electronically signed and sealed plans or documents must retain an original copy of the signed and sealed plans.

Rulemaking Authority 471.025(1), 471.033(2), 471.008 FS. Law Implemented 471.025, 668.006 FS. History--New 11-3-15, Amended 2-3-16, 10-26-16, 9-7-17, 6-19-18, 11-2-20.



Section 6 – Disciplinary Cases

Information on disciplinary cases is taken from the Florida Board of Professional Engineers' Newsletter. These cases are presented for the sole purpose of educating engineers to prevent practices that are contrary to the health, security, and welfare of the public.

FBPE would like to note that every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of discipline information; however, this should not be relied upon without verification from the Board office or website. If you would like to verify whether an engineer or firm has been previously disciplined, please go to myfloridalicense.com. If you have any questions related to the cases posted in this section or about the complaint/disciplinary process, please contact FBPE's Legal Department at (850) 521-0500.

Case 1:

Edward Landers
PE No. 38398 – Revoked
Case Nos. 2021023076 & 2022019305

Licensee was charged with violating Section 471.033(1)(k), Florida Statutes, practicing engineering with a restricted license. Respondent violated the terms of two prior final orders by practicing electrical and mechanical engineering services when he was restricted from doing so.

Ruling: The case was presented to the full Board. The Board revoked Mr. Landers' PE license and imposed administrative fines of \$5,000 per case (\$10,000 total) and total costs of \$15,057.40. Final Order was filed May 3, 2023.

Violation: Section 471.033(1)(k), Florida Statutes

Violation Reference:

471.033 Disciplinary proceedings.— (1) The following acts constitute grounds for which the disciplinary actions in subsection (3) may be taken: (k) Violating any order of the board or department previously entered in a disciplinary hearing.

Case 2:

Zeyn B. Uzman
PE No. 58874 – Reprimand
Case No. 2020002589



In Case No. 2020002589, Respondent was charged with violating Section 471.033(1)(a) & (g), Florida Statutes, and Rule 61G15-19.001(4)(a) & (b), Florida Administrative Code; negligence in the practice of engineering. In the two counts, Mr. Uzman did not exercise due care in preparing engineering documents that he signed, dated, and sealed for two timber pedestrian bridges over a water channel in Boca Raton and were not issued in compliance with acceptable engineering practices.

On December 11, 2017, Respondent signed, sealed, and dated structural engineering design documents and calculations for two timber pedestrian bridges over a water channel located in Boca Raton, (Boca Bayou Project). On April 26, 2021, Respondent signed, sealed, and dated updated structural engineering design calculation for the Boca Bayou Project. Respondent's documents were found materially deficient as follows:

- (a) The provided supporting calculations did not include a lateral analysis for the structure (FBC 1609).
- (b) The lateral capacity of the piles was not indicated in the calculations (FBC 1810)
- (c) No geotechnical report was requested to confirm lateral or vertical capacity assumptions of the piles. Florida Building Code (FBC) Section 1803 and 1603.1.6.
- (d) The wind design data was not provided in accordance with FBC 1603.1.4. Calculations did not show that piles have been designed for combined flexural and axial loads, in accordance with AASHTO 8.10.
- (e) Design values specific on plans for visually graded southern pine dimensioned lumber (2"-4" thick) exceeds the values found in the March 2013 Addendum to the National Design Specification for Wood Construction (NDS). The design values used appear to be the design values superseded by said addendum.

Additionally, the structural calculation submittal for the Boca Bayou Project was missing an index sheet, P.E. license number, the project address, and the relevant codes and chapters. The plan sheets for the Boca Bayou Project were missing the title block with the printed name, address, and license number of the engineer. The piling log for the Boca Bayou Project was missing a signature page/cover letter, information identifying the engineer, and the project address. As a result, but not limited to, the deficiencies above, Respondent was charged with violating Section 471.033(1)(g), Florida Statutes, and Rule 61G15-19.001(4), F.A.C., by being negligent in the practice of engineering. One count was attributed to the Structural Design Documents, and a second count was attributed to Respondent's failure to properly seal engineering documents.

Ruling: The case was presented to the full Board upon a Settlement Stipulation. The



Board imposed an administrative fine of \$2,000 (\$1,000 per count) and costs of \$2,634; a Reprimand; an appearance before the Board; and a two-year probation with terms. The terms include reviews of all structural projects and reports at six- and 18-month intervals; and successful completion of the Board's Study Guide and a Board-approved basic course in engineering ethics and professionalism. Final Order was filed April 21, 2022.

Violation: Section 471.033(1)(a) & (g), Florida Statutes, and 61G15-19.001(4)(a) & (b), Florida Administrative Code.

Violation Reference:

471.033 Disciplinary proceedings.— (1) The following acts constitute grounds for which the disciplinary actions in subsection (3) may be taken: (a) Violating any provision of s. 455.227(1), s. 471.025, or s. 471.031, or any other provision of this chapter or rule of the board or department. (g) Engaging in fraud or deceit, negligence, incompetence, or misconduct, in the practice of engineering.

61G15-19.001 Grounds for Disciplinary Proceedings.

(4) A professional engineer shall not be negligent in the practice of engineering. The term negligence set forth in Section 471.033(1)(g), F.S., is herein defined as the failure by a professional engineer to utilize due care in performing in an engineering capacity or failing to have due regard for acceptable standards of engineering principles. Professional engineers shall approve and seal only those documents that conform to acceptable engineering standards and safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the public. Failure to comply with the procedures set forth in the Responsibility Rules as adopted by the Board of Professional Engineers shall be considered as non-compliance with this section unless the deviation or departures therefrom are justified by the specific circumstances of the project in question and the sound professional judgment of the professional engineer.



Bibliography

The following is a list of resources used to develop the course content:

- Changes to Chapter 61G15, F.A.C., and Chapter 61, F.A.C. available at <https://fbpe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/61G15-as-of-08-30-23.pdf>
- Changes to Chapter 455, F.S. and 471, F.S. available at <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/>
 - http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0455/0455.html
 - <https://fbpe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-Statutes-Chapter-471.pdf>
- Florida Administrative Code and Administrative Register <https://www.flrules.org/>
- Disciplinary Cases from <https://fbpe.org/legal/disciplinary-actions/>



Inquiries about this course

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