



NCEES



MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT

**BETWEEN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
EXAMINERS FOR ENGINEERING AND
SURVEYING (USA) AND THE ENGINEERING
COUNCIL (UK)**

MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT

Between

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES, USA) and the Engineering Council (UK) together “the parties”.

To facilitate mobility of engineering professionals through streamlined Professional Registration/Membership processes.

1. PARTIES

NCEES is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to advance licensure for engineers and surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public. NCEES members are the engineering and surveying licensure boards from all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Engineering Council was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1981 to regulate the engineering profession in the UK.

2. DEFINITIONS

Within this document, the following definitions apply:

- 2.1 “Mutual recognition” means the process of establishing the competence of an individual for independent practice in an engineering occupational role as a requirement of Professional Registration/Licensure.
- 2.2 “Home Jurisdiction” means the jurisdiction in which an engineer making application under this agreement already holds Professional Registration/Licensure.
- 2.3 “Host Jurisdiction” means the jurisdiction to which an engineer applies for Professional Registration/Licensure under the terms of this Agreement.
- 2.4 “Professional Registration/Licensure” means recognition by a Signatory or Participating Authority awarded on the basis of a demonstration of competence for independent practice through a professional review based on the competency framework UK-SPEC or a US Member Board PE License, in combination with the International Professional Engineer title (IntPE).
- 2.5 “Participating Authority” means a UK Professional Engineering Institution (PEI) licensed by the Engineering Council to award CEng that has ratified this agreement. A list of current Participating Authorities will be maintained by the Engineering Council and provided to NCEES This list is shown in Appendix 3.
- 2.6 “Participating Member Board” means a US Licensing Authority that has opted into this agreement. Participating states agree to accept an NCEES record from a UK Chartered Engineer that has been gained via this agreement. A current list of Participating Member Boards will be maintained by NCEES and be provided to The Engineering Council. This list is shown in Appendix 4.

2.7 Nothing in this agreement supersedes national or state legislation as applicable in the jurisdiction of the Participating Authority or Participating Member Board.

3. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

3.1 This Agreement provides for a streamlined process by which engineers with Professional Registration/Licensure in their home jurisdiction in this agreement can gain recognition in the host jurisdiction. The agreement is intended to provide

- a streamlined route to the UK Chartered Engineer title for US Professional Engineers with a state license and
- a streamlined route to a US Member Board Professional Engineer license for UK Chartered Engineers.

3.2 This Agreement is intended to streamline the admission pathway in the host jurisdiction for engineers holding a Professional Registration/Registered Professional Title/License in the home jurisdiction. This Agreement aims to:

- minimise duplication of assessment processes
- recognise jurisdictional differences and organizational autonomy
- maintain confidence in the quality of Professional Registration/Licensure decisions in both jurisdictions
- avoid restrictions on the cross-border provision of a service.

3.3 This Agreement covers engineers who have been admitted to any of the following Professional Registrations:

3.3.1 Professional Engineer

- Chartered Engineer (CEng), who also holds the title International Professional Engineer (IntPE), awarded by the Engineering Council, UK
- Professional Engineer (PE), licensed in a participating US Member Board, who also holds the title International Professional Engineer (IntPE), awarded by NCEES. This is also known as an NCEES International Registered Professional Engineer (IRPE)
- The requirements for attaining IntPE/IRPE in each jurisdiction are set in Appendix 1

3.4 Nothing in this Agreement shall apply to individual practice or malpractice disputes.

3.5 Engineers who have gained Professional Registration/Licensure in the home jurisdiction through another mutual recognition pathway, containing exemptions from the usual assessment process, are not eligible for the pathways set out in this agreement.

4. MUTUAL RECOGNITION PROVISIONS

4.1 The parties agree to apply processes and criteria consistent with the mutual recognition pathways set out in Appendix 2 when considering applications for Professional Registration/Licensure from engineers who hold /Professional Registration/Licensure in the home jurisdiction.

- 4.2 The Parties respect jurisdictional autonomy and recognise that there may be additional criteria imposed relevant to:
 - 4.2.1 local jurisdictional practices, or the legislative or regulatory framework.
 - 4.2.2 discipline-specific requirements of a Participating Authority or Participating Member Board.

5. DISCIPLINE AND ENFORCEMENT

- 5.1 Both Parties and all Participating Authorities and Participating Member Boards will cooperate to the extent possible on disciplinary and enforcement issues.
- 5.2 An application for Professional Registration/Licensure made under this Agreement must include a question requiring the applicant to disclose any sanctions related to the practice of engineering in other jurisdictions. Information regarding sanctions may be considered in the assessment process.
- 5.3 An application for Professional Registration/Licensure can only be made under this Agreement if the applicant provides written permission for parties to distribute and exchange assessment information and any information regarding sanctions between all involved jurisdictions.
- 5.4 Failure to fully disclose or provide any of the required information may be the basis for denial of the application, or for sanctions, including revocation of the Professional Registration/Licensure.
- 5.5 Each jurisdiction will take appropriate action in accordance with their rules and regulations if an engineer violates the standards of that jurisdiction. Each jurisdiction shall promptly report sanctions to the other jurisdiction in which it knows the engineer is recognised via an appropriate alert mechanism.
- 5.6 A jurisdiction will take appropriate action, subject to its own rules and regulations and the principle of natural justice, related to a sanction that is reported to them by another jurisdiction.

6. IMMIGRATION AND VISA ISSUES

- 6.1 Professional Registration/Certification granted under this Agreement in a Host Jurisdiction does not preclude the need to conform to applicable immigration and visa requirements of the Host Jurisdiction.

7. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- 7.1 The Parties will notify each other and provide copies of any major changes in policy, criteria, procedures and programmes that might affect this Agreement.
- 7.2 The Parties will provide an annual report to each other on all applicants who have applied pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.
- 7.3 The Parties will from time-to-time undertake mutual observation of processes and procedures. This shall be done routinely as part of the renewal of the agreement.

8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 8.1 The Parties to this Agreement will at all times endeavour to agree on the interpretation and application of this Agreement and will make every attempt through co-operation and consultation to arrive at a mutually satisfactory resolution of any matter that might affect its operation. If a dispute arises that cannot be resolved through informal discussions within sixty (60) days of when the dispute arises, the Parties will attempt to resolve the dispute through non-binding mediation and/or another form of alternative dispute resolution as may be agreed upon by the Parties, prior to any Party resorting to litigation.
- 8.2 The Parties may request in writing consultation with the other Party regarding any actual or proposed measure or any other matter that it considers might affect the operation or interpretation of this Agreement.

9. TERM OF AGREEMENT

- 9.1 This Agreement will come into effect when signed by the Parties.
- 9.2 This Agreement supersedes all other such mutual recognition agreements between NCEES, the Engineering Council and the Participating Authorities.
- 9.3 The Parties will review and update the Agreement and recommend changes where appropriate at least every five (5) years. This Agreement may be amended, however, only with the written consent of both Parties.

10. TERMINATION

- 10.1 A Party or any Participating Authority may withdraw from this Agreement six (6) months after it provides written notice of withdrawal to the other Party. If a Participating Authority withdraws, the Agreement will remain in force for the remaining Participating Authorities.
- 10.2 If at any time all Participating Authorities have withdrawn from the Agreement, the Agreement will automatically terminate.
- 10.3 Any registrant approved or in the process of being assessed at the time of the Agreement being terminated will be treated as if this Agreement is still in existence.

NCEES

Engineering Council

Date Executed:

APPENDIX 1

The requirements for attaining IntPE/IRPE in each jurisdiction.

Requirement	NCEES International Registered Professional Engineer (IntPE)	Engineering Council CEng IntPE
Registration /Licensure	Be a citizen or permanent resident currently licensed as a professional engineer in a U.S. state or territory	Be currently registered as a Chartered Engineer and member of a UK PEI
Discipline	Hold a record clean of disciplinary action	Be currently in good standing with your PEI and have no disciplinary action outstanding
Underpinning Knowledge and Understanding	Have a degree from an EAC ABET-accredited engineering program, or an accredited degree recognised under the Washington Accord.	An accredited degree recognised under the Washington Accord, or equivalent academic qualification
Experience	Have at least seven years of qualifying experience, including two years in responsible charge of significant engineering work	Have at least seven years of qualifying experience, including two years in responsible charge of significant engineering work
Assessment	Have passing scores on the NCEES FE and PE examinations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Have demonstrated underpinning engineering knowledge and understanding to UK/European Masters level in their discipline 2) Have demonstrated that they meet the UK standard of competence and commitment set out in UK-SPEC through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Professional Review part 1: assessment of discipline-specific documentary evidence b) Professional Review part 2: in-depth interview by two trained assessors, including applicant presentation 3) Approval from registration committee
Competence	NCEES Model Rules and IPEA professional competences	UK-SPEC Chartered Engineer Competences and IPEA professional competences
Continuing Professional Development	Have met the applicable continuing professional competency (CPC) requirements of the jurisdiction(s) where you are licensed. If the jurisdiction does not have a CPC requirement, the applicant must comply with the NCEES CPC Standard	Carry out and record the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) necessary to maintain and enhance competence in their own area of practice
Discipline-specific and jurisdictional requirements (e.g., local laws, ethics exam)	Handled at Member Board level	Handled by PEI

APPENDIX 2

MUTUAL RECOGNITION PATHWAYS

The Professional Registration/Licensure processes of the Parties are as follows:

a) NCEES requirements to obtain an NCEES Record as the Host Jurisdiction

An NCEES Record is a verified compilation of information an applicant is required to submit to a state licensing board as part of the licensure application process. Each completed Record is a verified compilation of an applicant's official academic transcripts, full employment history, professional references, and exam results.

The NCEES Record is designed to meet the licensure requirements of most states. Since licensure requirements vary from state to state, there may be times when a Record holder must submit additional information to a state licensing board to satisfy its licensure requirements. This may include information about their education, references, existing licenses, or experience information.

Standard application requirements	Required under the Agreement Y/N	Notes
Submission of an application form	Yes	Create online NCEES record
References	Yes, but can be UK registrants.	Five references who can reflect the character and diversity of your experience and are personally acquainted with your professional reputation. For engineering applicants, references must be engineers who are licensed in the United States.
Education information	Yes	Details for each college, university, and technical school attended, including transcripts. NCEES accepts the UK PEI assessment of the academic base as meeting NCEES/IntPE requirements.
Professional Experience	Yes	Chronological listing of work experience beginning with graduation from a university
Competence assessment	No	Already meets IntPE requirements
FE and PE exam verification	No	Exempt under the agreement
CPD review	In line with Member Board requirements	IntPE CPD requirements already met
Local knowledge and/or discipline specific practice assessment (e.g., local laws and ethics exam)	In line with Member Board requirements	
Approval by NCEES Member Board	Yes	

b) Engineering Council requirements for registration as a Chartered Engineer (CEng) as the Host Jurisdiction

The Engineering Council was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1981 to regulate the engineering profession in the UK. The standards of professional competence and commitment are set out in the UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence (UK-SPEC). This standard requires registrants to make a commitment to recording their CPD activities. Participating Authorities undertake random samples of professionally active registrants' CPD records on an annual basis.

Standard application requirements	Required under the Agreement (Y/N)	Notes
Submission of an application form	Yes	In English
Academic assessment	No	Applicants are required to provide copies of academic qualifications
Holistic competence assessment	No	
Local knowledge and/or discipline specific practice assessment	Yes	Any assessment is normally to be restricted to situations where UK-specific knowledge or discipline-specific requirements are applied as standard to home candidates
Professional Review Interview	No	Any assessment of Local Knowledge or current competence may involve an interactive interview
CPD review	In line with UK Participating Authority requirements	Registrants are required to ensure their CPD records are up to date. UK Participating authorities undertake annual random samples of professionally active registrants' CPD records and provide feedback.
Registration (Professional Registration/Membership) Committee Approval	Yes	

Assessment Process

On receipt of an application through this agreement, the Host Jurisdiction/Participating Authority will contact the Home Jurisdiction/Participating Authority to request confirmation of Professional Registration/Certification status, and registration/licensure date and date of being admitted to the international register (IntPE).

Interactive assessments or professional review interviews will only be used if their purpose is to assess local knowledge and/or discipline specific practice.

Written assignments or formal examinations may also be valid mechanisms for assessing local knowledge or discipline specific practice if they are used for the same purpose for assessing local engineers in the host jurisdiction.

Appendix 3

List of UK Participating Authorities (subject to ratification)

1. BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT
2. British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing (BINDT)
3. Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)
4. Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE)
5. Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (CICES)
6. Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT)
7. Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering (CIPHE)
8. Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
9. Energy Institute (EI)
10. Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)
11. Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
12. Institution of Chemical Engineers (ICHEM)
13. Institution of Engineering Designers (IED)
14. Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)
15. Institute of Explosives Engineers (IExpE)
16. Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE)
17. Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM)
18. Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE)
19. Institute of Healthcare Engineering and Estate Management (IHEEM)
20. Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP)
21. Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMarEST)
22. Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMECH)
23. Institute of Measurement and Control (InstMC)
24. Institution of Royal Engineers (InstRE)
25. Institute of Acoustics (IOA)
26. Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3)
27. Institute of Physics (IOP)
28. Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM)
29. Institution of Railway Signal Engineers (IRSE)
30. Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE)
31. Institute of Water
32. INCOSE UK, the UK Chapter of the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE)
33. Permanent Way Institution (PWI)
34. Nuclear Institute (NI)
35. Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS)
36. Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA)
37. Safety and Reliability Society (SaRS)
38. The Society of Operations Engineers (SOE)
39. The Welding Institute

Links are found here: <https://www.engc.org.uk/peis>

Appendix 4

List of Participating US Member Boards