



Bruce Pitts, P.L.S.

Practicing Within Your Area(s) of Declared Competence

Board Statutes and Rules require that licensees practice only in the area(s) of their competence and shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education, examination, or experience in the specific technical fields of engineering involved. Statute changes effective last November clarified the necessity of license holders to only work within their designated area(s) of competence and declared this practice to be a **violation**, specifically stating in Title 59, 475.18(14) *“The Board shall have the power to deny, place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue, a certificate or license, or fine, reprimand, issue orders, levy administrative fines or seek other penalties, if a person or entity is found guilty of:*

.... 14. Performing engineering or surveying services outside any of the licensee’s areas of competence or areas of competence designated in the official Board records”.

In this regard, it’s imperative that you double check your official board record online to verify that the area(s) of competence you declared are the area(s) in which you are practicing. You may access your online lookup at:

https://www.ok.gov/pels/Licensees/License_Lookup/index.html or go to **www.pels.ok.gov** and click on Licensees and Licensee Lookup.

If you find it necessary to add an area of competence to those you previously listed with the Board, the process to do so is simple and includes three pathways a licensee can follow to qualify to add a new discipline: **education, examination or experience**. The Board Rules found in Section 245: 15-9-4 explain these pathways as follows:

- “Upon application a licensee can add a discipline by submitting one of the following:*
- (A) a transcript showing a degree(s) in the discipline(s) of engineering; or*
 - (B) a supplementary experience record documenting at least 4 years of experience in the discipline(s) of engineering and verified by at least one PE reference provider that has personal knowledge of the applicant’s character, reputation, suitability for licensure, and engineering experience; or*
 - (C) verification of successful passage of the examination (s) on the principles and practice of engineering in the discipline(s) of engineering.”*

The Board has a very efficient process for approving a license holder to add an area of competence to their official board record. Please take a moment to review your license online by following the instructions above and be cognizant of the discipline(s) of engineering in which you are engaging. While you are there, verify that your contact information is correct and ensure that your professional license is protected.