

Notice of Proposed Regulations Changes – State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS), dealing with structural engineer, seal and use of seals, continuing education requirements, and definitions. Notice Published: November 25, 2014

Below are responses to questions received on the AELS proposed regulations. The period for written comments ends January 23, 2015. To be considered, comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on January 23, 2015

Regulatory Questions

1 11/25/2014	Does this current revision add a different kind or classification of structural engineer or will the two be the same? In other words, I received my AEL C11152 (Civil Engineering) stamp in 2004. Then I submitted plans and calculations in 2012 to receive my AEL T13423 (Structural Engineering). Once this new regulation is in place, will I need to submit again to get an AEL SE XXXX if I want to perform structural engineering on major structures or will the AEL T13423 suffice?
Under the proposed regulations, you will not have to reapply. You will just buy another stamp that says “Professional Structural Engineer” instead of Professional Engineer and your number is SE 13423. Use the two letter designation for structural engineer instead of the T.	

2 12/01/2014	Is there anywhere in the board minutes that discusses how they came up with the proposed regulations? Was there a committee report or something else that shows the logic used?
You will find a discussion on this in the November 2013 minutes starting at the bottom of page 17. The motion to public notice it is in the January 2014 minutes on page 4. The link to the webpage is: http://commerce.alaska.gov/dnn/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofArchitectsEngineersandLandSurveyors.aspx	

3 12/04/2014	It appears from the proposed addition of requirements to sit for a Structural Engineering exam one must first already have a PE license in some other Alaska discipline, which I presume to be a Civil Engineering license. Is this correct? Does this mean that future applicants for Structural Engineering must first have to sit through an exam in some other discipline before they can qualify to sit for the Structural exam? I have been involved in comments submitted to the Board from the IEEE as it relates to new sub-disciplines created in Electrical Engineering. In those proposals it was clarified that those with general “Electrical Engineering” registrations would be allowed to continue work in the sub-discipline if they deemed themselves qualified; but that new applicants for the sub-discipline need only take the exam for that sub-discipline and not be required to already have an EE designation. It sounds like the state is proposing current Civil Engineers that might already practice Structural Engineering must sit for a new exam. Am I understanding this correctly?
Yes, to sit for the SE exam an applicant must already have a PE registration in any branch, it doesn’t have to be civil. Those civil engineers who already practice structural engineering and did not opt to get the SE stamp during the previous grandfathering period will have another chance to do so without taking another exam. The Board is going to allow a second grandfathering period because the Board changed the regulations after telling them they could continue to practice as they always have.	

4 12/04/2014	For those just graduating that wish to practice in Structural Engineering does this mean they will have to first sit for another exam discipline? Or can they just take the Structural Engineering exam outright for the first time? The way the proposed regulation is written it sounds like they would first have to become some other type of engineer to qualify to be a Structural Engineer.
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Yes, an individual would have to have a PE license in some other discipline before they can sit for the SE.

5 12/09/2014	How will a person licensed in Alaska as PE but passed SE-I and SE-II be able to be licensed as SE in Alaska? Shall I submit an application, document 2 project plans and get reference letters? Or just submit an application without submitting 2 project plans and reference letters?
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If you are already licensed as a structural engineer in Alaska, the only part of these proposed regulation changes that effect you is the one regarding the continuing education requirements. The Board is proposing to change it from a total of 24 PHD's to a minimum of 24 PDH's with at least 8 in each discipline you are licensed in.

6 12/09/2014	Can the same two engineers who are used as references in (d) be the references for the projects of (e) or are 4 different reference engineers required in total. In other words how many total individual reference engineers are required two or four.
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Yes, under proposed 12 AAC 36.xxx the same two engineers can be used if they can attest to the requirements of (d) and (e).

7 12/10/2014	For the proposed changes to 12 AAC 36.108. I am currently a registered structural engineer in Alaska. With the proposed changes will I need to resubmit an application and supporting documents to renew my license which expires on 12/31/15?
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No, you already have your SE so you will just submit a renewal form. Prior to adding structural engineering to our regulations, structural was done by civil engineers. The Board told everyone that if they had been practicing structural they could continue to do so. The Board also allowed those civil engineers who wanted their SE stamp a grandfathering period in which to get their SE without taking the exam by showing the Board their expertise in structural engineering. However, since they could continue to practice structural as a civil PE many opted not to get the SE stamp. Then the Board decided to change the rules so certain types of structures would require the SE stamp, so the Board is now allowing another grandfathering period for those who chose not to get the SE last time and that is what 12 AAC 36.108 is about.