
GUIDELINE AND FAQ FOR NON-PRACTISING STATUS

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ENGINEERS &
GEOLOGISTS
BRITISH COLUMBIA

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide guidance for members and limited licensees of Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia (the “Association”) who either elect to move to non-practising status or have life membership granted under the Association’s prior bylaws.

This document is for guidance only and cannot apply in every circumstance. This document does not alter your obligations under the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 116 (the “Act”) or the Association’s bylaws. In the case of any conflict between this document and the Act or the bylaws, the Act or the bylaws take precedence.

NON-PRACTISING STATUS OR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Non-practising status gives current members or limited licensees of the Association who are not currently practising engineering or geoscience the option of maintaining a form of registration with the Association. Non-practising status allows members to continue using the designations “P.Eng.”, “P.Geo.”, “Eng.L.”, or “Geo.L.” in a restricted manner, as explained below. Non-practising status also conveys other ongoing rights such as the right to vote and the ability to participate on certain non-technical Association boards and committees.

Non-practising status does not convey any practice rights. Non-practising members and non-practising limited licensees have no greater right to engage in the practice of professional engineering or geoscience than someone from the general public who is not a member of the Association.

AN EXPLANATION OF NON-PRACTISING STATUS

Following is a summary of acceptable and unacceptable activities for members and limited licensees who elect to move to non-practising status:

| CATEGORY | WHAT CAN I DO AS A NON-PRACTISING MEMBER OR NON-PRACTISING LIMITED LICENSEE? | WHAT CAN I NOT DO AS A NON-PRACTISING MEMBER OR NON-PRACTISING LIMITED LICENSEE? |
|----------------|--|---|
| WORK | Perform work that does not constitute professional engineering or geoscience | Perform work that constitutes professional engineering or geoscience |
| | Engage in a purely business role in an engineering or geoscience firm without providing technical feedback or guidance | Engage in a technical role in an engineering or geoscience firm providing technical feedback or guidance |
| | Work under the direct supervision of a member of the Association. See <i>Quality Management Guidelines – Direct Supervision</i> (available at egbc.ca/getmedia/c4e4640b-ddf3-45bc-b30a-aec2b6a2199a/APEGBC-QMG-Direct-Supervision.pdf.aspx) | Use your stamp or seal in any manner |
| ACT AS WITNESS | Act as a factual witness in a court proceeding or administrative tribunal (i.e., testifying as to your knowledge of certain facts or events) | Act as an expert witness in a court proceeding or administrative tribunal concerning engineering or geoscience principles |

| CATEGORY | WHAT CAN I DO AS A NON-PRACTISING MEMBER OR NON-PRACTISING LIMITED LICENSEE? | WHAT CAN I NOT DO AS A NON-PRACTISING MEMBER OR NON-PRACTISING LIMITED LICENSEE? |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| MENTORSHIP AND TRAINING | Mentor less experienced engineers or geoscientists on non-technical matters | Train less experienced engineers or geoscientists on technical matters |
| BOARDS AND COMMITTEES | Participate on a board or committee and provide a non-technical perspective | Participate on a board or committee requiring the application of engineering or geoscience principles |
| USE OF TITLE | Use one of the following titles or designations: | Use any of the following titles or designations: |
| | For Engineers: a) Professional Engineer (Non-Practising) b) P.Eng. (Non-Practising) c) Professional Engineer (Retired) d) P.Eng. (Retired) | For Engineers: Professional Engineer or P.Eng. |
| | For Geoscientists: a) Professional Geoscientist (Non- Practising) b) P.Geo. (Non-Practising) c) Professional Geoscientist (Retired) d) P.Geo. (Retired) | For Geoscientists: Professional Geoscientist or P.Geo. |
| | For Limited Licensees (as applicable): a) Limited Licensee (Non-Practising) b) Eng.L. (Non-Practising) c) Geo.L. (Non-Practising) d) Limited Licensee (Retired) e) Eng.L. (Retired) f) Geo.L. (Retired) | For Limited Licensees: Limited Licensee, Eng.L., or Geo.L. |

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WORK

1. Can I have non-practising status in British Columbia and maintain practice rights with another provincial, territorial, state, or other regulator for engineering or geoscience practice?

Yes. Engineers and Geoscientists BC governs the practice of professional engineering and professional geoscience in British Columbia. You can hold practice rights in another jurisdiction while having non-practising status with Engineers and Geoscientists BC.

However, maintaining practice rights with another provincial, territorial, state, or other engineering or geoscience regulator does not entitle you to practise engineering or geoscience in British Columbia.

2. Can non-practising members or non-practising limited licensees participate in business or community matters on a voluntary and unpaid basis?

Non-practising members and non-practising limited licensees can only participate in business or community matters if, while doing so, they do not engage in professional engineering or geoscience, regardless of whether they are compensated or not.

3. As a non-practising member or non-practising limited licensee must I continue to do continuing professional development?

Yes. The Engineers and Geoscientists BC Code of Ethics states that members and licensees must:

Keep themselves informed in order to maintain their competence, strive to advance the body of knowledge within which they practice, and provide opportunities for the professional development of their associates. (Principle #6).

If non-practising members or non-practising limited licensees wish to return to practice they will be required to demonstrate that they remain current in their intended field of practice.

4. Can I act as a validator for experience competencies gained by those seeking registration or licensure?

As a general rule, non-practising members and non-practising limited licensees cannot act as validators for experience competencies.

However, non-practising members and non-practising limited licensees can act as validators for experience competencies from a prior time when they had practice rights. Non-practising members and non-practising limited licensees can also answer the additional feedback questions in the Competency Experience Reporting System related to the prior time when the non-practising member or non-practising limited licensee had practice rights and worked with the applicant.

5. Am I exempt from practice review if I elect non-practising status?

Practice review applies to all members and limited licensees.

On a practical level, those with non-practising status are unlikely to be the subject of a practice review. However, non-practising members and non-practising limited licensees who elect to resume practice rights may be the subject of a practice review. For additional information on the Practice Review Program, refer to the Association's "Practice Review Guide" (available at egbc.ca/getmedia/e64665e4-de7d-4a0e-aff8-f6c8ce16f783/APEGBC-Practice-Review-Guide.pdf.aspx).

6. Can I avoid an investigation or discipline if I elect non-practising status?

No. Changing your status to non-practising will not affect any active investigation or disciplinary matter and will not stop an investigation or discipline arising from the time when you had practice rights.

7. What are the ramifications if I (inappropriately) resume the practice of professional engineering or professional geoscience work?

Pursuant to section 22 of the *Act*, the Association is entitled to apply to the Supreme Court of British Columbia for both injunctive relief and exemplary damages of up to \$25,000, including for a single occurrence of conduct prohibited by section 22.

8. I do not currently have practice rights in British Columbia. Can I apply for non-practising status?

No, non-practising status is only available to current members or limited licensees of the Association. It is not available to applicants, EITs, GITs, or other non-members.

NAME AND TITLE

9. Must I use the qualifiers “Non-Practising” or “Retired” if I have non-practising status, or can I shorten the qualifiers?

If you have non-practising status then you must use the qualifiers in their full form. You are not permitted to shorten the qualifiers of “Non-Practising” or “Retired”.

Examples: Mr. Engineer, P.Eng. (Retired), Ms. Geoscientist, P.Geo. (Non-Practicing)

10. Can I choose to qualify my non-practising status as either “Non-Practising” or “Retired”?

Yes, the decision whether to use the qualifier “Non-Practising” or “Retired” is up to each individual who holds non-practising status. While the Association encourages individuals to choose one or the other qualifier and use it consistently, individuals who hold non-practising status may use either qualifier or alternate between qualifiers.

11. Will my name appear on the Association’s online member directory if I elect non-practising or retired status?

Yes, your name will continue to appear in the Association’s online member directory, with an indication that you hold non-practising status.

SEAL

12. Can I keep my physical seal?

Yes. Non-practising members and non-practising limited licensees may keep their physical seal, but they are not permitted to use it.

13. What happens to my digital seal if I elect non-practising status?

Your digital seal will be inactivated automatically and you are not permitted to use it during the interim before inactivation.

BENEFITS FOR NON-PRACTISING MEMBERS

14. Will I still receive publications and communications from the Association?

Yes. You will still receive publications and communications from the Association, including *Innovation* magazine.

15. Can I participate in an Association committee or taskforce?

Yes. A non-practising member or non-practising limited licensee can participate in a non-technical committee or taskforce, provided that the application of professional engineering or geoscience principles is not required.

16. Can I still attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM)?

Yes. Non-practising members, life members, and non-practising limited licensees may still attend and vote at the AGM.

17. Are non-practising members still eligible to participate in the Secondary Professional Liability Insurance Program?

For additional information and questions about your secondary professional liability coverage, contact the Program Hotline at 1.800.361.9080 or refer to the master policy (available at [egbc.ca/getmedia/db403268-8773-4bea-9711-aa795f97935f/Wording-March-2018-\(E\)-XLSIC.pdf.aspx](http://egbc.ca/getmedia/db403268-8773-4bea-9711-aa795f97935f/Wording-March-2018-(E)-XLSIC.pdf.aspx)).

18. I plan to quit engineering or geoscience permanently. Do I have to elect to move to non-practising status?

As an alternative to electing to move to non-practising status, you have the option of resigning your membership entirely. However, becoming a non-practising member or non-practising limited licensee conveys a number of benefits that are not available to those who resign, including access to discounts through the affinity programs, the ability to continue using a form of the P.Eng. or P.Geo. designations (with the qualifiers “Non-Practising” or “Retired”), the right to vote, and the ability to participate on certain non-technical boards or committees.

RETURN TO PRACTICE

19. Is non-practising status meant for those members and limited licensees on leave, or is there another category for those on leave?

There is no other category for members on leave, such as for parental leave, elder care leave, returning to school, or volunteering in another country, or for retired members. Members should determine whether the intended duration of their absence merits converting to non-practising membership. It is recommended that members take into account the implications of electing non-practising status, such as the elimination of practice rights, the restricted title, the resumption of practice requirements, the non-practising fees, and the reapplication fees. See the Association’s policies on “Resuming Practice Rights” and “Membership Reinstatement” (available at egbc.ca/Become-a-Member/How-to-Apply/Resume-Practice-Rights-and-Reinstate-Membership).

20. Do I have to report my practising status annually? How do I do it?

As a non-practising member or non-practising limited licensee you will declare your non-practising status annually when you renew your registration or license online. It is a straightforward process.

21. Is there a cost for changing my status to regain practice rights?

Yes. For fees and estimated reinstatement times, see the Association's policy "Resuming Practice Rights" (available at egbc.ca/Become-a-Member/How-to-Apply/Resuming-Practice-Rights-Reinstating-Membership/Resuming-Practice-Rights).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For more information on resuming practice rights:
 - Refer to the Association's website at: egbc.ca/Become-a-Member/How-to-Apply/Resume-Practice-Rights-and-Reinstate-Membership.
 - Contact the Licensing and Registration department by email at register@egbc.ca.
- For further guidance on the activities you can perform related to professional engineering and professional geoscience as a non-practising member:
 - Contact the Legislation, Ethics, and Compliance department by email at enforcement@egbc.ca.