
GUIDELINE AND FAQ FOR NON-PRACTISING STATUS

PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 6, 2021



ENGINEERS &
GEOSCIENTISTS
BRITISH COLUMBIA

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide guidance for Registrants of Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia who either elect to move to non-practising status or have life membership granted under Engineers and Geoscientists BC's prior bylaws.

This document is for guidance only and cannot apply in every circumstance. This document does not alter your obligations under the *Professional Governance Act* [SBC 2018] CHAPTER 47 (the "Act") or Engineers and Geoscientists BC'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 Registrants of Engineers and Geoscientists BC who are not currently practising engineering or geoscience the option of maintaining a form of registration. Non-practising status allows Registrants to continue using the designations "P.Eng.", "P.Geo.", "P.L.Eng.", or "P.L.Geo." 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 Registrants have no greater right to engage in the Reserved Practice of professional engineering or geoscience than someone from the general public who is not a Registrant of Engineers and Geoscientists BC.

AN EXPLANATION OF NON-PRACTISING STATUS

Following is a summary of acceptable and unacceptable activities for those with non-practising status:

CATEGORY	WHAT CAN I DO AS A NON-PRACTISING REGISTRANT?	WHAT CAN I NOT DO AS A NON-PRACTISING REGISTRANT?
WORK	Perform work that does not constitute the Reserved Practice of professional engineering or professional geoscience.	Perform work that constitutes the Reserved Practice of 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 Professional Registrant of Engineers and Geoscientists BC. 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 my 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 REGISTRANT?	WHAT CAN I NOT DO AS A NON-PRACTISING REGISTRANT?
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 task force or advisory group and provide a non-technical perspective.	Be appointed to a committee. Participate on a task force or advisory group 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 Licensees (as applicable): a) Professional Licensee Engineering (Non-Practising) b) P.L Eng. (Non-Practising) c) Professional Licensee Engineering (Retired) d) P.L.Eng. (Retired) e) Professional Licensee Geoscience (Non-Practising) f) P..L.Geo. (Non-Practising) g) Professional Licensee Geoscience (Retired) h) P..Geo. (Retired)	For Licensees: Professional Licensee Engineering, Professional Licensee Geoscience, P.L.Eng., or P.L.Geo.	

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 Reserved 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 Registrants participate in business or community matters on a voluntary and unpaid basis?**

Non-practising Registrants can only participate in business or community matters if, while doing so, they do not engage in the Reserved Practice professional engineering or geoscience, regardless of whether they are compensated or not.

3. **As a non-practising Registrant must I continue to do continuing professional development?**

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

Have regard for the common law and any applicable enactments, federal enactments, or enactments of another province (Principle 3);

Have regard for applicable standards, policies, plans, and practices established by the government or Engineers and Geoscientists BC (Principle 4);and

Maintain competence in relevant specializations, including advances in the regulated practice and relevant science. (Principle #5)

The Engineers and Geoscientists BC Bylaws require that unless exempted from Continuing Education requirements due to extenuating circumstances, in each Three-Year Rolling Period, a non-practising Registrant must complete, at a minimum,

(a) one Continuing Education Hour of Ethical Learning, and

(b) one Regulatory Learning module; and

submit a continuing education program declaration by June 30 of each year, confirming their Continuing Education Hours for that Reporting Year; that the details of the associated Continuing Education Activities have been recorded' and that the non-practising Registrant has uploaded a valid and up-to-date Continuing Education plan.

If non-practising Registrants wish to reinstate as Professional (practising) Registrants they will be required to make an application for reinstatement as a Professional (practising) Registrant, demonstrate that they remain current in their intended field of practice and are compliant with the Continuing Education requirements and pay the applicable fees as set out in the Bylaws.

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

As a general rule, non-practising Registrants cannot act as validators for experience competencies.

However, non-practising Registrants can act as validators for experience competencies from a prior time when they had practice rights. Non-practising Registrants can also answer the additional feedback questions in the Competency Experience Reporting System related to the prior time when the non-practising Registrant 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 Registrants.

On a practical level, those with non-practising status are unlikely to be the subject of a practice review. However, non-practising Registrants who elect to resume practice rights may be the subject of a practice review. For additional information on the Practice Review Program, refer Engineers and Geoscientists BC'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?

Non-practising Registrants who engage in Reserved Practice are in contravention of the Bylaws and are subject to potential investigation and discipline.

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 Registrants of Engineers and Geoscientists BC. It is not available to applicants or Trainees (EITs or GITs).

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-Practising)

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 Engineers and Geoscientists BC 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 Engineers and Geoscientists BC's online Registrant Directory if I elect non-practising or retired status?

Yes, your name will continue to appear on Engineers and Geoscientists BC's online Registrant Directory, with an indication that you hold non-practising status.

SEAL

12. Can I keep my physical seal?

Yes. Non-practising Registrants 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 REGISTRANTS

14. Will I still receive publications and communications from Engineers and Geoscientists BC?

Yes. You will still receive publications and communications from Engineers and Geoscientists BC, including *Innovation* magazine.

15. Can I participate in an Engineers and Geoscientists BC committee, advisory group or taskforce?

A non-practising Registrant is not eligible for appointment to any Committee. However, a non-practising Registrant can participate in a non-technical advisory group 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 Registrants may still attend and vote at the AGM.

17. Are non-practising Registrants 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 registration entirely. However, becoming a non-practising Registrant conveys a number of benefits that are not available to those who resign, including 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 advisory groups and task-forces.

REINSTATING PRACTICE RIGHTS

19. Is non-practising status meant for those Registrants on leave, or is there another category for those on leave?

Non-practising status is the category of registration intended for Registrants on leave, such as for parental leave, elder care leave, returning to school, or volunteering in another country, or for retired Registrants. Registrants should determine whether the intended duration of their absence

merits converting to non-practising registration. It is recommended that Registrants take into account the implications of electing non- practising status, such as the elimination of practice rights, the restricted title, the requirements for reinstatement of practice rights, the non-practising fees, and the reapplication fees. See Engineers and Geoscientists BC's policies on "Reinstating Practice Rights" and "Registration Reinstatement" (available at <https://www.egbc.ca/Registration/Individual-Registrants/How-to-Apply/Reinstatement-of-Status>).

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

As a non-practising Registrant you will declare your non-practising status annually by June 30 of each calendar year when you complete the annual mandatory reporting of information that is required to be published on the Register, continuing education compliance and mandatory declarations. 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 "Reinstating Practice Rights" (available at <https://www.egbc.ca/Registration/Individual-Registrants/How-to-Apply/Reinstatement-of-Status>).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For more information on resuming practice rights:
 - Refer to the Association's website at <https://www.egbc.ca/Registration/Individual-Registrants/How-to-Apply/Reinstatement-of-Status>.
 - Contact the 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 Registrant:
 - Contact the Legislation, Ethics, and Compliance department by email at enforcement@egbc.ca.