



Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC

DESIGNATED STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

CONTINUING COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS

A Designated Structural Engineer for buildings may forego his or her right to use the designation, or it may be revoked if he or she fails to meet certain conditions related to continuing competency and continuing practice. The designation is restricted to members actively practicing structural engineering on a continuous basis. Designated Structural Engineers who declare themselves as practicing, must accumulate the required number of Professional Development and Continuing Active Practice Hours. Designated Structural Engineers who declare themselves as non-practicing will lose the Struct.Eng. designation and will need to reapply when they enter again into active practice. A member who stops practicing may voluntarily request revocation. Re-qualification will require reattempting and passing the BC Codes and Practice Examination. The Struct.Eng. designation may also be revoked for failure to pay dues. Struct.Eng.s who resign their membership from APEGBC, or whose names are removed from the Register for failure to pay the annual fee, will automatically have their Struct.Eng. designation revoked.

i Continuing Professional Development

The member's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) will be evaluated every year. The Association will require Struct.Eng.s to complete one hundred fifty hours of continuing professional development averaged over each three-year period. This complements the continuing active practice requirement of at least 750 hours per year. Structural Engineers of Record will be required to report on their CPD activities and report annually, by maintaining their Continuing Professional Development records on the Association's website at <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/online.html>, or by filing an annual report in hard copy. Incomplete or inaccurate reports must be corrected to maintain the specialist designation. The Association will review all reports to ensure compliance with CPD requirements, and will carry out selected audits of reports.

Audits may be conducted at random; or as the result of focus on specific practice areas; or following a complaint, Practice Review, or Investigation. Struct.Eng.s found to be deficient in their activity level or inaccurate in their reporting will be directed to correct the deficiency within a reasonable amount of time.

Revocation of the designation will be considered if CPD levels are low for three consecutive years. An interview with a member of the Structural Qualifications Board will be held with the

member, to determine if there are extenuating circumstances that justify continuing the member's Struct.Eng. designation for another year.

Struct.Eng.s failing to submit reports, submitting fraudulent reports, or failing to correct deficiencies as directed, will not be entitled to maintain their Struct.Eng. designation beyond the date determined by the Association. With the exception of those submitting fraudulent reports, or contravening the Code of Ethics in any other way, any Struct.Eng. losing his or her designation for continued low CPD levels, will be considered for reinstatement (see page 14).

ii Continuing Active Practice

Members will be asked to make a written declaration of their continuing experience and active practice in structural design every year, by including it with their CPD report on the Association's website at <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/online.html>, or by submitting the declaration in hard copy to the Association. The requirement for at least 750 hours each year of continuing active practice in structural and related engineering, complements the continuing professional development requirement of at least 50 professional development hours per year. This 750 hours per annum must be spent on civil/structural and related design (as opposed to administration, management, sales, marketing, civil engineering, etc.) to qualify for continuing registration as an Struct.Eng.

iii Reinstatement of the Struct.Eng. Designation

In order to regain the Designated Structural Engineer designation, it will be necessary for the member to apply to the Structural Qualifications Board for reinstatement and to pay the associated fees. This will provide an opportunity to review the reasons for revocation and the reasons for requesting reinstatement. The Structural Qualifications Board will determine whether reinstatement is warranted, and the requirements to be fulfilled: at a minimum, the candidate for reinstatement will be required to write and pass the B.C. Codes and Practices Examination, and to demonstrate suitable continuing active practice and professional development.

CONTINUING COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEER OF RECORD DESIGNATION

PDH = Professional Development Hour

- A Designated Structural Engineer must accumulate at least 150 PDHs over 3 years. (Struct.Eng.s are encouraged to accumulate at least 50 PDHs per year).
- Struct.Eng.s must be active in at least three of the six categories.
- Once an Struct.Eng. has held his or her designation for the third or subsequent year of the program, he or she must maintain a rolling average of a minimum of 150 PDH's over three years.
- Struct.Eng.s can only claim Continuing Active Practice hours that are conducted in the civil/structural and related disciplines.
- Struct.Eng.s must list 20 PDHs per year of time, other than Continuing Active Practice hours, that are specifically related to the development of structural engineering knowledge. This time is added to the PDH total earned in the six activity categories.

1. Continuing Active Practice Requirement (750 hours)

A minimum 750 hours of Structural and related Engineering Practice is required.

2. Continuing Professional Development

(50 PDH required per annum, with 150 PDH three-year rolling average of 150 PDH)

2.1 Formal Activities

Formal activities are those provided as a structured course or program, often for credit, occasionally with an evaluation process. Although formal activity is not specifically required, all members should strive to include some formal activities within their continuing professional development program. Delivery methods might include traditional classroom settings, and remote techniques such as written correspondence, video, or interactive electronic exchange. Formal activities could include:

- courses provided through universities, technical institutes and colleges;
- industry-sponsored courses, programs and seminars;
- employer training programs and structured on-the-job training;
- short courses provided by technical societies, industry or educational institutions.

Every hour spent in attendance at a course (contact hour) earns one PDH. For courses offering Continuing Education Units (CEUs), each CEU will equate to 10 PDHs. A maximum of 30 PDHs per year may be claimed.

2.2 Informal Activity

These are activities not normally offered by an educational institution or other non-structured course, but which nevertheless expand your knowledge, skills or judgment. They include:

- self-directed study;
- attendance at conferences, technical sessions, talks, seminars, workshops and industry trade shows;
- attendance at meetings of technical, professional or managerial associations or societies;
- structured discussion of technical or professional issues with one's peers.

Each hour of informal activity earns one PDH. A maximum of 30 PDHs per year may be claimed.

2.3 Participation

Activities that promote peer interaction and provide exposure to new ideas and technologies both enhance the profession and serve the public interest. These activities include:

- acting as a mentor to a Member-in-Training or other less experienced professional member or technologist;
- service on public bodies that draw on your professional expertise (i.e., planning board, development appeal board, investigative commissions, review panels or community building committees);
- activities that contribute to the community which require professional and ethical behaviour, but not necessarily the application of technical knowledge, including active service for professional, service, charitable, community or church organizations, coaching league sports teams, or elected public service on municipal, provincial or federal levels or school boards (1 PDH per hour of service, a maximum of 10 PDHs per year may be claimed);
- service on standing or ad-hoc committees of technical, professional or managerial associations, or societies.

A maximum of 20 PDHs per year may be claimed for the participation category.

2.4 Presentations

These are technical or professional presentations that you make outside your normal job functions. Both preparation and presentation of material would be expected. Presentations might occur at:

- a conference or meeting ;
- a course, workshop or seminar;
- either within your company, or at an event sponsored by a technical or professional organization. Each hour of preparation and delivery earns one PDH.

A maximum of 20 PDHs per year may be claimed.

2.5 Contributions to Knowledge

The Association acknowledges that activities that expand or develop the technical knowledge base in the three disciplines of engineering, geology and geophysics must be recognized. It also realizes that not every member is able to make such a contribution outside his or her normal job functions. Contributions could include:

- development of published Codes and Standards (one PDH per hour of committee work);
- patents (15 PDHs per patent registered);
- publication of papers in a peer-reviewed technical journal (15 PDHs per paper published);
- publication of articles in non-reviewed journals (10 PDHs per article, maximum of 10 PDHs per year may be claimed);
- reviewing articles for publication (1 PDH per hour of review, a maximum of 10 PDHs per year may be claimed);
- editing papers for publication (1 PDH per hour of editing).

A maximum of 30 PDHs per year may be claimed.

In general, CPD activity may be accumulated in the structural discipline or in other professional activities. Structural Specialists, however, must identify *an additional* 20 PDHs of time other than Professional Practice that is specifically Continuing Professional Development in the structural discipline.

The Association gratefully acknowledges the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta's Continuing Professional Development Program, on which the Struct.Eng. Continuing Competence Program is modeled.