



NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

As BPEQ's presence grows, so to do the number of complaints, inquiries and feedback it receives from engineers and the public.



BPEQ's Legal, Compliance and Investigations Unit is handling a significant number of cases at present and is regularly contacted by engineers, employers and the public to provide personalised legal advice. While the legal team will provide general advice related to the PE Act and lodging a complaint about a professional engineering service, it cannot be used as a free legal service. Engineers seeking advice from the Legal, Compliance and Investigations Unit are encouraged to [email](#) their inquiries.

The [Registration and Corporate Services Unit](#) can provide engineers and others with advice and guidance about the registration process, registration renewal or restoration, finance, continuing professional development and other general matters.

The [Communications and Marketing Unit](#) can be contacted to arrange seminars and workshops on the PE Act, for media, advertising, marketing and sponsorship enquiries and regarding industry events and conferences.

BPEQ has taken part in numerous industry events and conferences in 2017, as well as the registration roadshows. The final event for 2017 will be the [Asian Control Conference/Australian and New Zealand](#)

[Control Conference](#) from 17-20 December 2017.

This dual conference provides a great opportunity for researchers, students and control engineers from universities, industry and government organisations to exchange ideas and recent results, as well as discuss current problems arising in control engineering research and industrial practice.

The final e-news article in the series on BPEQ's Code of Practice will focus on continuing professional development. The Code of Practice articles have generated a good deal of discussion amongst RPEQs and BPEQ welcomes the input. The legal articles are designed to educate and assist RPEQs; if there is a topic you would like to see discussed as a legal article, please contact the [Communications and Marketing Unit](#).

This is the final e-news for 2017, we trust you have found them useful and informative. Please be aware that the BPEQ Office will close from 4:00pm, Friday, 22 December 2017 and reopen on Tuesday, 2 January 2018. On behalf of all BPEQ members and staff Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kylie Mercer
Registrar



CODE OF PRACTICE SPECIFICS – CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This month the e-news article series on the Code of Practice for Registered Professional Engineers focuses on a specific requirement under section 3.7 – Continue to Develop Knowledge, Skills and Expertise.

This provision underpins, though goes beyond, the competence requirements under the Code of Practice.

Like other Code of Practice provisions, it is useful to consider it in the context of the underlying requirements of the PE Act.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE PE ACT

Under the PE Act, the concept of continuing professional development (CPD) applies indirectly to applicants for registration and directly for registrants.

To gain initial registration as a RPEQ, an applicant must demonstrate, to the assessment entity, CPD currency of the same level as for existing RPEQs. These requirements are included in the ‘assessment scheme’.

When deciding whether to renew registration, BPEQ ‘must have regard’ to the extent to which a RPEQ satisfies the CPD requirements. Where a registrant is non-compliant BPEQ can, among other things, refuse to renew registration or place conditions on the registration, for example, a condition that the registrant obtain CPD compliance by a certain date. Where a RPEQ’s circumstances, such as career breaks or special personal circumstances reasonably warrant flexibility, BPEQ will consider the matter on a case by case basis.

At renewal, CPD compliance is assessed through the information provided in the renewal form as well as information provided through the CPD auditing program undertaken by BPEQ or assessment entities (see BPEQ policy 2.10 (2A) CPD – The Board’s Selection Rationale).

CPD REQUIREMENTS

While there is a general alignment, the CPD requirements and compliance pathways are determined by whether a registrant is ‘registered with an assessment entity for participation in the continuing registration requirements’.

This is different from participation with the assessment entity for initial RPEQ assessment or ordinary membership. It generally accords with being a chartered (or equivalent) member of the assessment entity.

For registrants who are registered with an assessment entity for CPD, they must comply with the CPD requirements of the assessment entity. The details of the CPD requirements can be obtained through the websites of the relevant assessment entities.

Registrants who are not registered with an assessment entity for CPD must comply with BPEQ’s CPD requirements. These are identified in BPEQ policy 1.3(5A) Continuing Registration Requirements.

In general, whether registered with an assessment entity or not, the requirement is for a minimum of 150 hours of structured CPD over three years including a combination of activities such as:

- Formal education and training (courses/lectures);
- Informal learning activities (e.g. reading journals and manuals);
- Conferences and meetings;
- Presentations and papers;
- Service activities (e.g. CPD auditor and reviewing technical papers);
- Industry involvement (for academics).

While ‘structured’ CPD would and should include participation in formal conferences and seminars, it may include activities involving intellectual or practical content, of objective significance, dealing substantially with professional engineering.

Currently, there is no CPD exemption for long standing registrants.

CODE OF PRACTICE

The above legislative concepts are consistent with and supported by the Code of Practice section 3.7 ‘Continue to develop relevant knowledge, skills and expertise.’

This states:

A registered professional engineer must:

- (a) continue to develop relevant knowledge, skills, competence and expertise throughout their careers, especially in their area(s) of expertise.*
- (b) actively assist and encourage those with whom they are associated to do likewise.*



(c) ensure that they have documented their CPD activities which can be used to verify that they meet certain minimum criteria in respect of CPD of the relevant assessment entity or of the Board.

The first paragraph embeds the duty of professional development for RPEQs as a career requirement. The key concept is that of 'development'. This goes beyond mere 'maintenance' of skills and competency (though professional development to maintain currency and to ensure skills don't perish remains essential).

This concept recognises the importance of the development and progression of skills as an enduring requirement. The benefits of CPD include the opportunity to obtain new knowledge and skills as well as refresh broader skills and knowledge that may fall outside regular practice.

The second paragraph requires RPEQs to model and promote the importance of professional development to professional peers. While largely self-evident, the promotion of professional development amongst peers is an activity which is likely to create better participation and in turn better opportunities to engage about professional issues. For senior practitioners, the degree of importance which is placed on professional development will likely influence the attitudes of more junior practitioners.

The third paragraph provides the duty for RPEQs to document their CPD activities to verify their

compliance. RPEQs may be audited to verify their compliance. In practice, meaningful records are required for a RPEQ to be able to positively confirm compliance.

CONCLUSION

Continuing professional development is a central concept both within the PE Act and the Code of Practice. The requirement for professional development is enduring in nature. While participation is a statutory requirement, the expectations referenced in the Code of Practice embed professional development as a professional requirement.

In an effort to assist women in engineering meet the costs of CPD, allowing them to regain their RPEQ status and return to the workforce, BPEQ has established the Back in the Workforce bursary. The bursary is open to female RPEQs, non-practising RPEQs or former RPEQs living in the State of Queensland.

Further information about BPEQ policies and processes, including CPD, is available on the BPEQ website or by emailing admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au or calling 07 3210 3100.

Legal enquiries should be directed to legal@bpeq.qld.gov.au. While BPEQ legal staff will endeavour to provide assistance, they will not provide specific legal advice.



SPECIAL TRAINING AVAILABLE TO FIRE ENGINEERS TO TACKLE COMBUSTIBLE CLADDING



The Princess Alexandra Hospital was found to contain combustible cladding.

In June this year the Queensland Government established the Non-Conforming Building Products Audit Taskforce (the Taskforce).

This was done in response to the alleged use of non-conforming combustible cladding products in Queensland buildings, including on the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

While this audit is still progressing, it has already uncovered the use of combustible and potentially non-conforming products as attachments or external wall components.

Major building fires both here and abroad have highlighted the deadly impact these products can have where they introduce fire hazards that can defeat a building's fire containment strategy.

To limit the likelihood of this risk, the Taskforce has identified the need for specially trained professionals to assess the fire safety impact of these products in existing and future buildings and projects, and if necessary, advise building owners of any mitigation and remediation measures required to ensure the safety of Queenslanders

Together with the University of Queensland and BPEQ, the Taskforce has secured a new CPD module, External Fire Spread Risk in Tall Building Design, to be held at the university in January 2018.

This five-day intensive course will cover specialty topics including:

- Fire phenomena involved in external fire spread;
- Impacts of building construction methods;
- Interdependence of building systems introduced by code-based solutions;
- Hands-on laboratories; and
- Development of performance solutions to address external fire spread.

The course has been developed in collaboration with the University of Maryland (US) and the University of Edinburgh (UK) to ensure participants receive world-leading training. Renowned fire safety engineer Professor Jose Torero (CEng RPEQ) will deliver the course together with a team of international experts in fire spread.

It is vitally important that fire professionals avail themselves of this new module and any RPEQ fire engineers interested in completing the course are strongly encouraged to secure their place as soon as possible.

The course will be at the University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus from 24-31 January 2018 (total of five days). Places are limited, and applications close on 8 December 2017.

Further information is available at <http://civil.uq.edu.au/fire-externalspreadcpd> or from your professional accreditation body, Engineers Australia or the Institution of Fire Engineers Australia.



BUILDING INDUSTRY FAIRNESS (SECURITY OF PAYMENT) BILL 2017

In late October the Queensland Parliament passed the *Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill 2017*.

The stated aim of the legislation is to ensure contractors are paid. The bill combines relevant provision from *Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004* (BCIPA), the *Subcontractors' Charges Act 1974* (SCA) and the new provisions about Project Bank Accounts (PBAs) into a single piece of legislation. These changes are intended to make the legislation easier to understand and make it easier for subcontractors to navigate the claims process.

PBAs will be established for certain projects to safeguard progress payments, protect retention monies and allow for more timely payments to subcontractors. From 1 January 2018, projects tendered by the Queensland Government will use PBAs on building and construction projects (excluding engineering projects) valued between \$1 million and \$10 million. Following successful implementation, this model is set to apply to private sector projects valued from \$1 million after 1 January 2019.

Amendments to the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1992* (QBCC Act) will enhance the QBCC's ability to regulate the building industry through:

- Improved ability to detect non-compliance with payment obligations
- Higher penalties will be introduced for individuals who perform unlicensed or defective building work
- Standardised investigator powers will provide greater transparency and equity to the industry
- Expanded definitions in legislation will mean an individual who substantially influences a company's affairs cannot avoid penalty or the consequences of a company becoming insolvent
- Minimum Financial Requirements will be placed into a regulation, so that the requirements will be set independently of the QBCC

More information about the *Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill 2017* can be found by contacting securityofpayment@hpw.qld.gov.au.

PROFESSOR SIMON BIGGS APPOINTED NEXT UWA DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

BPEQ's academic representative Professor Simon Biggs has been appointed the next Deputy Vice-Chancellor of The University of Western Australia.

Professor Biggs takes up the role in March 2018, and as such he will not be able to continue as a Board member when his tenure ends on 31 December 2017. Professor Biggs was appointed as a Board member in January 2015 and played an active role in BPEQ matters during a period of significant change.

BPEQ thanks Professor Biggs for his contribution and wishes him all the best with his future endeavours.



Professor Simon Biggs, BPEQ's academic representative since January 2015.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RPEQS

BPEQ extends a warm welcome to the following engineers who became registered in the last month:

Stanislav Schafer	Arnel Pallasigue	Trevor Dean	Alistair Smith	Paul Hohenhaus
Morgan O'Dwyer	Lamey Tawfik	Laurentiu Zamfirescu	Hui Wang	Dhavalkumar Patel
Craig Forsyth	Kevin Tan	Adrian Brown	Rachel Cook	Shahin Nekavand
Austen Shoebatham	Sepideh Shadab	Robert Kern	Gregory Lees	Altamush Saeed
Mallika Bhattacharya	Sanjay Shukla	Mark Gobolos	Peter Tautor	David Donnelly
Christopher Aspinall	Chamila Sirimanna	Lisa Dallow	Brendan Bell	Gary Marshall
Naveen Chaturvedi	Andrew Coumaros	Lili Lyu	Elise McDonald	Joshua Lincoln
Steven Mansfield	Robert Ironside	Dale Stacey	Chen Jierong	Yuliya Piper
Dustin McHenry	Wael Elawady	Salim Siddiqui	Khanh Dinh	Dipendra Sharma
Tegan Cherie Denyer	Benjamin Cox	Robert Love	Aleksandar Jovanovic	Pedro Baraza
Juan Castro Blanco	Gary Boyle	Scott Cavanagh	Shane Linton	Deepak Balakrishnan
Charles Knight	Sarah Martin	Peter Airey	Brett Eliasson	Peter Carydias
Feng Wang	Ellis Symons	Narendra Balvally	Peter Schrader	Yong Keat Lee
Niloofar Tarakemehzadeh	Timothy O'Connor	Danny Brouwer	Preston Lee	Sam Lau
Anthony Brockhurst	Clinton Allison	Pascal Rosette	Michael Conway	Matthew Grills
Muhammad Khan	Denis Sullivan	Johannes Rossouw	Edward Simmonds	Rebecca Garrett
Jeffrey Geronimo	Cyril Chang	Athanasios Baoustanos	Natasha Murray	Robert Harrington
	Lachlan Moir	Anthony McNamara	Samuel Murphy	Timothy Nakhla
	Luke Worthington	Lawrence Eckard	George Melhem	Simon St Hill
	Jayden Kropp		Haojie Shen	Karan Bagga
	Craig McLaren		Soon Chong	Jonathan Crombie

CONNECT WITH BPEQ ON LINKEDIN



Don't forget BPEQ is on LinkedIn. To keep up to date with the latest news and events from BPEQ or to start a discussion on registration or engineering issues generally, click [FOLLOW](#).

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