

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

July 1, 2009

**TO: APPROVED APPLICANTS FOR EXAMINATION IN
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING IN WASHINGTON STATE.**

The examinations that are presently used by the state of Washington to qualify individuals for licensure in structural engineering will be changing. It is important that you read and understand these changes.

We ask that you forward any questions to us via email at: engineers@dol.wa.gov. We will then respond to you and include the question and answer in future notices. Please do not call the office regarding this subject.

LEGEND:

SE II: The NCEES Structural II Examination (8-hours)
WA SE III: The Washington State Structural Examination (8-hours)
NCEES SE: The NCEES Structural Examination (16-hours)

CURRENT REQUIREMENTS:

A total of 16 hours of examinations. 8 hours via the NCEES SE II and 8 hours via the WA SE III. They may be taken as separate examinations.

NEW REQUIREMENTS:

A total of 16 hours of examination through passage of the NCEES SE examination.

SPECIAL NOTE:

The present WA SE III examination will be offered in October of 2009, October 2010 and October 2011. After the October 2011 administration the WA SE III will no longer be available.

Starting in April 2011, the primary structural licensing examination for Washington State will be the examination developed by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). That examination is scheduled to be available for the April 2011 administration. The last offering of the NCEES Structural II examination will be October 2010.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have been approved to sit for the licensing examinations in Washington. I have not passed either the SE II or the Washington SE III examinations. What are my options?

Currently, you are required to pass both examinations. The SE II is offered April and October of each year. The last time you can sit for the SE II is October 2010. You will need to pass the SE II by October 2010 and the WA SE III by October 2011.

You may wait and take the NCEES SE exam when it is first offered in April 2011.

2. I have passed the SE II but have not passed the Washington SE III. If I have not passed the WA SE III by October 2011 can I get credit for the SE II already completed?

NO. The SE II is part of the current 16-hour examination requirement for licensure in Washington. It is used in conjunction with the WA SE III. When the WA SE III is discontinued you will be required to pass the 16-hour NCEES SE examination to complete the exam requirements.

3. I have passed the WA SE III but have not passed the SE II. If I do not pass the SE II by the time it is discontinued, what options do I have?

Your only option is to pass the NCEES SE examination.

4. If I have passed the SE III but not the SE II, can I use my SE III passage as credit for an 8-hour portion of the NCEES SE examination?

NO. The NCEES SE exam is a stand-alone examination and you MUST receive a passing score on both 8-hour sessions. However, you do not need to take both 8-hour sessions during the same exam administration. You may take one portion and six months later take the portion remaining.

5. I have passed the SE II. If I pass the NCEES SE exam in April 2011 before I pass the WA SE III what is my status?

You will have more than satisfied the examination requirements. We would issue a license in structural engineering.

6. If I have passed the SE II and am scheduled for the WA SE III and wish to take the NCEES SE exam as an alternative is the fee I have paid transferrable?

NO. The fees for taking the NCEES SE examination are set by and paid to the NCEES. If a fee paid to the WA Board is eligible for refund, the WA Board will process a refund to you.

7. Does passage of the NCEES SE examination make it possible to be licensed in other states?

We cannot offer a response to that question. Each state sets their own requirements.

8. When and how often will the NCEES SE Examination be offered?

The new exam will be offered every April and October starting in April 2011.

9. What will be the fee to gain admission to the NCEES SE Examination?

The fee will be set by the NCEES in advance of the April 2011 administration.

10. I have applied and expect to be approved before the October 2009 administration. If I wish to wait, can I postpone sitting for an examination until the new NCEES SE examination is offered?

YES. We require that you make that request in writing. You would be required to pay any additional fees due to any fee changes that may have occurred during that time.

11. I am licensed as a Structural Engineer in California. Will I be able to get licensure in Washington after the new exam is offered?

YES. The Boards of California and Washington have agreed to accept each state's SE III exam as equivalent to their own. Both states will be moving to the new NCEES SE exam at the same time so comity licensure should not be affected.