

## **SOCIETY POLICY**

### **ENGINEERS' LICENSING**

#### **I. PREAMBLE**

ASME recognizes engineering in the varied disciplines as a learned profession that affects each individual and the public at large to a continuously increasing extent. This Society Policy is intended to recognize both the rapid changes taking place in the utilization of engineers and changes in the organization of engineering service groups. ASME regards the work and service performed by engineers to include responsibility for contributing to the betterment of the human experience, including the health, safety, welfare, and property of the public, and in so doing, engineers accept their share of responsibility on any project or design with which they are involved.

#### **II. POLICY**

ASME endorses licensing as being in the best interest of the public and the profession. ASME encourages licensed engineers to identify themselves with the appropriate title in all communications and acknowledges that such identification is in the public and professional interest. The awareness by the public and by the engineering community engendered by licensing will enhance engineering as a single and noble profession.

#### **III. RECOMMENDATION**

ASME recommends:

- A. That any person in responsible charge of the practice of engineering be a legally licensed engineer except where state statutes allow for exemptions.
- B. That licensed engineers and those acting under a state's industrial exemption be cognizant of the importance of safeguarding public safety and health through the use of product and service standards issued by government, industry groups, and by organizations such as ASME.
- C. That legally licensed engineers be addressed or referred to in all written communications or publications as such by use of the appropriate title.
- D. That ASME members that practice engineering become licensed as soon as qualified so as to join members of other societies in enhancing engineering as one, single profession.
- E. That all qualified engineers who are educators become licensed and that they include in the engineering education curricula material concerning professional licensing.

**IV. IMPLEMENTATION**

- A. ASME encourages all practicing members of other professional and technical societies to become licensed as soon as qualified.
- B. ASME encourages all engineers to continue to update their own competence to keep pace with the growing demands for professional and responsible leadership.

The Board of Governors of ASME, having endorsed the concept of engineering licensing by all those who practice the art and science of mechanical engineering, further supports the concept that a regular program of technical and professional renewal, generally termed Continuing Professional Competency, be required for the continuation of licensure.

While the specific requirements for Continuing Professional Competency remain the province of legally authorized licensing bodies, ASME is supportive of the Model Rule written by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying for implementing this position.

- C. ASME encourages all engineers to accept the responsibility for their work and their portion of any design or product as a distinct mark of their professionalism.
- D. ASME offers its facilities, liaison, encouragement and financial support to the efforts to obtain the maximum possible uniformity in licensing procedures and requirements, including assistance in preparation of professional examinations.
- E. ASME charges the Public Affairs and Outreach Council to prepare or select annually an information article on licensing to be published in the MECHANICAL ENGINEERING Magazine, ASME NEWS, or on asme.org.
- F. ASME directs the attention of all its members and other engineers to the need for thoughtful concern with licensing problems in the future.
- G. Society Policy P-14.12 indicates specific licenses that are recognized as equal to the eight years of active practice requirement for any grade of Society Membership and to the five years of responsible charge requirement for Member grade.

Responsibility: Public Affairs and Outreach Council  
 Reassigned from Centers Sector Board /Center for Career and Professional Advancement  
 Reassigned from Council on Member Affairs/Board on Professional Practice & Ethics 6/12/05

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