



NCSEA Position Statement on Continued Professional Development

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To protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public, the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA) supports documented continuing professional development for licensed Professional and Structural Engineers as a condition for maintaining licensed status. NCSEA recommends a minimum of 15 hours of continuing professional development per year, with a minimum of 8 hours covering technical topics on or related to structural engineering, to maintain professional proficiency. The remainder may be in topics relevant to the practice of engineering or engineering management, including but not limited to: ethics, laws and rules, building information modeling, and risk management. Qualifying activities would include actively participating in professional engineering societies, i.e., participating on a professional engineering society board or committee or attending meetings, lecturing at universities or professional societies, developing and presenting structural engineering related papers, and attending live seminars and webinars. Selection should be at the discretion of the individual based on their development needs. NCSEA also supports uniformity of continuing professional development requirements among licensing jurisdictions.

Issues

It is essential that practicing structural engineers remain current with issues and advancements in design standards, materials, and technology. Many state engineering boards and legislatures have also placed increasing importance on continuing professional development to assist practicing structural engineers in maintaining and enhancing their competence.

With many structural engineers licensed in multiple states, there are practical reasons for implementing uniform continuing professional development requirements among licensing jurisdictions.

Rationale

Tenet seven of NCSEA's Code of Ethics encourages structural engineers to continue their professional development throughout their careers, which includes teaching or attending continuing education courses to strive to keep current in structural engineering. The tenet also encourages engineers to provide opportunities for the professional development of others.

NCSEA was formed to constantly improve the level of standard of practice of the structural engineering professional throughout the United States and is dedicated to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Continuing professional development maintains and enhances the competence of practicing structural engineers.