



PE/PS Newsletter 10/04

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CPD requirements in 2007

At the request of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE), Representative Chris Widener (R-Springfield) introduced H.B. 322 and Senator Kevin Coughlin (R-Cuyahoga Falls) introduced S.B. 150. The two identical bills will require each Ohio P.E., P.S. or P.E./P.S. (dual licensee) to obtain 15 professional development hours (PDH) beginning in 2007 in order to renew registration for 2008 and subsequent years. H.B. 322 has now passed both the House and the Senate and is currently in a conference com-

mittee to reconcile differences with the House and Senate versions of the bill.

This is the result of several years of cooperative efforts between the OSPE, the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO), the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio (PLSO) and the Board to agree upon the details for continuing profession development (CPD) requirements.

Ohio has required a bachelor's degree for PEs since 1975 and for PSs since 1993, yet there currently are no requirements that registrants increase their knowledge or stay up to date with new technology after college graduation.

The only professions in Ohio that don't require CPD are Professional Engineers, Professional Surveyors, Architects and Landscape Architects. Ohio's engineering and surveying societies have been discussing mandatory CPD since 1986, and consensus has now been reached.

The CPD requirements will be virtually identical to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying national model law, so P.E.'s and P.S.'s licensed in Ohio and also other states that require CPD will find it easy to obtain CPD credit in almost every state. Ohio will not require any "state specific" courses or activities.

It will be quite easy to obtain the needed 15 PDH per year and the law will allow a registrant to carry forward up to 15 PDH into the next year. The law will require "courses or activities in technical, ethical or managerial topics relevant to the practice of engineering or surveying."

This will allow all registrants to attend seminars and activities that will benefit them in their particular area of practice during the various stages of their careers. The Board will not approve the

courses and activities; each registrant will be responsible for choosing courses or activities that fall within the broad range of courses and activities described above.

Registrants will maintain their own records for three years. The required records need only include a log showing the type, date, duration, number of PDHs claimed, instructors' names for the courses or activities and certificates of completion or other evidence of attendance.

PDHs may be earned by any combination of the following methods:

- Attending or teaching relevant courses, seminars or workshops (1 PDH per hour attended)
- Authoring relevant published papers, articles or books (10 PDH each)
- Being an officer or active committee member of an engineering or surveying society (2 PDH per year per society)
- Completion of relevant college courses (1 quarter hour = 30 PDH, 1 semester hour = 45 PDH)
- Obtaining a patent (10 PDH each)

The CPD records of each registrant will be subject to audit by the Board. If the Board discovers that the required CPD has not been completed, the registrant will be so informed and allowed up to six months to remedy the deficiency.

If the deficiency is not remedied, the Board may revoke or suspend the registrant's license after offering an adjudication hearing.

In summary, the proposed CPD requirements are supported by all of the statewide engineering and surveying societies, will not be difficult for the registrants to comply with or for the Board to enforce and, most importantly, will provide additional protection to the citizens of Ohio.

Future NCEES exam dates

Following are the next three NCEES exam dates.

Important: Ohio law requires that your application request be postmarked no later than 90 days before each exam.

2005 April PE/PS on Friday, 04/15; FE/FS on Saturday, 04/16

2005 October PE/PS on Friday, 10/28; FE/FS on Saturday, 10/29

2006 April PE/PS on Friday, 04/21; FE/FS on Saturday, 04/22

Alan J. Olson, P.E., reappointed

On March 19, 2004 Governor Taft reappointed Alan J. Olson, P.E. to a second term ending on September 24, 2008. Mr. Olson is Director of Technology – Ferro Polymer Additives, for the Ferro Corporation. He received his B.S. degree from Tufts University and his MBA degree from the University of Connecticut.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR OHIO PE/PS ANNUAL REGISTRATION BY DECEMBER 31!