

South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors

Statement of Policy

Practice of Professional Engineering by Sole Proprietorships, Partnerships or Corporations in the State of South Carolina Title 40, Chapter 22, S.C. Code of Laws (1976)

The term “practice of engineering” as used in SC Code, Title 40, Chapter 22 means any professional service or creative work requiring engineering education, training and experience and the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical and engineering sciences to professional services or creative work as consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, design and observation of construction for the purpose of assuring compliance with specifications and design in connection with any public or private utilities, structures, buildings, machines, equipment, processes, works or projects.

The term “professional engineer” is defined per Section 40-22-20 as a person who, by reason of his special knowledge of the mathematical and physical sciences and the principles and methods of engineering analysis and design, acquired by professional education and practical experience, is qualified to practice engineering, as defined, and as attested by his legal registration as a professional engineer.

Furthermore, registered engineers engaged in sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or other types of firms involving the practice of engineering may maintain both a principal office and branch offices; however, each principal place and each branch office must have a “resident registered engineer” in responsible charge of the field and office engineering work. The “resident registered engineer” is considered in residence in only one place of business at a given time.

Section 40-22-30 states that in order to safeguard life, health and property and to promote the public welfare, any person in either public or private capacity practicing or offering to practice engineering shall be required to submit evidence that he is qualified so to practice and shall be registered. It shall be unlawful for any person to practice or to offer to practice in this State engineering as defined above or to use in connection with his name or otherwise assume, use or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that he is a professional engineer, unless such person has been duly registered.

The State law may be met by one of two means. If the corporation—or other type of firm—offers and/or engages in the practice of engineering, it must meet the “resident registered engineer” requirement. If the corporation—or other entity—does not offer and/or engage in the practice of engineering, the term “Engineering” must not be utilized as part of the corporate name.

Questions may be directed to the SC State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors at PO Box 11597, Columbia, SC 29211-1597 (Telephone: 803-896-4416).