

professional engineers board singapore

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1 September 2006

To: All Professional Engineers

ENDORSEMENT OF PLANS BY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND NON-PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS DOING PE WORK

It has been brought to the Board's attention that some PEs may be endorsing plans/calculations which may not have been prepared by them or under their supervision which may inadvertently constitute contravention of the PE Act.

2 The PE Act has provisions concerning the manner PEs may endorse plans and prohibitions against non-PEs doing PE work.

3 In respect of endorsement of plans by PEs, there are specific requirements in the Professional Engineers (Code Of Professional Conduct And Ethics) Rules. Part II, section 2 of the Rules says that 'A professional engineer shall not, for the purpose of obtaining any permit, licence or approval of any public authority, sign any plans or calculations which neither he nor any member of his staff under his supervision verified, checked or prepared'.

4 In respect of prohibitions concerning non-PEs doing PE work, there are several provisions. Section 10(1) (a) , (b) ¹ of the Act say that only PEs with PCs , or persons under the direction or supervision of a PE with PC may engage in PE work in the prescribed branches of engineering. Section 10 (5)² highlights that generally, non-PEs (with certain exceptions) may not supply or offer to supply PE services. Section 11(1) (2)³ further stipulates that a person employing a non- PE as PE has committed an offence under the Act.

5 The Board would like to remind PEs to exercise due care and diligence when they make endorsement of plans and calculations. 'Rubber stamping' would not be condoned and strong action would be taken by PEB and other authorities against such practice. The Board would like to receive information concerning PEs or non-PEs who may have contravened the PE Act, in particular in the abovementioned areas, and would not hesitate to take action where necessary.

6 Thank you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chin Jen Chyi', written in a cursive style.

Chin Jen Chyi
Registrar

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Extracts of Provisions from Professional Engineers Act

¹ **10.** —(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, no person shall engage in any of the prescribed branches of professional engineering work in Singapore or draw or prepare any plan, sketch, drawing, design, specification or other document relating to any of the prescribed branches of professional engineering work in Singapore unless the person —

(a) is a registered professional engineer who has in force a practising certificate authorising him to engage in that branch of professional engineering work;

(b) is under the direction or supervision of a registered professional engineer who has in force a practising certificate authorising the professional engineer to engage in that branch of professional engineering work; or

(c) is authorised by the Board to work in collaboration (but without a right to any independent practice) with a registered professional engineer who has in force a practising certificate authorising the registered professional engineer to engage in that branch of professional engineering work.

² **10.** (5) Subject to the provisions of this Act, no person shall supply or offer to supply professional engineering services in Singapore unless the person is —

(a) a registered professional engineer who has in force a practising certificate authorising him to engage in professional engineering work to which those services relate and is doing so on his own account or as a partner in a licensed partnership, licensed limited liability partnership or partnership consisting wholly of registered professional engineers;

(b) an allied professional and is doing so only by reason of being a partner in a licensed partnership or limited liability partnership; or

(c) a licensed corporation or limited liability partnership.

³ **11.** —(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, no person shall employ as a professional engineer any person who is not a registered professional engineer.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 and, in the case of a second or subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.