

# Laws & Rules

for

# Florida Engineers

August 2020 Version

Lawrence T. Hagen, P.E., PTOE, RSP

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## Your instructor for this course...

- Professional Engineer in Florida and Georgia
- Professional Traffic Operations Engineer
- Road Safety Professional
- Fellow of the Institute of Transportation Engineers
- BSCE and ME degrees from University of Florida
- Broad base of experience:
  - Public sector
    - State DOT
    - County Traffic Engineering
  - Private sector
    - Large firms
    - Medium firms
    - Small firms
  - Academia
    - Research
    - Teaching (Graduate and Undergraduate)



FBPE Approved Provider of CE hours:

- Ethics
- Laws & Rules
- Other engineering topics

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## Continuing Education

- Florida requires a total of **18 hours** of continuing education to renew your license for the upcoming license renewal (February 2021).
- Required hours are broken up into four categories:
  - Laws & Rules (1 hour) ← **This course!**
  - Ethics (1 hour)
  - Area of Practice (4 hours)
  - Topics Pertinent to the Practice of Engineering (12 hours)

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### Definition of Terms:

Area of Practice: An engineering discipline for which a Principles and Practice of Engineering examination is offered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).



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### Area of Practice

• Agricultural and Biological Engineering	• Industrial and Systems
• Architectural Engineering	• Mechanical
• Chemical	• Metallurgical and Materials
• Civil	• Mining and Mineral Processing
• Control Systems	• Naval Architecture and Marine
• Electrical and Computer	• Nuclear
• Environmental	• Petroleum
• Fire Protection	• Structural



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From NCEES.org website 8/8/2020

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### Definition of Terms:

Topic pertinent to the practice of engineering: For purposes of meeting the continuing education requirements, a topic pertinent to the practice of engineering is any topic that falls within the definition of the practice of “engineering” as defined in Section 471.005(7), F.S. Topics on marketing, foreign language skills, and basic math skills below the requirements set forth in paragraph 61G15-20.007(1)(a), F.A.C. are not acceptable and are excluded.



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Section 471.005(7), F.S.

(7) "Engineering" includes the term "professional engineering" and means any service or creative work, the adequate performance of which requires engineering education, training, and experience in the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical, and engineering sciences to such services or creative work as consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, and design of engineering works and systems, planning the use of land and water, teaching of the principles and methods of engineering design, engineering surveys, and the inspection of construction for the purpose of determining in general if the work is proceeding in compliance with drawings and specifications, any of which embraces such services or work, either public or private, in connection with any utilities, structures, buildings, machines, equipment, processes, work systems, projects, and industrial or consumer products or



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
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Section 471.005(7), F.S. (continued)

equipment of a mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, pneumatic, or thermal nature, insofar as they involve safeguarding life, health, or property; and includes such other professional services as may be necessary to the planning, progress, and completion of any engineering services.  person who practices any branch of engineering; who, by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, or card, or in any other way, represents himself or herself to be an engineer or, through the use of some other title, implies that he or she is an engineer or that he or she is licensed under this chapter; or who holds himself or herself out as able to perform, or does perform, any engineering service or work or any other service designated by the practitioner which is recognized as engineering shall be construed to practice or offer to practice engineering within the meaning and intent of this chapter.



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Laws & Rules

Licenses are required to obtain one (1) hour of continuing education focusing on Florida's professional engineering laws (**F.S. 471**) and rules (**F.A.C. 61G15**). This hour can be obtained by

- Successfully completing an FBPE approved laws & rules course from an FBPE approved CE provider,  **This course!**
- Serving on the Florida Board of Professional Engineers,
- Serving as a consultant engineer used by the Board in the resolution of Board business, including rule-making and prosecution of discipline cases and complaints, or
- Serving as a member of the Legislature or as an elected state or local official.



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### Ethics

Licenseses are required to obtain one (1) hour of continuing education focusing on ethics for professionals. This hour can be obtained by:

- Successfully completing a professional ethics course approved for credit in any US jurisdiction.  **I have one!**
- Serving as a member of the Legislature or as an elected state or local official.

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### Area of Practice

Licenseses are required to obtain four (4) hours of continuing education focusing on each licensee's particular area(s) of practice. These hours can be obtained by

- Successfully completing an "Advanced" Florida Building Code course approved by the FBPE within the disciplines of civil, structural, mechanical, electrical or general engineering; or
- Presenting or attending seminars, in-house or non-classroom courses, workshops, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, webinars, conventions, or conferences, including those presented by vendors provided the vendor is an FBPE approved CE provider.  **I am one!**

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### Topics Pertinent to the Practice of Engineering

The remaining twelve (12) hours of continuing education may correlate to any topic pertinent to the practice of engineering. These hours can be obtained in the following ways

- Up to 4 hours may be earned by serving as an officer or actively participating on a committee of a board-recognized professional or technical engineering society;
- Complete an "Advanced" Florida Building Code course approved by the FBPE within the disciplines of civil, structural, mechanical, electrical or general engineering; or
- Presenting or attending seminars, in-house or non-classroom courses, workshops, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, webinars, conventions, or conferences, including those presented by vendors provided the vendor is an FBPE approved CE provider.  **Who's your friend?**

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Activities that **DO NOT** qualify include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Self-generated courses, i.e. courses generated and presented by the licensee to himself or herself for continuing education credit,
- Personal self-improvement courses,
- Equipment demonstrations or trade show displays,
- Enrollment without attendance,
- Repetitive attendance or teaching of the same course,
- Tours of buildings, structures, schools, museums and the like, unless there is a clear objective to maintain and strengthen competency in a technical field,
- Regular employment,
- Personal, estate or financial planning, or
- Courses the content of which is below the level of knowledge and skill that reflects the responsibility of an engineer in charge.



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Seals





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What needs to be signed, dated and sealed:

All final drawings, specifications, plans, reports, or documents prepared or issued by the licensee and being filed for public record and all final documents provided to the owner or the owner's representative shall be signed by the licensee, dated, and sealed with said seal. Such signature, date, and seal shall be evidence of the authenticity of that to which they are affixed.

- F.S. 471.025 (1)



This includes not only plans, but also reports and even letters that contain engineering opinions or direction.

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What needs to be signed, dated and sealed:

“It is the desire of the FBPE as part of this effort to emphasize that **ANY** and **ALL** final documents prepared or issued by the licensee and being filed for public record, **ALL** final documents provided to the owner or the owner’s representative, and **ALL** documents required by any public entity or any provision of a contract which may require signing, dating and sealing **are to be signed, dated and sealed.**” - FBPE January 2016 Newsletter



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What needs to be signed, dated and sealed:

**IMPORTANT POINT:**

Even if your client doesn’t require a document to be signed, dated and sealed, you are required to sign, date and seal it if the rules require it.



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What needs to be included...

The date a document is signed **MUST** be included for both physical and electronic documents.



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Physically Transmitted Documents:

The licensee’s signature is required to be overlapping and partially obscured by the seal (so as to verify the authenticity of the signature), not “below” the seal on the page.



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IMPORTANT REMINDER:

A scanned, facsimile, digitally created or copied image of your signature IS NOT ALLOWED to be used on original signed, dated and sealed documents.



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Physical Document vs Electronic Document

Simply put, the issue of physical documents versus electronic documents can be summed up as:

- Once a physical document - always a physical document. Physical documents must be physically signed, dated and sealed.
- Once an electronic document - always an electronic document. Electronic documents must be either electronically or digitally - signed, dated and sealed.



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**61G15-23.003 Procedures for Physically Signing and Sealing Plans, Specifications, Reports or Other Documents.**

Engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents which must be signed, dated and sealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 471.025, F.S., and Rule 61G15-23.001, F.A.C. may be physically signed, dated and sealed as provided herein by the professional engineer in responsible charge.

(1) The licensee shall sign by hand an original of the licensee's signature on each page required to be sealed. A scanned, facsimile, digitally created or copied image of the licensee's signature shall not be used.

(2) The licensee must then use a wet seal, a digitally created seal, or an embossing seal placed partially overlapping the licensee's signature on each page required to be sealed. The placement of the seal shall not render the signature illegible.



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**61G15-23.004 Procedures for Digitally Signing and Sealing Electronically Transmitted Plans, Specifications, Reports or Other Documents.**

(1) Engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents which must be signed, dated and sealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 471.025, F.S., and Rule 61G15-23.001, F.A.C. may be signed digitally as provided herein by the professional engineer in responsible charge. As used herein, the terms "certification authority," and "digital signature" shall have the meanings ascribed to them in Sections 668.003(2), (3) and (4), F.S.

Plus a whole lot more...



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**With Digitally Created Seal:**



This item has been digitally signed and sealed by C. S. Hammatt, PE. On [DATE].  
Printed copies of this document are not considered signed and sealed and the signature must be verified on any electronic copies.



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### Without Digitally Created Seal:

C. S. Hammatt, State of Florida, Professional Engineer, License No. X

This item has been digitally signed and sealed by C. S. Hammatt, PE. On [DATE].

Printed copies of this document are not considered signed and sealed and the signature must be verified on any electronic copies.



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### Multiple Sheets or Multiple Engineers:

(e) When engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents contain multiple sheets or pages, the licensee may apply a single digital signature per electronically transmitted item as set out in Rule 61G15-23.001, F.A.C. A digital signature applied to an item in electronic form shall have the same force and effect as signing all of the individual sheets or pages contained within that item unless otherwise limited as specified in subsection 61G15-30.003(3), F.A.C.

(f) In the case where multiple licensees sign and seal a single item, each licensee shall apply their digital signature and include qualifying language with those items required in paragraph (e) of this rule thoroughly describing what portions the licensee is taking responsibility for.



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### 61G15-23.005 Procedures for Electronically Signing and Sealing Electronically Transmitted Plans, Specifications, Reports or Other Documents.

(1) Engineering plans, specifications, reports or other documents which must be signed, dated and sealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 471.025, F.S., and Rule 61G15-23.001, F.A.C. may be signed electronically as provided herein by the professional engineer in responsible charge. As used herein, the term "electronic signature" shall have the meanings ascribed to them in Sections 668.003(2), (3) and (4), F.S.



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### With Digitally Created Seal:



This item has been electronically signed and sealed by C. S. Hammatt, PE. On [DATE] using a *SHA* authentication code.

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### Without Digitally Created Seal:

C. S. Hammatt, State of Florida, Professional Engineer, License No. X

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### Live internet demo:

# FBPE.org



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Whose responsibility is it to know the laws and rules?

The Licensee



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To receive your PDH for this session:

- Complete the Laws & Rules Test
- Complete the PDH form
- Submit the completed form and test
- Pay the \$5 processing fee
- Receive your certificate



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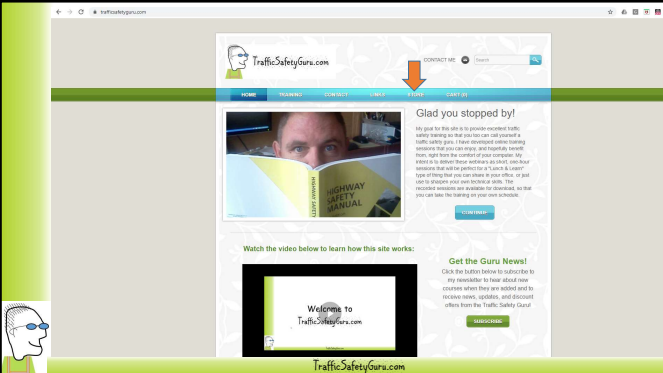
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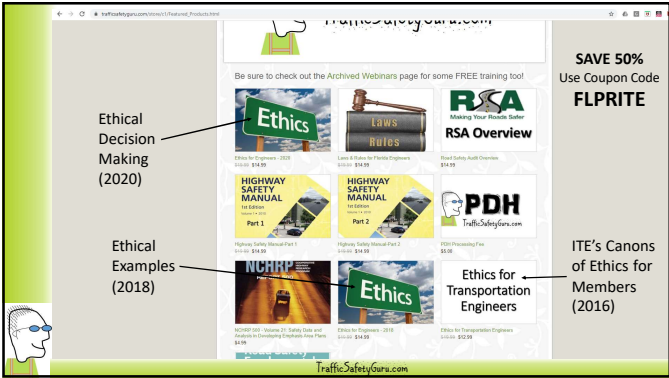
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Thank you!

Questions?

Send questions to:  
Larry@TrafficSafetyGuru.com





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