



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

# ADVOCACY



## WHAT IS A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER (PE)?

### What is a Professional Engineer?

A century ago, anyone could work as an engineer without proof of competency. To protect public health, safety, and welfare, the first engineering licensure law was enacted in 1907 in Wyoming. Now every state regulates the practice of engineering to ensure public safety by granting only Professional Engineers (PEs) the authority to sign and seal engineering plans and offer their services to the public. Today, the PE license is the profession's highest standard of competence and signals an ability to take on the highest levels of responsibility.

### What makes a PE different from an engineer?

Professional Engineers have fulfilled the rigorous education, examination, and experience requirements, which, under state licensure laws, permit them to offer engineering services to the public. And that's just the beginning— PEs must continuously demonstrate their competency, maintain and improve their skills, and adhere to a code of ethics.

### Qualifications that Count

In engineering, mistakes can cost lives. In the US, only licensed PEs are permitted to direct engineering services, and many federal, state, and municipal agencies require the PE license for their own engineers. PEs have the experience, specialized training, and the expertise required whenever precision analysis or design is required. Licensure provides the public the confidence that engineering decisions will protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

### Innovation and Safety

Across the US, PEs are breaking new ground and looking for innovative and cost-effective solutions to meet the increasing demands of a changing society. Every day, PEs work on new transportation and infrastructure projects, cleaner fuel, safer cars, and more efficient and resilient power grids—all while holding paramount the public's health, safety, and welfare.

## **WHAT IS A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER (PE)? (continued)**

### **Protecting the Public**

Engineers who carry the Professional Engineer seal shoulder the responsibility, not just for a project, but for public safety. That's why PEs across all disciplines recognize that the highest measure of success is maintaining the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

### **CONTACT US**

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