

Professional Registration and Plumbing Engineering are two terms that appear to be mutually exclusive. But that does not need to be the case.

Under the auspices of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE), a Working Group has been established to advance the development and implementation of a plumbing option within the Principles and Practices (PP) Examination for Mechanical Engineering as authored by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).

Plumbing has been attached to Mechanical Engineering for many years. After all, plumbing was felt to be simplistic enough that any Mechanical Engineer with an Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology (ABET)-accredited Bachelor of Science – Mechanical Engineering (BSME) degree could adequately handle the demands of the discipline. But, as we are fully aware, the discipline of Plumbing Engineering has become more than just water closets and lavatories. Indeed, plumbing engineering as a discipline becomes increasingly complex each year in its required knowledge and application.

With the various and complex Plumbing Systems engineers must routinely concern themselves within today's practice of Engineering, the current Professional Licensing model does not address the reality that for the vast majority of Registered Engineers. Professional Engineers have been affixing their seal and signature to Plumbing drawings prepared by Plumbing Designers/Drafters for many years. Many of these professionals are doing so without the full and necessary understanding that what they are certifying. Clearly, this is not in the best interests of the health, welfare and safety of the public-at-large.

It is for these reasons that a Plumbing Option, placed within the framework of the Mechanical Engineering PP examination, has become a necessity for the engineering community. This will insure that Engineers sealing and signing Plumbing documents have a level of verifiable knowledge and competency of the discipline. And the health, welfare and safety of the public-at-large will be addressed and not compromised or jeopardized.

A number of templates have been attached to this letter for your use. Or you may wish to generate correspondence of your own creation. But, your profession and Society respectfully urges you, a Registered Engineer practicing plumbing engineering, to contact the Board of Registration for Engineers and Surveyors in all states you are licensed to practice, requesting their support for inclusion of a Plumbing option within the Mechanical Engineering PP examination and to inform the NCEES of this support.

In addition, should you know of any engineering graduates that have not yet obtained their Professional Registration, please forward them a copy of this correspondence for their consideration and action.

And please copy ASPE on your efforts, so that they may be tracked and documented.

A minimum of ten states is required for the NCEES to give consideration to this concept. By working together as a Society, we can make Professional Registration in plumbing engineering a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.