

CESB POLICY STATEMENT ON ENGINEERING CREDENTIALS

This statement was developed by the CESB Engineering Certification Task Force, and adopted by the IHMM Board of Directors on March 30, 2007.

Licenses are the primary credential for engineers. Even where not required by law, licenses are the preferred credential for engineers. Certifications granted by independently accredited certification programs do not provide legal authority to practice engineering, but do provide recognition of an individual's qualifications and expertise in an engineering-related specialty. Titles used for licensing and certification must conform to applicable law.

Background/Rationale:

Licenses are required for the practice of engineering¹ and certifications are voluntary. Post-licensure certification is preferred for engineers. Where licensure examinations relevant to an individual's discipline or specialty do not exist, certification provides another means to demonstrate specialized qualifications, but certification is not a substitute for licensure.

Independent, nationally recognized third-party accreditation organizations, such as CESB² are necessary to confirm the quality of certification programs in engineering and related fields of practice. Engineering organizations should only recognize and recommend accredited certification programs.

The word "engineer" in a specialty certification title does not convey any legal right to practice engineering and may not be used in certain jurisdictions without a license.³

¹ The practice of engineering is regulated in all states and territories through statutes and rules; however, exemptions are granted for some areas of practice in some jurisdictions.

² The Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB) was created by the engineering profession in 1990 to accredit certification programs.

³ It is noted that some jurisdictions currently regulate the use of the title "engineer."

