

Structural Engineering Certification Board History

The Structural Engineering Certification Board was formed to identify those professional engineers with the additional education, experience, and skills that are particular to the practice of Structural Engineering.

Structural Engineering is the science and art of designing and constructing, with efficiency and elegance, buildings, bridges, towers, tanks, frameworks and similar structures so they can safely resist the forces to which they may be subjected.

By submitting to the certification process, an engineer can demonstrate the unique qualities necessary to be certified in the practice of Structural Engineering.

Certification in the practice of Structural Engineering is not intended to supplant the licensing and regulatory rights of States and other legal jurisdictions of the United States. In fact, licensure by a recognized legal jurisdiction is a prerequisite to becoming certified in the practice of Structural Engineering.

Presently (2005), only ten States recognize the unique practice of Structural Engineering. In the future, it is envisioned that certification will facilitate licensure in states where the Structural Engineering discipline is not recognized.

In an effort to promote the public welfare and to aid stakeholders in selecting professional engineers qualified to do structural design, the [National Council of Structural Engineers Association \(NCSEA\)](#) met to find a solution to the problem that State licensing Boards have been ignoring for years. At NCSEA's 1998 Annual Conference in Portland, Maine, the idea of self-certification was proposed and discussed, as frustrated delegates searched for a solution. An ad hoc certification committee was formed; and the topic was discussed and researched for several years, until a vote was taken after the 2003 Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado. That vote authorized NCSEA to form the Structural Engineering Certification Board (SECB); and certification in the practice of Structural Engineering was born.

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