



of engineer

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RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDITIONS FOR PRACTISING THE PROFESSION

The practice of the engineering profession consists in performing for another any of the following acts, namely the giving of consultations and opinions, the making of measurements, of layouts, the preparation of reports, computations, designs, drawings, plans, specifications, the inspection or supervision of the works. These activities must relate to the nature of the work described in the appendix, which constitutes the engineer's field of practice.

Engineers practise an exclusive profession. They must hold a permit from the *Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec* and be registered on the Order's roll to:

- practise the profession and use the seal;
- use the reserved title "engineer" or, in French, "ingénieur".

EXCLUSIVE PROFESSION

57,000 MEMBERS

OBTAINING THE PERMIT

CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING THE PERMIT

To obtain the permit, the candidate must hold a Québec diploma, as provided for by regulation, or have a diploma or training recognized as being equivalent by the Order. The candidate trained in Québec or elsewhere, must also:

- have acquired the necessary engineering experience;
- pass the professional examination;
- have appropriate knowledge of the French language to practise the profession.

Permanent residency or Canadian citizenship is not required to obtain the permit.

Practical advice

- *If you plan to practise the profession of engineer in Québec, you would be well advised to contact the Order prior to your departure. Visit the Order's website at www.oiq.qc.ca to find out about the rules regulating access to the profession and to undertake the procedure to obtain your permit and to apply for membership in the Order. Moreover, certain immigration procedures may require that you to contact the Order. Should this be the case, you will be notified by your immigration counsellor.*

Produced in collaboration with the:

DIPLOMA OR TRAINING EQUIVALENCE

To be recognized as equivalent, a diploma awarded outside Québec must attest that its holder possesses a level of knowledge equivalent to that acquired by the holder of a Québec diploma, as provided for by regulation.

Consequently, equivalence is recognized if the undergraduate diploma in engineering is issued:

- by a Canadian university upon completion of a program of study accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board;

or

- upon completion of a program of study accredited by an organization outside of Canada whose accreditation standards and procedures comply with those of the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board. To date, mutual recognition agreements have been signed with organizations in Australia, France, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States (Appendix 2).

If the diploma was obtained five years or more before the application for equivalence and the acquired knowledge no longer corresponds to the current content of programs of study, the candidate will be required to write confirmatory examinations, unless the candidate is able to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Order, that his or her work experience and training acquired over this period has brought him or her up to standard.

The holder of an undergraduate engineering degree (at least three years in pure or applied sciences, or in technology) or an **engineering degree that cannot be recognized as equivalent** can obtain a training equivalence if he or she can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Order, that he or she possesses the knowledge and skills equivalent to those acquired by the holder of a diploma leading to a permit.

To assess training equivalence, the Order considers the number of years of schooling, the nature, quality and content of courses taken, relevant work experience and the **passing of the exams that it prescribed**.

Useful information

- *The Order requires most candidates who have acquired engineering training abroad to pass from one to five confirmatory examinations. The number of exams will vary according to the program of study the candidate has completed as well as the candidate's experience and graduate studies, if applicable.*
- *Candidates trained in pure or applied sciences or in technology (technologists, technical engineers, applications engineers, execution engineers, etc.) may be required to write up to 13 **training examinations**, which may be technical in nature or cover complementary studies. If a candidate is required to pass more than nine technical examinations to bring his or her engineering training up to standard, the application will be refused. In addition to technical examinations, a candidate may be required to write up to four examinations covering complementary studies.*
- *These examinations are held twice a year in Montréal, in May and in November. A fee of \$270.90 is charged for each exam.*
- *The Order will provide candidates with a preparatory list of readings for the examinations. Training programs and tutorials are also available to help candidates prepare for the **confirmatory examinations**. You should find out about the admission criteria and tuition fees for these programs.*
- *The examinations could cover the following disciplines: basic topics in engineering, agricultural and food engineering, building, chemical, civil, electrical, environmental, geological, and industrial engineering as well as computer, software, mechanical, metallurgical, mining/mineralurgical and physical engineering, complementary studies including engineering economics.*
- *In certain specific cases, the prescribed examinations may be replaced by courses recognized by the Order as being equivalent, offered in Québec universities. The Order will notify candidates should this be the case. The individual must satisfy the university's admission criteria and make provision for the related tuition fees.*

Procedure for obtaining recognition of diploma or training equivalence

Complete the Order's "Permit Application" available on the Order's website and provide all of the following documents:

- School records, including descriptions of the courses taken as well as the complete and final transcript for each of the diplomas supporting your application
- Any diploma in support of the application or certification that it has been awarded
- Summary and detailed certification of any relevant work experience, if applicable
- Certification of participation in any training or upgrading activity, if applicable
- Birth certificate
- A recent passport-size photo (5 cm x 7 cm) signed on the back by the candidate
- Cheque or postal money order in Canadian currency to cover the application review fee
The fee is \$135.45 for holders of a recognized undergraduate diploma from Québec accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board or the *Commission des titres d'ingénieur* (France) covered by the recognition agreement.

The fee is \$507.94 for holders of a recognized diploma (outside Québec) accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board or covered by one of the various recognition agreements (except the one with CTI).

The fee is \$790.13 for holders of others engineering diplomas.

The fee is \$3 386.25 for holders of an undergraduate degree in pure or applied science or in technology.

This fee is non-refundable.
- If applicable, a document proving that you have completed, in French, at least three years of full-time secondary or post-secondary studies
Transcripts offer proof of engineering courses taken in French.

Only applications duly completed and accompanied by all of the required documents shall be processed.

All documents must be originals or certified true copies of the original. **For documents written in a language other than French or English, candidates must also supply a French or English translation attested to by a sworn statement from the translator who did the translation. However, candidates will only be required to provide a translation of course descriptions at the Order's request.**

Useful information

- *It is important that candidates be able to provide adequate proof of the relevant experience acquired outside of Québec since the Order generally takes the latter into account when:*
 - *evaluating training equivalence (the experience recognized can influence the number of confirmatory examinations candidates may be required to write);*
 - *determining the duration of the apprenticeship period that will be required of the candidates who have obtained a junior engineer's permit.*
- *For each engineering position held, the attestation that candidates must obtain from their employer must explicitly describe their responsibilities and professional activities in this position. It must also indicate the dates of employment. If a candidate has successively held a number of positions within an organization, each position must be described. Candidates may also submit official job descriptions, accompanied by letters certifying their employment in that position and their dates of employment. These letters must be printed on the organization's letterhead and the name, title and contact information of the person who signed the letter, ideally an engineer holding a position of responsibility, must be clearly legible.*

Once the candidate has obtained the diploma or training equivalence, he or she may register for the Order's roll, initially as a junior engineer. A fee of \$327.34 is required. The candidate will then officially become a member of the Order and, as a junior engineer holding a Québec diploma, must satisfy certain conditions to obtain the engineer's permit.

ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

The Order requires an apprenticeship period in engineering in order to attain the necessary professional autonomy to practise the profession.

This apprenticeship must be for a duration of at least 36 consecutive or non-consecutive months. At least 12 months must be completed in Canada under the direct supervision of an engineer, in order to ensure good knowledge of local Canadian conditions, particularly with regard to the law, standards, the economy, climate, resources and technology. This engineering experience must enable the junior engineer:

- to carry out on a regular basis activities related to the subject matter covered in the program leading to the degree he or she holds; and
- to solve problems requiring the application of engineering sciences in at least one of the following areas: research, development, design, production, construction, installation, maintenance, technical sales and marketing; and
- participate in:
 - applying the financial, economic, regulatory and legal aspects of the engineer's work; or
 - managing and leading a technical team; or
 - solving industrial or environmental problems; and
- to progress to more complex problem solving activities and take on increasing responsibilities.

Under certain conditions prescribed by regulation, the Order may recognize relevant experience recently acquired outside of Québec. If this experience is properly documented, the Order may recognize up to 24 of the 36 months of experience required as a junior engineer.

Experience credits may also be granted for the successful completion of the optional sponsoring activity provided for by regulation. This activity is intended to facilitate the junior engineer's integra-

tion into the profession. It involves a series of six meetings with a sponsoring engineer to discuss the rights and responsibilities integral to the engineer's status as well as the profession's core values: skills, responsibility, ethical conduct and social commitment. This activity can be undertaken as a complement to the preparation for the professional examination.

Under certain conditions and as provided by regulation, experience credits may also be awarded for engineering experience acquired during undergraduate and graduate engineering studies.

However, the total number of experience credits may not exceed 24 months.

When candidates are required to pass **training examinations** to obtain their permits, only the experience acquired after they have passed all the prescribed examinations may be taken into account.

PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION

The goal of the professional examination is to determine if the junior engineer:

- is familiar with professional laws in Québec, that is, the Professional Code, the Engineers Act and applicable regulations;
- is familiar with the principles of professional practice, ethics and professionalism, the engineer's role and obligations in society, the social impact of technology, sustainable development, environmental protection and the duty to maintain his or her skills;
- possesses basic legal knowledge in the area of civic responsibility, contract and intellectual property law, commercial law, labour law, construction law, environmental law as well as health and workplace safety law.

The examination lasts three hours and the passing grade is 60% for each of the three parts. Candidates must rewrite the entire examination if they fail any one of the three parts.

Registering for the professional examination

You are eligible to write the exam as soon as you have obtained the junior engineer's permit. You must also send the Order, within the prescribed timeframe, the registration form.

Useful information

- *Preparatory documents for the professional examination are available on the Order's Internet site.*
- *The junior engineer may write the professional examination in English or French.*
- *The examination is held in the following cities: five times a year in Montréal, twice in Québec City and once in Chicoutimi, Gatineau, Rimouski, Rouyn-Noranda, Sept-Îles, Sherbrooke and Trois-Rivières.*

APPROPRIATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

In accordance with the Charter of the French Language, professional orders can only deliver regular permits to individuals who have a knowledge of the French language appropriate to the practice of their profession. Therefore, candidates need to meet this legal requirement and those above mentioned to obtain an engineer's permit.

Useful information

Individuals having completed at least three years of full-time secondary or post-secondary education in French are recognized as having sufficient knowledge of the French language.

Candidates whose files do not indicate that they have appropriate knowledge of French must pass the *Office québécois de la langue française* (OQLF) French examination. **The Order** will forward the examination registration form once the application for recognition of diploma or training equivalence has been submitted.

Those candidates may, however, obtain a temporary engineer's permit for no more than one year if they meet the requirements for practising the profession. This permit will be issued by the Order, together with a registration form for the OQLF French exam.

The temporary permit may be renewed up to three times with the authorization of the OQLF. For each renewal, candidates must sit examinations held in compliance with OQLF regulations. Once the temporary permit has expired, the candidate must pass the OQLF examination to obtain a regular permit. This examination is free of charge and is held in Montréal.

Issuance of the engineer or junior engineer's permit

Junior engineer's permit (restricted practice)

If you hold a Québec diploma as provided by regulation or have obtained recognition of diploma or training equivalence, the Order will issue you a junior engineer's permit.

Engineer's permit

If you hold a junior engineer's permit and you have fulfilled all the conditions relating to the required engineering experience, successful completion of the professional examination and knowledge of the French language, the Order will issue you an engineer's permit.

REVIEW MECHANISM AND EXAMINATION REWRITES

Candidates may request a hearing with the Order to review its decision if recognition of a diploma or training equivalence was refused or if recognition is conditional upon the candidate's passing the required examinations. If the candidate failed a training or confirmatory examination, he or she may ask to have the grade reviewed.

The junior engineer may request the review of a decision when the Order refuses to recognize his or her engineering experience or to issue certification that the sponsorship activity was successfully completed. The candidate may also request a review of the grade on his or her professional examination.

Any request for a review must fall within the time-frames prescribed by regulation.

Any candidate who fails the professional examination may rewrite it as many times as necessary.

The Order informs the candidate of the various procedures and fees.

REGISTRATION ON THE ROLL OF THE ORDER AS A JUNIOR ENGINEER OR ENGINEER

To practise the profession and use the reserved title, the permit holder must be registered on the Order's roll. To register, you must:

- submit a written request using the prescribed form and sign a declaration on disciplinary and criminal decisions made within and outside Québec;
- pay the annual dues;
- take out group professional liability insurance.

For engineers, annual dues are \$289.19, plus \$24.45 for the contribution to the financing of the *Office des professions du Québec*. Annual professional liability insurance fees are \$13.24. For the first three years as a junior engineer, membership dues and insurance premiums are lower than that of engineers.

References

- *Engineers Act (R.S.Q. c. I-9)*.
- *Regulation respecting the standards for equivalence of diplomas for the issue of a permit by the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec (c. I-9, r.7.1)*.
- *Regulation respecting other terms and conditions for permits to be issued by the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec (c. I-9, r.1.2)*.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Information on the conditions for practising the profession in Québec

- **Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec**

Gare Windsor, bureau 350
1100, avenue des Canadiens-de-Montréal
Montréal (Québec) H3B 2S2

Telephone: 514 845-6141, ext. 3116
Toll free: 1 800 461-6141, ext. 3116

Fax : 514 845-1833

Internet: www.oiq.qc.ca
E-mail: admission@oiq.qc.ca

Information on certification and examinations for evaluating knowledge of the French language

- **Office québécois de la langue française**
www.oqlf.gouv.qc.ca

Information on Québec's professional system and the Professional Code

- **Office des professions du Québec**
www.opq.gouv.qc.ca
- **Conseil interprofessionnel du Québec**
www.professions-quebec.org

Information and assistance with regard to procedures pertaining to a professional order

- **Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles**
www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

In the Montréal region:
Contact team responsible for information on regulated professions and trades at 514 864-9191.

Elsewhere in Québec or abroad:
Contact the [Service Immigration-Québec](#) in your settlement area.

Free access to laws and regulations on the Internet and sale of printed documents

- **Les Publications du Québec**
www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca

Information on the job market in Québec

- **Emploi-Québec**
emploi.quebec.net
- **Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation**
www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca

You can also obtain the brochure *The practice of a profession governed by a professional order*

On the Internet:
www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

In Québec:
at a [Service Immigration-Québec](#)

Abroad:
at the [Bureau d'immigration du Québec](#) serving your territory

Notice

The information in this document was current in May 2010. It was obtained from various sources and in no way replaces current legislation and regulations.

The Ordre des Ingénieurs du Québec has validated the French version of the document.

The English version is in accordance with the French version but has not been validated by the Order.

The fees mentioned herein are subject to change. They are in Canadian dollars and include all applicable taxes.



WORKS OF THE KINDS DESCRIBED BELOW CONSTITUTE THE FIELD OF PRACTICE OF AN ENGINEER:

- Railways, public roads, airports, bridges, viaducts, tunnels, and the installations connected with a transport system the cost of which exceeds \$3,000;
- Dams, canals, harbours, lighthouses and all works relating to the improvement, control or utilization of waters;
- Works of an electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, aeronautical, electronic, thermic, nuclear, metallurgical, geological or mining character and those intended for the utilization of the processes of applied chemistry or physics;
- Waterworks, sewers, filtration, purification works to dispose of refuse and other works in the field of municipal engineering the cost of which exceeds \$1,000;
- The foundations, framework and electrical and mechanical systems of buildings the cost of which exceeds \$100,000 and of public buildings within the meaning of the Buildings Act;
- Structures accessory to engineering works and intended to house them;
- Temporary framework and other temporary works used during the carrying out of works of civil engineering;
- Soil engineering necessary to elaborate engineering works;
- Industrial work or equipment involving public or employee safety.

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS LINKED THROUGH RECOGNITION AGREEMENTS

- Accreditation Board for Engineering Education of Korea (Korea) (degree holders as of 2007)
- Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (United States)
- Board of Engineers Malaysia (Malaysia) (degree holders as of 2009)
- Commission des titres d'ingénieur (France)
- Engineering Council of South Africa (South Africa) (degree holders as of 1999)
- Institute of Engineering Education Taiwan (Taiwan) (degree holders as of 2007)
- Institution of Engineers Singapore (Singapore) (degree holders as of 2006)
- Japan Accreditation Board for Engineering Education (Japan) (degree holders as of 2005)
- The Engineering Council (United Kingdom) (Degree obtained as of 1989 and giving access to the C. Eng. title without examination)
- The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (Hong Kong) (degree holders as of 1995)
- The Institution of Engineers (Australia) (degree holders as of 1989)
- The Institution of Engineers of Ireland (Ireland) (degree holders as of 1989)
- The Institution of Professional Engineers (New Zealand) (degree holders as of 1989)