

MEMO

DATE: September 2, 2010

TO: Member Boards and Testing Services

FROM: Davy McDowell, P.E., Associate Executive Director

RE: 16-hour Structural Exam

NCEES has introduced a new 16-hour Structural exam, to be administered for the first time in April 2011. The new exam will replace the current Structural I and Structural II exams, which will be administered for the last time in October of this year. Member board administrators recently posed several questions about the new exam, and we have provided the answers here. Detailed exam specifications, news releases, and information about the transition to the new exam are posted on http://www.ncees.org/Exams/PE_exam.php.

What is the name of the exam?

The new exam is called the Structural exam. It is divided into two 8-hour components. The Vertical Forces Component is offered only on Friday. The Lateral Forces Component is offered only on Saturday. NCEES discourages using letters or numerals such as *A* and *B*, *1* and *2*, or *I* and *II* to prevent confusing the new exam components with the Structural I and II exams.

How much does the exam cost? If a candidate sits for both components in the same weekend, will the candidate be charged for two exams? Will NCEES charge candidates these fees directly or charge the board?

NCEES Financial Policy 8, Examination Charges, sets the following prices for the new Structural exam:

Each exam/component ordered	\$10
Each Lateral component submitted for scoring	\$400
Each Vertical component submitted for scoring	\$400

Considering this fee schedule, if a candidate sits for both Structural components and the board/testing service submits both components for scoring, the minimum cost would be \$820 (two exams ordered, two exams scored). Most boards/testing services have administration and application fees as well. The amount is determined solely by the board/testing service. For example, when NCEES is the testing service for a board, NCEES applies a \$100 administration fee to each day a candidate is testing to cover the space and proctoring services needed. In the case of the new Structural exam, then, NCEES would require a \$200 administration fee for an examinee taking both components in a single administration. The board/testing service determines whether NCEES will collect fees from the board or directly from a candidate.

What will the score report contain? Will NCEES provide model language to the boards to correctly convey the examinee's performance on each component of the exam?

NCEES will send a *component results notice* to the board each administration that a candidate takes a component. The notice will show the history of the candidate's performance on each component attempted. The results for each component will be listed as *acceptable* or *unacceptable*. After a candidate has received an acceptable result on both components within a 5-year period, an *exam pass notice* will be sent to the board to indicate the candidate has passed the Structural exam.

NCEES will provide boards with additional model language for candidate result letters upon request.

Will the Examinee Management System allow candidates to register for both components in a single administration?

Yes, candidates can currently register on EMS for more than one exam at a time if their state allows it.

Will there be different exam scripts for the FE and Structural exams given on Saturday? Will separate rooms be needed?

The Saturday exam script will accommodate sites that give the Structural exam on Saturday along with the FE exam. A different exam script will not be necessary. NCEES recommends segregating the Structural candidates from the FE and FS candidates, but a separate room is not required. This setup would be similar to the way many states currently test PS and PE examinees in the same room.

When will study materials for the Structural exam be available?

The *Structural Sample Questions and Solutions* will be available in November 2010.