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**PE**  **LS** Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors



**October 01, 2024**

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## Focus on Compliance: Understanding Common License Statuses

There are several common license statuses in which one's professional engineer license or professional land surveyor registration can be. Understanding these common statuses and the authority or limitations associated with each one is important to ensure you stay in compliance.

### Active Status

The most common license status is active. An active license allows the license or registration holder to actively offer and engage in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying. Active licensees are also required to comply with the continuing education requirements each year, even if you are not offering or practicing. As a reminder, each renewal cycle, active professional engineers are required to obtain 15 hours of continuing education, with at least one of those hours being in ethics. Each renewal cycle, active professional land surveyors are required to obtain 12 hours of continuing education, with at least three of those hours being in ethics. Active license holders are required to renew their license once per year. As part of renewing your license, you pay the associated renewal fee and also must self-certify that you have met the continuing education obligations for the preceding year. If you have yet to finish your required continuing education, you should not renew your

license until you have gotten the minimum number of hours. If you do not renew your license by its expiration date, your license enters expired status.

### **Expired Status**

If you do not renew your license on time and allow your license to expire, you must cease offering or practicing engineering or land surveying immediately and may not resume doing so until your license is renewed by paying the renewal fee and any accumulated late fees. Continuing to offer or practice while your license is expired constitutes unlicensed practice and is subject to enforcement action. Keep in mind that you are allowed to renew an expired license up to two years after it originally expired by paying the renewal fee and any associated late fees.

### **Inactive Status**

One other license status you should be aware of is inactive status. If you do not anticipate offering or performing services in the immediate future, you may consider putting your license in inactive status. Inactive status could apply if your current employment does not require you to practice or if you are retired. The benefit of inactive status is that it can be returned to active status if certain conditions are met. To put your license in inactive status, you must submit a request to do so in writing to the Board. When you are in inactive status, you still renew your license each year and pay the renewal fee, but you are not required to obtain continuing education and cannot offer services or practice. If and when you decide to reclassify your license back to active status, you must submit continuing education records as part of your request. If you have been inactive for a year or less, one year's worth of continuing education (15 hours for PEs, 12 hours for RPLSs) must be submitted as part of the request. If you have been inactive for two years or more, two years' worth of continuing education (30 hours for PEs, 24 hours for RPLSs) must be submitted as part of the request. For reference, here are links to the inactive request forms for [engineers](#) and [surveyors](#).

### **Voluntary Surrender**

Lastly, if you decide you no longer want your license and want to give it up immediately, you can request to voluntarily surrender your license. In order to voluntarily surrender your license, submit a request in writing to the Board. Note, there is no set form to request to surrender your license, a letter is sufficient. More information on the different license statuses can be found in the Act and Board rules and on the Board's website. Should you need more information or wish to change the status of your license, you may reach out to the Board's Licensing and Registration group at [licensing@pels.texas.gov](mailto:licensing@pels.texas.gov).

## **NCEES**

At the 2024 Annual NCEES Meeting in Chicago, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (TBPELS) signed a Mutual Recognition Agreement with the Engineers Council UK to facilitate licensure mobility between licensed engineers in Texas and the UK. The Board is in the process of developing rules and procedures to implement this agreement.



**Back Row:** Lance Kinney, PhD, PE, Executive Director, TBPELS; Dr. Sina Nejad, PE, Chair, TBPELS. **Front Row:** David Cox, CEO, NCEES; Laura Sievers, PE, President (2023-2024), NCEES; John Chudley, PhD, CEng, Chair, Engineering Council UK; Dr. David Clark, FRSC, International Affairs Manager, Engineering Council UK



## Board and Committee Meetings

### August 07-08, 2024, Board Meeting

Agendas, minutes, and recordings are available at <https://pels.texas.gov/boardmeetings.htm>

### Disciplinary Actions

All enforcement actions approved by the Board are posted on the TBPELS website. Enforcement actions are reported based on the date of the Board meeting at which the actions were taken.

<http://pels.texas.gov/disciplinary.htm>

### Future Meetings

The next meetings will be held on November 13-14, 2024. Refer to our website for agendas and links to attend the meetings.

<https://pels.texas.gov/boardmeetings.htm>

### Board Meeting Recordings

The recording of the August 2024 regular board meeting has been posted on the agency's meeting page at <https://pels.texas.gov/boardmeetings.htm>

Viewing the live stream or recording of the Board meetings qualifies for continuing education credit under the category of self-directed study. Engineers may accrue a maximum of five self-directed study credit hours per renewal cycle. The maximum self-directed study credit for surveyors is four hours per renewal cycle.

## Exams

### National Engineering and Surveying Exams

All NCEES exams (PE, PS, FE, FS) are now computer-based. Refer to NCEES for specific exam dates and deadlines- [Exam Schedule](#)

### 2024 TBPELS Surveyor Exam schedule



The Texas Specific Surveying Exams (TSSE and LSLs) will be offered October 18, 2024.

Please see the TBPELS website for more exam application deadlines and information - [Surveying Exam Schedule](#)

## Outreach and Webinars

### Schedule an Outreach

TBPELS provides online outreach presentations at no charge to license holders, associations, societies, and companies. The following guidelines are used in reviewing outreach requests:

- The default method of presentation is via webinar.
- A minimum of 50 attendees is recommended for a face-to-face presentation request.
- All requests are subject to review and approval.
- Request processing can take up to 14 working days.
- Please submit your request at least three (3) weeks prior to the proposed date of the event.
- Rescheduling will require a new request.
- Presentations are typically 1 hour in length.



Request an event by clicking on the link below:

<https://pels.texas.gov/outreach.html>

### Engineer and Surveyor Ethics Webinars

The Board offers monthly one-hour, free ethics webinars to assist license and registration holders with meeting their continuing education requirements. Each webinar provides an up-to-date overview of agency activities, case studies, and a review of professional ethics topics.

The next ethics webinars will be on October 16th, at 10 a.m. Registration for future webinars will open a month prior. Please note that each registration is capped at 1,000 attendees per webinar and will close when this cap is reached.

To sign up for an ethics webinar click link below:

<https://pels.texas.gov/webinars.html>



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