



May 16, 2024

Ms. Anjanie Ramnarine
Assistant Director of Human Resources
Tarrant County Government
100 E Weatherford St, Ste. 301
Fort Worth, TX 76196
Via e-mail

Re: Formal Response to Request for Policy Advisory Opinion Regarding The Use of the Term
“Network Engineer” in Local Government Job Titles

Dear Ms. Ramnarine:

The Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (Board) met in public session on May 16, 2024, and approved this response to your request, dated November 3, 2023.

Request:

You seek guidance on the following issues:

- Can a local government in Texas use the job title “Network Engineer” for positions in information technology whose positions design, configure, install, troubleshoot, and manage the government entity’s network infrastructure? While the positions require certain levels of education and network experience and certifications, the positions do not require a professional engineer license and the holders of the position will not engage in the practice of engineering as defined in Texas Occupations Code, Section 1001.003.

Response:

The use of the job title “engineer” is addressed in the Texas Engineering Practice Act (the Act), Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 1001.

Specifically, Section 1001.301(b) of the Act states that a person may not use the term “engineer” as a professional title in Texas unless that person holds a professional engineer’s license issued by the Board.

Please note, there are two exceptions to this statutory provision.

Section 1001.301(f) of the Act allows a regular employee of a business entity who is engaged in engineering activities but is exempt from the licensing provisions of the Act found in Sections 1001.057 or 1001.058 of the Act to use the term “engineer” on a business card, cover letter, or other form of correspondence if the person does not offer to perform engineering services to the public or use the title in any context outside the scope of the exemptions found in the aforementioned sections of the Act. Employees of local governments do not meet either of the exemptions found in Sections 1001.057 or 1001.058; therefore, Section 1001.301(f) of the Act does not apply in this case.

Section 1001.406 further allows a graduate engineer [a graduate of a university who has a degree from an engineering program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology

(ABET)] who is employed in a firm registered under the Act who is working under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer to use the term “engineer” on the person’s stationary or business cards. As local governments are not registered engineering firms, the exemption for the use of the term “engineer” found in Section 1001.406 also would not apply to the request at hand.

As such, the Act does not allow a local government to use the term “Network Engineer” for positions in information technology if the position will not be held by a professional engineer licensed by the Board.

Conclusion:

No new Policy Advisory Opinion will be developed for this request as the question is addressed by the Act.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Michael Sims, P.E., Director of Compliance & Enforcement at 512.440.7723.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance Kinney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lance" and last name "Kinney" clearly distinguishable.

Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E.
Executive Director

LK:MZS