

Mandatory registration for mechanical engineers commences today, 1 December 2023

Dear Member

As of today, 1 December 2023, all degree qualified mechanical engineers will be required to be registered in Victoria.

The [Professional Engineers Registration Act 2019](#) (the Act) commenced on 1 July 2021. There has been a staggered approach to implementation, with mechanical engineers the final cohort to be mandated. The purpose of this bulletin is to inform members, who may fall under the registration requirements mandated within the Act, of the steps to follow to make application for registration.

If you have not yet commenced the registration process, and if are eligible, you must lodge your application for registration with the Business Licencing Authority (BLA) as soon as possible to ensure you are meeting your obligations under the [Professional Engineers Registration Act 2019](#).

Any queries emanating from this bulletin or regarding your registration application should be referred to engineers@bla.vic.gov.au

What should mechanical engineers do from this point?

There are several Guidelines and Practice notes, which may be helpful to members, particularly if deciding if you need to be registered under the Act or not. VACC encourages all potential applicants to verify their eligibility for registration and endorsement [before you apply](#).

You should also ensure that any person working for you as a mechanical engineer is aware of the new requirements under the Act and make their own decision as to whether they are required to register or not.

What are the registration and renewal requirements?

Professional engineers are required to meet qualification and experience requirements to be registered, and to complete continuing professional development to retain registration.

- The qualifications are a Washington Accord qualification or equivalent qualification or competency.
- The experience is five years of which at least four must be postgraduate.
- The continuing professional development requirement for renewal is 150 hours every three years.

Applicants for registration will also need to pass certain personal and financial probity tests including:

- Not being found guilty or convicted of an indictable offence within the last 10 years.
- Not being insolvent or an officer of an externally administered company, and not failing to comply with a court or tribunal order.
- Registration will be valid for three years with a professional engineer's personal and financial probity being reassessed at each renewal cycle.

What is the process for applying for registration?

The Business Licensing Authority (BLA) has advised that registrations are a [2 step process](#).

Step 1 – Qualification and experience assessment

- Apply to an assessment entity to have your qualifications and experiences assessed. See a public record of assessment entities [here](#).
- The assessment entity will assess your qualifications and experience against their approved assessment scheme and issue you with a report on the outcome.

Step 2 – Apply for registration to BLA.

- Applications for registration can only be made through the Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) [myCAV portal](#).
- Upload a copy of the report from the assessment entity.
- BLA will complete the personal and financial probity checks required under the Act.

The Act is the result of a 2014 election commitment by the Victorian Government that was re-confirmed during the lead-up to the 2018 Victorian election.

Between 2017-2019 VACC lobbied aggressively to have mechanical engineers omitted under the Act. Unfortunately, whilst receiving support from many of Victoria's crossbench at the time, the Government of the day saw safe passage of the legislation through Parliament in August 2019.

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