

Bulletin

Industry Divisions



Reference No. Mandatory registration/ir-10-23

Date: 17/10/2023

REMINDER: Mandatory registration for mechanical engineers commences 1 December 2023

Dear Member

This is a reminder, if you are eligible, please 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](#).

As of 1 December 2023, mechanical engineers will be required to be registered.

The [Professional Engineers Registration Act 2019](#) (the Act) commenced on 1 July 2021. The purpose of this bulletin is to inform members, who may fall under the registration requirements mandated within the Act, of the steps and timelines to follow to make an application for registration.

Any queries further queries should be referred to engineers@bla.vic.gov.au.

What type of engineers are captured under the Act?

There are five [areas of engineering](#) prescribed for registration and the prescribed date for when registration becomes/became mandatory are:

- fire safety engineering (1.12.2021)
- civil engineering (1.10.2022)
- structural engineering (1.10.2022)
- electrical engineering (1.6.2023)
- **mechanical engineering (1.12.2023)**

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 that they 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?

In meeting with VACC, 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.

When should you apply for registration?

VACC advises that you begin the application process immediately. Any professional engineer can register on a voluntary basis in any of the five areas of engineering before it becomes mandatory for them to do so.

To ensure that your registration is completed by the mandatory date of commencement, (1 December 2023), you should lodge your application as soon as possible as there may be processing delays as the date moves closer.

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 crossbenchers at the time, the Government of the day saw safe passage of the legislation through Parliament in August 2019.

Dr Imorgen Read

Lead, Strategy and Policy