

**IDFPR**Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

STRUCTURAL OR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING?

The Division has constructed this guide to assist in differentiating the two professions and which license is required to offer certain services in Illinois.

Structural Engineering:

To be licensed as a Structural Engineer in Illinois, an applicant must meet the licensure requirements set forth in the Illinois Structural Engineering Practice Act and Administrative Rules.

Illinois is somewhat unique in regards to Structural Engineering as there is a separate Act that governs the practice of Structural Engineering. A Professional Engineer in Illinois cannot offer or perform any Structural services. Only an Illinois licensed Structural Engineer can perform Structural services in Illinois. There is no cross-over for licensures. The Structural Engineering Practice Act has no exemptions in terms of Industrial, Railroad, Manufacture, etc. as there are in the Professional Engineering Practice Act.

Structural Engineering services in Illinois may consist of the design or analysis of, but are not limited to:

Bridges, Columns, Girders, Foundations, Load Calculations (wind/seismic), Retaining walls of any height, Structural Forensic & Failure analysis, Structures of any kind (permanent/temporary), Towers, Trusses, etc.

Reference the Structural Engineering Practice Act and Administrative Rules here:

<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/profs/se.html>

Professional Engineering:

To be licensed as a Professional Engineer in Illinois, an applicant must meet the licensure requirements set forth in the Illinois Professional Engineering Practice Act and Administrative Rules.

Illinois is not a discipline specific State. Once an applicant is licensed as a Professional Engineer in Illinois, the licensee is authorized by the Department to perform any type of engineering the licensee believes to have the knowledge, competency and ability to perform while maintaining the Health, Safety and Welfare of the public.

The only exception to this is in regards to Structural Engineering, as a Professional Engineer in Illinois cannot offer or perform any Structural services. That requires a separate Structural Engineering license. Only an Illinois licensed Structural Engineer can perform Structural services in Illinois.

Professional Engineering services in Illinois may consist of, but are not limited to:

Agricultural, Chemical, Civil, Control Systems, Electrical, Environmental, Geotechnical, Fire Protection, Mechanical, Mining, Naval, Non-Structural Forensic & Failure analysis, Software, etc.

Reference the Professional Engineering Practice Act and Administrative Rules here:

<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/profs/profengineer.html>

Questions?

Phone 800.560.6420

Email: FPR.DesignUnit@Illinois.gov