



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

GREGORY BIALECKI
SECRETARY OF HOUSING
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Professional Licensure
1000 Washington Street • Boston • Massachusetts • 02118

BARBARA ANTHONY
UNDERSECRETARY OF OFFICE
OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
BUSINESS REGULATION

MARK R. KMETZ
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

NOTICE: Division of Professional Licensure Announces New Regulations for Engineers and Land Surveyors

The Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors has finalized new regulations that comprehensively reform the rules governing the practices of engineering and land surveying in Massachusetts. The reforms went into effect on November 22, 2013, and will allow the use of new technologies in the course of performing engineering and land surveying work. The reforms also clarify existing regulatory requirements for licensed professionals.

In an effort to modernize existing regulations, the Board developed a new set of rules that more clearly articulates the requirements for licensure and recognizes important technological advancements that affect how licensees conduct business on a day-to-day basis.

One proposed change will allow licensees to authenticate their work through the use of digital signatures and digitized professional stamps. Along with additional proposed changes, this will help modernize the profession by allowing the use of new technologies, saving time and increasing efficiency.

Another proposed change clarifies an existing requirement that businesses performing engineering or surveying work have an appropriately qualified licensee directly in charge of the work. Currently, a licensee cannot approve work unless it was performed by the licensee personally, or by an employee under the direct supervision of the licensee. The revised regulation describes the requirements that must be met to ensure that the licensee exercised direct charge and supervision over the work. This clarification will provide better guidance to small engineering and land surveying firms in their day-to-day operations, while also offering stronger protections to businesses and consumers utilizing the services of those firms.

DPL held a public hearing in July regarding their proposal, which followed a significant review of current regulations by the Board members and staff. The majority of regulations governing engineers and land surveyors had not been updated since 1993, and members of the professions found those regulations to be outdated and lacking structure.

The text of the final regulations are now available online through the [Board's webpage](#).

