



Continuing Education regulations and more....

The Virginia General Assembly passed a bill during the 2006 legislative session which mandated the APELSCIDLA Board implement a mandatory continuing education program (16 hours of continuing education activities) for architects, professional engineers, and land surveyors. The law became effective on July 1, 2006, and the Board initiated the process to promulgate the necessary regulations for the program on September 7, 2006. The new regulations became effective April 1, 2009, with a one year delayed enactment clause.

The regulations are drafted broadly to allow licensees the flexibility to meet the requirements through a variety of methods as long as the coursework falls within the regulation. The course must be related to the practice of the license being renewed and have a clear purpose and objective that will maintain, improve or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to practice.

Fifty contact minutes shall equal one CE credit hour. For segments less than 50 minutes, the sum of the segments may be totaled for computation of CE credit hours for that one CE course or activity. One semester credit hour of approved college credit equals 15 CE credit hours and one quarter credit hour of approved college credit equals 10 CE credit hours.

For further information, please review

Regulations
18VAC10-20-683 and
687 of the new APEL-
SCIDLA Board regula-
tions (effective April 1,
2009).



Points to Ponder

- The Board does not have a “retired” or “inactive” status for licensees.
- Section 54.1-405 of the *Code of Virginia* provides regulants with the ability to use their professional title while retired.
- You cannot *practice* with an expired license.
- A license is valid during the life of the holder unless revoked or suspended by the Board.
- A license holder must register with the Board to practice in the Commonwealth.
- The new continuing education regulations for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors became effective April 1, 2009.
- There is a 12 month delayed enactment clause for attesting to CE. Beginning April 1, 2010, licensees must attest to meeting CE requirements at renewal.
- If you hold more than one license, you need 16 hours of CE per license.
- If you hold more than one license and find a CE activity that would meet the requirements for both licenses, you could count it for both. However, be mindful the CE activity has to have occurred within the two year window for each license.
- CE requirements vary from state to state.
- The Board has no control over what CE activities may be accepted by other states.
- The Board is not pre-approving or providing CE activities due to the different professions and specialties within the professions.
- Development, administration, and updating coursework, as well as providing training opportunities, would require a significant increase in fees as the Board is self-funded.
- There is no CE exemption for licensees living outside of Virginia.
- There is no CE exemption for “expert witnesses.”
- There is no CE exemption for advanced degrees.
- There is no CE exemption for small firms with nominal number of licensed individuals.
- There is no CE exemption for age or years of practice.
- There is no CE exemption specifically for active military service.
- The licensee may request Board consideration of an exemption from the CE requirements under “undue hardship” or “certified illness.”