

Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists

Proposed Language

Amend section 475 of Article 3 in Division 5 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§475. Code of Professional Conduct – Professional Engineering

To protect and safeguard the health, safety, welfare, and property of the public, every person who is licensed by the Board as a professional engineer, including licensees employed in any manner by a governmental entity or in private practice, shall comply with this Code of Professional Conduct. A violation of this Code of Professional Conduct in the practice of professional engineering constitutes unprofessional conduct and is grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to Section 6775 of the Code. This Code of Professional Conduct shall be used for the sole purpose of investigating complaints and making findings thereon under Section 6775 of the Code.

(a) Compliance with Laws Applicable to a Project:

A licensee shall provide professional services for a project in a manner that is consistent with the laws, codes, ordinances, rules, and regulations applicable to that project. A licensee may obtain and rely upon the advice of other professionals (e.g., architects, attorneys, professional engineers, professional land surveyors, and other qualified persons) as to the intent and meaning of such laws, codes, and regulations.

(b) Conflict of Interest:

(1) If a licensee provides professional services for two or more clients on a project or related projects, the licensee shall disclose in writing to those clients and property owners or their authorized representatives his or her relationship to those clients.

(2) If a licensee has a business association or a financial interest which may influence his or her judgment in connection with the performance of professional services, the licensee shall fully disclose in writing to his or her client(s) or employer(s) the nature of the business association or the financial interest.

(3) A licensee shall not solicit or accept payments, rebates, refunds, or commissions, whether in the form of money or otherwise, from contractors or suppliers of material, systems, or equipment in return for specifying their products to a client or employer of the licensee.

(4) A licensee, while engaged by a governmental agency as an officer, employee, appointee, agent, or consultant of that agency shall not engage in a professional engineering business or activity that may be subject to that licensee's direct or indirect control, inspection, review, audit, or enforcement on behalf of that agency, unless the circumstances are disclosed to and approved by that agency in writing prior to such engagement.

(c) Representations:

(1) A licensee shall not misrepresent his or her qualifications to a prospective or existing client or employer.

(2) A licensee shall not misrepresent to a prospective or existing client the licensee's scope of responsibility in connection with projects or services for which the licensee is receiving or will receive compensation from that client.

(3) A licensee shall not misrepresent his or her scope of responsibility in connection with projects or services for which the licensee is claiming credit.

(4) A licensee shall not misrepresent nor permit the misrepresentation of his or her professional qualifications, or affiliations or the affiliations or purposes of the institutions, organizations, or other businesses with which he or she is associated.

(5) When providing information in connection with a person's application for a license to practice professional engineering, a licensee shall accurately represent his or her knowledge of the applicant's qualifications.

(6) A licensee may advertise or solicit for any services for which he or she is authorized by licensure.

(7) A licensee shall only express professional opinions that have a basis in fact or experience or accepted engineering principles.

(8) A licensee shall attribute proper credit to others for their professional work or professional contribution and shall not misappropriate the professional work of others.

(9) A licensee shall not knowingly permit the publication or use of his or her data, reports, plans, or other professional documents for unlawful purposes.

(10) A licensee shall not falsely or maliciously injure or attempt to injure the reputation or business of others.

(11) A licensee shall not misrepresent data and/or its relative significance in any professional engineering report.

(d) Confidential Information:

Confidential information obtained by a licensee, in his or her professional capacity, concerning a client, employer, or other related party shall not be disclosed by the licensee without the permission of the client, employer, or other related party except for the following:

(1) Disclosures made in response to an order of the court or to a subpoena or summons enforceable by an order of the court.

(2) Disclosures made in an adjudicatory proceeding.

(3) Disclosures made in response to an official inquiry from a governmental regulatory agency.

(4) Disclosures made when required by law.

(5) Disclosures made upon discovering a hazard within the licensee's field of professional expertise which may threaten the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

(6) Disclosures made when providing evidence to the Board regarding other licensees or unlicensed individuals who may have violated the Professional Engineers Act.

(7) Disclosures made regarding illegal conduct.

As used in this section, "confidential information" means information identified as confidential by the licensee's client, employer, or other related party.

(e) Document Submittal:

(1) A licensee shall not misrepresent the completeness of the professional documents he or she submits to a governmental agency.

(2) A licensee shall not misrepresent the completeness of the professional documents he or she prepared to his or her client or to other involved parties.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 6716, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 6716 and 6775

Amend section 476 of Article 3 in Division 5 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§476. Code of Professional Conduct – Professional Land Surveying

To protect and safeguard the health, safety, welfare, and property of the public, every person who is licensed by the Board as a professional land surveyor or professional civil engineer legally authorized to practice land surveying, including licensees employed in any manner by a governmental entity or in private practice, shall comply with this Code of Professional Conduct. A violation of this Code of Professional Conduct in the practice of professional land surveying constitutes unprofessional conduct and is grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to Section 8780 of the Code. This Code of Professional Conduct shall be used for the sole purpose of investigating complaints and making findings thereon under Section 8780 of the Code.

(a) Compliance with Laws Applicable to a Project:

A licensee shall provide professional services for a project in a manner that is consistent with the laws, codes, ordinances, rules, and regulations applicable to that project. A licensee may obtain and rely upon the advice of other professionals (e.g., architects, attorneys, professional engineers, professional land surveyors, and other qualified persons) as to the intent and meaning of such laws, codes, and regulations.

(b) Conflict of Interest:

(1) If a licensee provides professional services for two or more clients on a project or related projects, the licensee shall disclose in writing to those clients and property owners or their authorized representatives his or her relationship to those clients.

(2) If a licensee has a business association or a financial interest which may influence his or her judgment in connection with the performance of professional services, the licensee shall fully disclose in writing to his or her client(s) or employer(s) the nature of the business association or the financial interest.

(3) A licensee shall not solicit or accept payments, rebates, refunds, or commissions, whether in the form of money or otherwise, from contractors or suppliers of material, systems, or equipment in return for specifying their products to a client or employer of the licensee.

(4) A licensee, while engaged by a governmental agency as an officer, employee, appointee, agent, or consultant of that agency shall not engage in a professional land surveying business or activity that may be subject to that licensee's direct or indirect control, inspection, review, audit, or enforcement on behalf of that agency, unless the circumstances are disclosed to and approved by that agency in writing prior to such engagement.

(c) Representations:

(1) A licensee shall not misrepresent his or her qualifications to a prospective or existing client or employer.

(2) A licensee shall not misrepresent to a prospective or existing client the licensee's scope of responsibility in connection with projects or services for which the licensee is receiving or will receive compensation from that client.

(3) A licensee shall not misrepresent his or her scope of responsibility in connection with projects or services for which the licensee is claiming credit.

(4) A licensee shall not misrepresent nor permit the misrepresentation of his or her professional qualifications, or affiliations or the affiliations or purposes of the institutions, organizations, or other businesses with which he or she is associated.

(5) When providing information in connection with a person's application for a license to practice professional land surveying, a licensee shall accurately represent his or her knowledge of the applicant's qualifications.

(6) A licensee may advertise or solicit for any services for which he or she is authorized by licensure.

(7) A licensee shall only express professional opinions that have a basis in fact or experience or accepted land surveying principles.

(8) A licensee shall attribute proper credit to others for their professional work or professional contribution ~~and shall not misappropriate the professional work of others.~~

(9) A licensee shall not knowingly permit the publication or use of his or her data, reports, maps, or other professional documents for unlawful purposes.

(10) A licensee shall not falsely or maliciously injure or attempt to injure the reputation or business of others.

(11) A licensee shall not misrepresent data and/or its relative significance in any professional land surveying report.

(d) Confidential Information:

Confidential information obtained by a licensee, in his or her professional capacity, concerning a client, employer, or other related party shall not be disclosed by the licensee without the permission of the client, employer, or other related party except for the following:

(1) Disclosures made in response to an order of the court or to a subpoena or summons enforceable by an order of the court.

(2) Disclosures made in an adjudicatory proceeding.

(3) Disclosures made in response to an official inquiry from a governmental regulatory agency.

(4) Disclosures made when required by law.

(5) Disclosures made upon discovering a hazard within the licensee's field of professional expertise which may threaten the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

(6) Disclosures made when providing evidence to the Board regarding other licensees or unlicensed individuals who may have violated the Professional Land Surveyors' Act.

(7) Disclosures made regarding illegal conduct.

As used in this section, "confidential information" means information identified as confidential by the licensee's client, employer, or other related party.

(e) Document Submittal:

(1) A licensee shall not misrepresent the completeness of the professional documents he or she submits to a governmental agency.

(2) A licensee shall not misrepresent the completeness of the professional documents he or she prepared to his or her client or to other involved parties.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 8710, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 8710 and 8780.

Amend section 3065 of Article 3 in Division 29 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§3065. Professional Standards and Code of Professional Conduct - Professional Geology and Professional Geophysics.

To protect and safeguard the health, safety, welfare, ~~and~~ property of the public, and California's environmental quality, every person who is licensed by the Board ~~for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (Board)~~ as a professional geologist or professional geophysicist, including licensees employed in any manner by a governmental entity or in private practice, shall comply with the professional standards in this section. A violation of any of the following professional standards shall constitute unprofessional conduct and shall be sufficient grounds for disciplinary action.

(a) Compliance with Applicable Law:

A licensee shall provide all geological and geophysical services in a manner consistent with applicable laws, codes, ordinances, rules, and regulations. A licensee may obtain and rely upon the knowledge and advice of other professionals (e.g., architects, attorneys, professional engineers, other professional geologists and geophysicists, land surveyors, and other qualified persons) concerning the intent and meaning of such laws, codes, and regulations.

(b) Competence:

(1) Licensed geologists or licensed geophysicists (together with those whom the licensee may engage as consultants) shall perform, or offer to perform, only those professional services for which they are qualified by education, training, experience, and licensure as required by law, in the specific technical and scientific areas involved.

(2) When practicing geology or geophysics, a licensee shall act with competence and reasonable care, and shall apply the technical knowledge and skill which is ordinarily practiced by licensees in good standing, practicing in this state under similar circumstances and conditions.

(c) Representations:

(1) A licensee shall not misrepresent, or permit the misrepresentation, of his or her professional qualifications, affiliations, or purposes, or those of the institutions, organizations, or other businesses with which they are associated.

(2) A licensee may advertise or solicit those professional services for which he or she is authorized by licensure, provided such services are within his or her field of competence.

(3) A licensee shall not misrepresent his or her qualifications to a prospective or existing client or employer.

(4) A licensee shall not misrepresent to a prospective or existing client; the licensee's scope of responsibility in connection with those professional services for which the licensee is receiving or will receive compensation, whether directly or indirectly. Specifically, a licensee who represents that a project was completed under his or her responsible charge (i.e., stamped and/or signed) must also have maintained responsible charge of the work.

(5) A licensee shall only express professional opinions which have a basis in fact, are within the scope of the licensee's own experience or knowledge, and are generally accepted geologic or geophysical principles.

(6) A licensee shall attribute proper credit to others for their professional work or professional contribution, ~~and shall not misappropriate the professional work of others.~~

(7) A licensee shall not knowingly permit the publication or use of his or her data, reports, maps, plans, or other professional documents for any unlawful purpose.

(8) A licensee shall not falsely or maliciously attempt to injure, impugn, or ~~in fact~~ injure the professional reputation or business of others.

(9) A licensee shall not misrepresent data or its relative significance in any geologic or geophysical work product or oral conveyance of his or her professional opinion.

(10) A licensee shall not misrepresent or conceal the scope of his or her professional responsibility in connection with those professional services for which the licensee is claiming any responsibility or credit, or for which the licensee is receiving any compensation.

(11) When providing information to the Board pursuant to another's application for licensure to practice professional geology or geophysics, a licensee shall accurately represent his or her knowledge of the applicant's qualifications and qualifying experience.

(d) Conflict of Interest:

(1) A licensee shall not concurrently engage in any other business, occupation, or have a financial interest in any entity that may impair his or her independent judgement, and/or objectivity, or which may create a conflict of interest in rendering his or her professional services.

(2) A licensee shall not accept compensation for his or her professional services from more than one party on any project, endeavor, or proceeding unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to in writing by all concerned parties.

(3) If a licensee has any business association or financial interest which is substantial enough to influence his or her judgment in connection with the performance of professional services, the licensee shall fully disclose in writing to his or her client(s) or employer(s) the nature of the business association or financial interest. If the client(s) or employer(s) object(s) to such association or financial interest, the licensee shall either terminate such association or interest, or offer to give up the project or employment.

(4) A licensee shall not solicit or accept payments, rebates, refunds, commissions, or compensation, whether in the form of money or otherwise from other professionals, contractors, suppliers of materials, systems, or equipment in return for specifying their products or professional services to a client or employer of the licensee.

(5) A licensee, while engaged by a governmental agency as an officer, employee, appointee, agent, or consultant of that agency shall not engage in a professional geological or geophysical business or activity that may be subject to that

licensee's direct or indirect control, inspection, review, audit, or enforcement on behalf of that agency, unless the circumstances are disclosed to and approved by that agency in writing prior to such engagement.

(e) Confidential Information:

As used in this section, "confidential information" ~~means~~ includes all information, specifically identified as confidential by the licensee's client, employer, representative, or other related entity. Confidential information obtained by a licensee in his or her professional capacity, shall not be disclosed by the licensee without prior permission, except under the following specific conditions:

(1) Disclosures made in response to a subpoena or summons enforceable by an order of a court;

(2) Disclosures made in response to an official inquiry from a governmental regulatory agency;

(3) Disclosures made by a licensee to another licensee to the extent necessary for purposes of professional consultation;

(4) Disclosures made when required by law, code, or regulation;

(5) Disclosures made upon discovery of a hazard within the licensee's field of professional expertise, which, in the licensee's professional opinion, is a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public;

(6) Disclosures made when providing evidence to the Board concerning another licensee or unlicensed individual, who may have violated any part of the Geologist and Geophysicist Act or this Section;

(7) Disclosures made regarding alleged illegal conduct; or,

(8) Disclosures made in an adjudicatory proceeding or pursuant to an order of the court.

(f) Document Submittal:

(1) A licensee shall not misrepresent the completeness of any professional geologic or geophysical document submitted to any governmental or regulatory agency.

(2) A licensee shall not misrepresent the completeness of any professional geologic or geophysical document prepared for his or her client, employer, or other involved party.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 7818 and 7860(c)(3), Business and Professions Code.

Reference: Section 7860(c)(3).