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## SECB Policy Statement No. 1: Structural Engineering Licensure

Approved by the SECB Board of Directors on: 11/14/2014

### Policy:

The Structural Engineering Certification Board (SECB) supports structural engineering licensure. SECB encourages all jurisdictions to offer structural engineering licensure. SECB also encourages every Licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.) actively engaged in the practice of structural engineering to become a Licensed Structural Engineer (S.E.) in jurisdictions that offer structural engineering licensure by complying with the jurisdiction's specified requirements for education, experience and examination, and by meeting the continuing professional development requirements to maintain this license. Specifically:

- SECB endorses the Model Law Structural Engineer (MLSE) standard developed by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) as establishing the minimum set of qualifications for a S.E.
- SECB advocates that jurisdictions require structural engineering licensure for anyone who provides structural engineering services for designated structures. SECB recommends that each licensing board adopt rules to define appropriate thresholds for these structures.
- SECB recognizes that, when structural engineering licensure is enacted in each jurisdiction, it is important to ensure that an equitable transition process, as defined by the licensing board, is available for any individual who has been practicing structural engineering as a P.E.
- SECB encourages all jurisdictions to incorporate these provisions into their current engineering licensure laws, adapting them to their unique individual situations. SECB supports the modification of existing engineering statutes and regulations to implement structural engineering licensure as a post-P.E. credential.

### Rationale:

This SECB policy stems from its mission, which is: to promote S.E. licensure in all jurisdictions to provide a common national certification; to determine the level of unique and additional education, examination, and experience necessary to perform the science and art of structural engineering; and to provide the public and stakeholders with an identification instrument that distinguishes an engineer with those unique and additional qualities necessary to perform structural engineering.

In keeping with this mission, the ultimate goal of SECB is to promote a licensing system that will enable structural engineers to put "S.E." after their names. Until that licensing system is established in every jurisdiction, SECB will continue to offer SECB certification to distinguish engineers with those unique and additional qualities necessary to perform structural engineering.

Structural engineering is a highly-specialized profession with an overriding commitment to life safety. The rationale for structural engineering licensure includes the unique nature of structural engineering education, experience, and examination; the increasing volume and complexity of structural engineering codes, specifications, materials, and techniques; and the potentially severe consequences of structural failures.

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