

Guide: Application of the ACT's Professional Engineers Registration Scheme to Commonwealth Employees and Contractors

This document provides guidance on when Commonwealth employees, and contractors engaged by the Commonwealth, need to be registered under the ACT's Professional Engineers Registration Scheme.

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive or exhaustive. The ACT Government recommends registration when you are unsure. Registration benefits professional engineers by formally recognising their skills and competence, strengthening their professional credibility, and providing employers and clients with confidence in the quality and safety of their work.

Commonwealth employees

Do I need to be a registered professional engineer?

This section helps Commonwealth employees understand when they must be registered to provide professional engineering services, and when registration is not required.

You do not need to be registered if:

- the professional engineering service relates to a matter within the scope of your duties as a Commonwealth employee.

You must be registered if:

- you carry out professional engineering services within or for the ACT, outside your Commonwealth employment.

Example

- You carry out professional engineering services as a second job outside of your employment by the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth contractors

Do I need to be a registered professional engineer?

This section helps contractors understand when they must be registered to provide professional engineering services, and when registration is not required.

The ACT Government recommends that contractors review their contract and circumstances to determine whether the contractor is acting as the Commonwealth's agent or carrying out the services in their own capacity.

You do not need to be registered if:

- You are performing a function on behalf of the Commonwealth, and
- The professional engineering services are within scope of your contract with the Commonwealth.

Examples

- Your contract authorises you to exercise a function on behalf of the Commonwealth.
- You perform inspections or oversight as the Commonwealth's representative.
- You are working in a Commonwealth-led team where the final engineering decisions are made by the Commonwealth.

You must be registered if:

- You are providing engineering services in or for the ACT as an independent service provider; or
- You are responsible for the services you provide and not the Commonwealth; or
- You provide professional engineering services to other ACT clients outside of the Commonwealth; or
- You are based in the ACT, and you provide professional engineering services to other clients outside of the Commonwealth.

Examples

- You are hired by the Commonwealth to provide professional engineering services to/for them rather than on their behalf.
- You sign, certify, approve or otherwise take professional responsibility for engineering designs, reports or calculations.
- You sometimes work "on behalf of" the Commonwealth and other times as an independent contractor.