Regulating engineers

make your voice heard

We want to hear what our members think about MBIE’s proposal to change the way engineers are regulated, so that we can submit a powerful, collective response.

We will take into account all feedback we receive from members and stakeholders to inform our submission to MBIE. If we use your comments in our submission, we’ll keep them anonymous, unless you explicitly indicate otherwise.

In addition to helping shape our collective submission, we encourage you to also make an individual submission to MBIE.

The questions below are designed to prompt your views but feel free to share any other thoughts.

We’d like to hear from you as soon as possible, so that we can start building our submission, but definitely by 24 May. The deadline to get submissions to MBIE is 16 June.

Once you have completed this document, please [submit it to us online](https://marcomms.typeform.com/to/z9Xhya).

# licensing of safety-critical work

**Do you support regulating safety-critical engineering work through a licensing scheme? Please explain why or why not.**

**What do you see as opportunities presented by a licensing scheme and/or barriers to its success?** *For example, cost, trust and confidence of BCAs in the scheme, current knowledge within Engineering New Zealand for leading and operating the scheme, engineering capacity to meet licensing demands etc.*

*If the Government moves forward with a licensing scheme, it will need to determine the scope and thresholds of licences. MBIE is proposing these be based on things like building complexity, size, occupancy, location and use.* **Do you think these are the right considerations? Is there anything else you think should be considered?**

**What prerequisites do you think an engineer should satisfy before being granted a licence?** *For example, certain competency requirements, membership of a professional body, currency, commitment to professional and ethical behaviour etc.*

**Do you agree that Engineering New Zealand is best placed to lead and operate the licensing scheme, connecting to its technical group partners for technical input and expertise where appropriate? Please explain why or why not.**

## Consequences and costs for the industry

**Do you think that tighter regulation of safety-critical work could mean it commands a premium and becomes more expensive?**

* *For engineers and their employers:* Would you or your employer be likely to charge more for safety-critical work if it is restricted to those who hold licences?
* *For stakeholders who contract engineers:* Would you be prepared to pay more to engage an engineer with a safety-critical licence, if this comes with added, regulated assurance of their specific skills and capability?

**Are there any other potential unforeseen consequences for the engineering workforce and associated industries from a new licensing regime?**

# certification of general competence

In addition to licensing, the Government is proposing to regulate general engineering competence and professionalism through a statutory-based voluntary certification scheme, much like the current CPEng. This means government would regulate both licensing and a general quality mark. **Do you think general engineering competence and professionalism should be taken care of through self-regulation by the profession or by government regulation? Please explain why.**

**If a new certification process for general engineering competence and professionalism is implemented as regulation, what do you think the relationship should be between the new certification process and Chartered Membership of Engineering New Zealand? Bearing in mind that both are about assessing general engineering competence and professionalism.**

**If a new certification process for general engineering competence and professionalism is implemented as regulation, do you foresee any risks to the profession, industry and public? For example, in terms of duplication of process, cost, or trade-offs with regard to membership and connection with the professional body that would be detrimental to the profession, industry and the public?**

**If a new certification process for general engineering competence and professionalism is implemented as regulation, do you think Engineering New Zealand is best placed to lead and operate that scheme? Please explain why.**

# Accountability

**If a licensing scheme is introduced, what features should it have to make sure the regulator can respond to risk and appropriately hold engineers to account?**

**Do you agree that the complaints and disciplinary processes of a new licensing scheme should include options for alternative and early resolution, where appropriate, in line with our recent overhaul of the CPEng and membership complaints and disciplinary processes?**

# Any other comments?

**MBIE has provided questions to help shape feedback. If you want to respond to any of those specific questions, please provide your answers here:**

**Is there anything else you want to comment on?**

## Send this document to us

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