



POSITION STATEMENT

THE USE OF THE TITLE “ENGINEER”

*Adopted by the IEEE-USA
Board of Directors (22 Nov. 2019)*

IEEE-USA recognizes that the title, “Engineer,” has a multiplicity of meanings within the context of laws in all U.S. jurisdictions. These jurisdictions use the protected titles “Professional Engineer,” “Licensed Engineer,” “Registered Engineer,” or some variation thereof, to refer to individuals licensed in those jurisdictions to practice engineering. The purpose of protecting these titles is to ensure that the public can easily identify those individuals who possess the requisite skill, knowledge and competence to protect public safety, health and welfare in the practice of engineering.

Generally, the public interprets the term, “Engineer,” more broadly than is represented by the protected titles. The public uses the term, “Engineer,” to mean a person who has acquired special knowledge and ability in the use of mathematical, physical and engineering sciences, and the principles and methods of engineering analysis and design. Upon verification of this knowledge by means of examinations and experience, such a person may be licensed to practice engineering in one (or more) jurisdiction(s) --and then be able to use the protected titles.

It is the IEEE-USA position that:

- Individuals who have graduated with an engineering degree from an ABET/EAC accredited program of engineering education should not be prohibited from using the title “Engineer.”
- The protected titles “Professional Engineer,” “Licensed Engineer,” “Registered Engineer,” and variations thereof, should be reserved for those whose education and experience qualify them to practice in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare -- and who have been licensed to practice engineering by a jurisdiction.

This statement was developed by the IEEE-USA Licensure and Registration Committee, and represents the considered judgment of a group of U.S. IEEE members with expertise in the subject field. IEEE-USA advances the public good, and promotes the careers and public policy interests of the nearly 180,000 engineering, computing and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. The positions taken by IEEE-USA do not necessarily reflect the views of IEEE, or its other organizational units.