

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY EXAMINATION (PCE)

1. *Chemical Engineering is one of the 4 major engineering disciplines. Why is PCE only for Civil, Mechanical & Electrical but not Chemical discipline?*

Currently, the main concern is on the building industry. Other disciplines will be included later.

2. *Will there be a 2-tier CPD system?*

Currently there is only one common CPD system.

3. *If the sole PE in an ECP does not upgrade to PE with PC within the 12 months' grace period, does the ECP have to cease operation?*

Yes, he has to be a PE with PC to run the ECP.

4. *What is the qualification of the PCE examiners? Are the examiners required to sit for an exam to be qualified?*

PCE examiners are senior and well respected PEs with at least 10 years' experience and are appointed by BEM. Questions prepared by the examiners are moderated & tested by a separate group of senior PEs also appointed by BEM.

5. *If you are a practising PE who need not sit for the PCE but you failed to renew your PE due to insufficient CPD within 12 months after the PCE is enforced, does it mean that you will need to sit for the PCE?*

If a PE whether actively practising or otherwise fails to upgrade to a PE with PC within the 12 months' grace period, then he will have to sit for the PCE.

- 6.** *For an existing PE who wants to carry out consultancy practice (sole proprietorship), does he need to sit for PCE?*

A grace period of 12 months will be given to existing practising PE to upgrade to PE with PC, without the need to sit for the PCE.

- 7.** *Is a PE with Practising Certificate (PC) in electrical engineering equivalent to a Competent Electrical Engineer?*

No, Competent Engineers are separately licensed by different agencies such as ST, DOSH, etc.

- 8.** *If I failed the PCE, how long will I have to wait to sit for the next exam?*

There is no waiting period. However, the Board has not fixed the regularity of conducting PCE and it is likely to be once or at most twice a year.

- 9.** *Is there an age limit to sit for PCE? How about PE aged 60 years and above?*

There is no age limit to sit for PCE as long as you are a PE and is eligible to sit for it.

- 10.** *Do we need to renew the practising licence yearly?*

Yes.

- 11.** *Where can we find books or information / syllabus related to PCE?*

There are no books written on this subject. It is based on your working experience and acquired knowledge on the job. PCE will test you on design, acts, bylaws and everyday experience in performing the job.

- 12.** *What is the requirement for renewal of professional engineers with PCE licence? Are they subjected to re-examination or just accumulate 50 CPD points?*

PCE licensing renewal is not subject to re-examination. CPD compliance will suffice.

13. *Will BEM impose fee for PCE examination?*

Yes.

14. *Is PCE applicable to all the PEs?*

No, it is applicable only to those who wish to practise as Submitting Person (Qualified Person).

15. *How long is the PCE re-sit cool off period? What is the maximum time duration between re-sits? What are the terms and condition for new PE to sit for the exam? When will the exam start?*

There is no time duration requirement between re-sits. PCE may be conducted once or twice a year. It will start after the Act is gazetted.

16. *Is there any exemption for PCE for Professional Engineer (PE) who has worked or has experience in consultancy for long number of years or has reached the age 60 years?*

There is no exemption. However, if you are a PE on the date of enforcement, you have a grace period of 12 months to apply to be upgraded to PE with PC.

17. *Can a PE who is not involved in the building industry sit for PCE?*

Yes, he can sit for the PCE provided his engineering discipline is in Civil, Mechanical or Electrical.

18. *The practice under Electricity Act is that an engineer submitting drawings must be registered with Suruhanjaya Tenaga (ST) and sit for an exam conducted by ST. Now with the introduction of PCE, can we consider this exam as part of PCE?*

No, the PCE is a standalone exam. Note that ST is one of the PCE Stakeholders and ST has indicated their intention of accepting the PCE in lieu of their current separate exam. Similarly other agencies such as SPAN will consider dispensing with their exam and accept the PCE.

- 19.** *Doesn't the automatic upgrade of PE with a PC defeat the purpose of a greater professionalism within the construction industry?*

When the Act comes into force, there is a savings clause for those who are already PEs without the need to sit for the exam. However, these PEs can still choose to sit for the exam out of pride.

- 20.** *Will foreign engineers need to sit for Professional Competency Examination (PCE) or is it sufficient to use their country's qualification?*

PCE is applicable to both local and foreign engineers who wish to practise as Submitting Persons (Qualified Persons).

- 21.** *Are there many competency licences needed by a PE with PC?*

Only if they wish to obtain specialised licences from other agencies. Note that these agencies may dispense with their current licensing if the PCE fulfils their needs.

- 22.** *Why do Civil, Mechanical & Electrical engineers sit for Part B for their disciplines, ie. Technical paper in the 2nd tier PCE exams? Hasn't the first tier & their university (Washington Accord) already confirmed this competency in their technical knowledge?*

1st tier exam tests you only on what you know but not on what you do not know. 2nd tier exam will test you on what you do not know but ought to know as a practising submitting engineer.

- 23.** *Is the PCE Examinations for Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers in the Building & Construction Industry?*

Yes.

Will these engineers be allowed to also submit for the chemical, oil & gas, environmental and marine industry?

Yes.

- 24.** *Can Tier 1 (PE without PC) engineer still be able to use PE chop for other than submitting plans / approvals?*

Yes.

- 25.** *Since PCE is only for Civil, Mechanical & Electrical engineers, does this mean other disciplines of engineers will be automatically “de-licensed”? Note that most drawings for DOE are endorsed by Chemical & Environmental engineers.*

PCE is initially for the building construction industry. Licensing for other disciplines will remain valid where there is no PCE requirement.

- 26.** *The PCE is tailored for the construction industry. How does an engineer in Oil & Gas earn his PCE? Currently some O & G projects require PE approvals. With the proposed amendments, how will it affect the industry?*

O & G requirements are regulated by other laws. BEM has appointed IChemE, Petronas & MISC to set up exam for this category.