



# Memo

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**Date:** March 20, 2009

**To:** Member Board Administrators/Testing Services

**From:** Tim Miller, P.E.

Director of Examination Services

**RE:** Notice of Future Change to the NCEES Structural Examination

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Effective with the April 2011 exam administration, NCEES will offer a new 16-hour Structural exam. The existing NCEES Structural I and Structural II exams will be offered for the last time with the October 2010 exam administration. The purpose of this early notice is to provide Member Boards and testing services as much notice as possible so that the transition from the existing Structural I and Structural II format to the new 16-hour Structural exam format may proceed in a seamless and straightforward manner. The one-year notice required by NCEES Exam Development Policy (EDP) 8 in the *Manual of Policy and Position Statements* will still be given in April 2010.

At the 2007 Annual Meeting, the Council passed the following motion from the Structural Exam Task Force: "Move that the Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers (EPE) be charged with modernizing the format of the SE I and SE II examinations to become a single structural engineering examination with two 8-hour components that will be put into use by April 2011."

The Structural PAKS committee forwarded its proposed specifications and recommendations to the EPE Committee at the January 2009 EPE meeting. The specifications were approved and are attached for your use. They are being published on the NCEES Website at this time as well.

The EPE Committee has forwarded its proposed related language updates for EDP 3, EDP 14, and Exam Administration Policy (EAP) 2 to the Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures. The revised policies will be presented to the Council at the 2009 Annual Meeting for formal approval.

## **Structural 16-hour Examination Format**

The Structural 16-hour exam will be a breadth-and-depth examination offered in two 8-hour components on successive days. The 8-hour Vertical Forces (Gravity/Other) and Incidental Lateral component will focus on gravity loads and incidental lateral loads; it will be offered only on the Friday of NCEES exam administration dates. The 8-hour Lateral Forces (Wind/Earthquake) component will focus on wind and earthquake loads; it will be offered only on the Saturday of NCEES exam administration dates.

To pass the Structural 16-hour exam, examinees must pass both components. The components may be taken and passed in different exam administrations. The proposed changes to EDP 14 (in an EPP motion at the 2009 Annual Meeting) will state that passing only one 8-hour component shall not be sufficient for licensure purposes.

Each component of the Structural 16-hour exam will have a breadth module in the morning and a depth module in the afternoon.

- **Breadth Module** (morning session): This module will contain questions covering a comprehensive range of structural engineering topics. All questions will be multiple-choice.
- **Depth Modules** (afternoon session): These modules will focus more closely on a single area of practice in structural engineering. Examinees must choose either buildings or bridges. Examinees must work the same topic area on both components. That is, if buildings is the topic area chosen in the Vertical Forces component, then buildings must be the topic area chosen in the Lateral Forces component. All questions will be constructed response (essay).

Examinees must take the breadth module of each component and **one** of the two depth modules in each component.

**A new edition of the NCEES sample questions and solutions will be available in 2010.**

NCEES will send a news release to the Member Boards this month to help boards communicate the Structural exam changes. If you have any questions about these changes, please contact the Council staff. Thank you.

c: NCEES Board of Directors  
George Roman, P.E., EPE Chair  
Jim Milligan, Ph.D., P.E., EPE Vice-Chair  
Tom Kiefer, P.E., EPP Chair  
Ed Huston, P.E. Structural Exam Committee Chair  
Jerry Carter, Executive Director  
Susan Whitfield, Associate Executive Director

Attachment