



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSCO Maintenance 2023 Consultation 1
Via email: anzSCO.maintenance@abs.gov.au

28 April 2023

Re: 2023 Consultation 1: Computer System Design and Related Service

Engineers Australia appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on the 2023 ANZSCO comprehensive review – consultation round one. This letter has been developed to assist the ABS with the update by providing comments specific to the engineering related fields.

Engineers Australia is the peak body of the engineering profession, representing the collective voice of over 115,000 individual members. Engineers Australia is constituted by Royal Charter to advance the science and practice of engineering for the benefit of the community. As Australia's signatory to the International Engineering Alliance, Engineers Australia maintains national professional standards, benchmarked against international norms. Under the Migration Regulations 1994, Engineers Australia is the designated assessing authority to perform the assessment of the potential migrant engineering professionals' skills, qualifications, and/or work experience to ensure they meet the occupational standards needed for employment in Australia.

Occupations with 'engineer' titles

The title 'engineer' in Australia is unrestricted, and it is likely to remain this way due to its common use. Engineers Australia is the custodian of professional standards in Australia, and this reflects that businesses, governments and the community expect a certain set of standards and skills from engineering professionals. Engineering practitioners have a high degree of responsibility and liability imposed on them. Any title which uses the term 'engineer' should be limited to occupations which are underpinned by an engineering qualification accredited against international standards.

2613 Software and Applications Programmers.

Currently, several engineering occupations are incorporated under the four-digit until code 2613. However, within this code are also non-engineering related occupations such as Analyst Programmer (261311) and Developer Programmer (261312) and as such, the included tasks are not engineering specific.

Consideration should be given to moving the current engineering occupations listed within 2613 to the 233 minor group with other engineering professionals.

If this is not possible, Engineers Australia recommends Unit Group 2613 be retitled to 'Software Engineers, Developers and Programmers' to improve clarity of the engineering component.

To provide understanding, the first point in the main tasks should be changed from '...system program needs' to 'system performance against the specification'.

In addition, the following should be included as a task:

261313 – Software Engineers

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The main tasks or duties should include risk management, and the creation and development of tools and systems.

261315- Cyber Security Engineer

Cyber security engineering includes the understanding of a broader spectrum of security risks and threats that need to be eliminated or mitigated, when creating, designing, evaluating and using all types of digital technologies, consisting of hardware, firmware and software components or applications in systems.

The main tasks and duties of a Cyber Security Engineer should also include the encryption/decryption aspects as well as risk management, and the creation and development of tools and systems.

Other comments

Jobs and Skills Australia has developed the Australian Skills Classification. It is understood this is 'a new way of looking at the labour market at a 'deeper' level that occupational classifications or qualifications...' ¹ It is recommended the ABS and Jobs and Skills Australia work together to ensure there is alignment between these two schemes. Particularly as ANZSCO is reviewed. Relevant to this round of consultation is how digital and cyber skills are referenced and clustered.

In addition, Engineers Australia recommends the ABS collaborate with the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment and Department of Home Affairs to consider the appropriate skills authority to assess these areas (particularly the emerging areas) for the purposes of Australia's migration program skills assessments. Engineers Australia is the assessing authority for most engineering occupations. Software engineering is an anomaly due to it being considered a specialisation within an occupation. Engineers Australia accredits software engineering programs to internationally recognised benchmarks and would welcome the opportunity to assess this occupation category.

Engineers Australia has been a participant in the previous ANZSCO review consultations where they have related to engineering. We will continue to contribute to these areas, particularly as current and new engineering related occupation codes are considered in consultation round two and three.

Engineers Australia would welcome the opportunity to continue this discussion and provide further input to the update as required. To arrange a meeting please contact me at mbell@engineersaustralia.org.au or on +61 8 6214 6321.

Regards,

Michael Bell
General Manager, Policy and Advocacy (Acting)

¹ 'Australian Skills Classification' *Jobs and Skills Australia* (accessed 20 April 2023) <https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/australian-skills-classification#clusters>