

---

# Registration of engineers: an overview

## About registration of engineers in Australia

Within the federal structure of Australian government, registration of engineers is determined by the respective states and territories. You are required to register in each state individually where a registration scheme exists. It is important to note that the precise scope of registration in each jurisdiction is different and, even if you do not reside in a particular state, if you are providing engineering services to that state you still may require registration there.

Due to this structure, it can be difficult for engineers working in Australia to confirm their registration obligations. This document (PDF) provides a high-level overview to help you take steps to determine your individual registration requirements.

The policy and legislative environment regarding registration of engineers is in a state of change across the country. For example, registration of engineers is the first recommendation of the Building Ministers Forum (BMF) [Shergold & Weir report \(PDF\)](#), which was commissioned to undertake an assessment of the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement systems for the building and construction industry across Australia.

Multiple jurisdictions have started to amend or introduce legislation that provides a mechanism for engineers to be registered. For many of these states it is starting with the registration of building engineers.

## What is mutual recognition and how does it work?

Mutual recognition law is set by the Mutual Recognition Act 1992, which entitles an individual who is registered as an engineer in one state to be registered as an engineer in another.

In simple terms, an engineer already registered in Queensland (for example) would still need to apply for registration in Victoria and usually pay a registration fee, but mutual recognition means that the initial assessment of a person's eligibility for registration as an engineer would only need to happen once. This helps to keep the cost of registration for an individual in more than one state down.

National Cabinet announced in August 2020 that the Commonwealth, state and territory governments had agreed to introduce a uniform scheme for the automatic mutual recognition of occupational registrations. This will operate alongside the current scheme described above.

Subject to the passage of legislation, automatic mutual recognition would allow a person who is licenced or registered for an occupation in one jurisdiction to be automatically considered registered to perform the same activities in another jurisdiction, without the need to go through further application processes or pay additional registration fees. In most cases, all that will be required is for an individual to notify the second jurisdiction of their intention to practise there.

If you believe you qualify for mutual recognition, you should contact the registering body in the state you wish to be registered in.

## Purpose of this overview

Engineers Australia has provided this overview to help you understand which jurisdictions require engineers to be registered and how to find more information. It is important that you take steps to understand the details of each registration scheme and how personal circumstances would apply. You should not rely solely on this summary document and should ensure that you are fully aware of your obligations by seeking further information from the relevant regulatory body.

## Registration of Professional Engineers by Jurisdiction <sup>2</sup>

	Queensland	New South Wales	Australian Capital Territory	Victoria	Tasmania	South Australia	Western Australia	Northern Territory
<b>Registration required</b>	Yes	Yes (from 1 July '21)	No	Yes (from 1 July '21)	Limited	No	No	Limited
<b>Legal instrument</b>	The Professional Engineers Act 2002 (Qld)	Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020 (NSW)	N/A	The Professional Engineers Registration Act 2019	The Building Act 2016 (TAS) Occupational Licensing Act 2005 (TAS)	N/A	N/A	The Building Act 2006 (NT)
<b>Areas of engineering</b>	All areas of engineer as listed by the BPEQ	Civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, fire safety, geotechnical	N/A	Civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, fire safety	Civil, building services, fire safety	N/A	N/A	Certifier engineers in structural, mechanical, hydraulic
<b>Industry scope</b>	All industrial sectors	Applies to building that are class 2 or contain a class 2 component	N/A	All industrial sectors	Building sector	N/A	N/A	Building sector
<b>Find out more</b>	<a href="#">Board of Professional Engineers Queensland</a>	<a href="#">New South Wales Government Fair Trading</a>	N/A	<a href="#">Consumer Affairs Victoria</a>	<a href="#">Tasmanian Government Consumer, Building and Occupational Services</a>	N/A	N/A	<a href="#">Northern Territory Building Practitioners Board</a>

<sup>2</sup> Disclaimer: This publication is designed to provide only very high level information and is a general overview. It is the responsibility of the reader to understand the detail of the legislation and interpret how it may apply to their specific circumstances. The information in this document should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional legal advice.