



GRASSROOTS



~ ACTION ALERT ~

Action Alert

Florida Professional Engineer (PE) Licensing in Florida Threatening Recreational Marine Community

Background

In 1999, naval architecture and marine engineering became licensed professions under the Florida Professional Engineering (PE) licensing laws. However, in the case of naval architecture and marine engineering, there is a huge adverse effect that has become apparent, namely, that any individual that does engineering designs, calculations or makes any kind of engineering decision without a PE license is subject to a misdemeanor fine of up to \$5,000 and may be **ordered to cease and desist practicing**.

This affects not only naval architects, marine engineers, and designers of small craft, but also employees of boat repair yards and perhaps some builders. If a boat yard, for example, so much as changes a propeller on a boat, or installs a new engine, or changes a rig on a sailboat, it is practicing engineering and, therefore, is under the purview of the PE licensing laws. Specifying a laminate schedule, deciding on frame sizes and skin thickness, installing deck hardware, rewiring or replumbing a boat, are all examples of practices that involve engineering decisions.

The Ad Hoc Committee of Professional Engineer (PE) Licensing of Florida is reaching out to marine businesses asking them to let them know how you would like to see the PE licensing laws interpreted for the marine business community. This not only affects businesses in Florida, but also could serve as a precedent for other states.

What can I do? The form on the next page includes four interpretation options the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE) is considering. Please rank them in the following order and submit to the address given by **November 24, 2004**.

Proposal #1 – 1st Choice

Proposal #2 – 2nd Choice

Proposal #3 – 3rd Choice

Proposal #4 – 4th Choice

For more information on this issue, please contact David Dickerson at ddickerson@nmma.org or 202-737-9761.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER (PE) LICENSING
IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

PE PROPOSALS RATING FORM

Please rate the proposals below in descending order. The one you would most like to see implemented to be rated 1, the one you would least like to see implemented to be rated 4. Please provide your name, the organization you represent, and its address. If you are self-employed, please state the name of your company or simply write self-employed. We ask this information so that we can show the FBPE that real individuals and organizations are providing feedback to this issue.

- **Proposal #1:** Exempt anyone who provides naval architecture and marine engineering services from PE license requirements, similar to the aerospace industry.
- **Proposal #2:** Exempt anyone who provides naval architecture and marine engineering services on vessels less than 200-feet (60-meters), similar to an exemption instituted by the state of Maine.
- **Proposal #3:** Exempt anyone who provides naval architecture and marine engineering services on recreational vessels less than 200-feet (60-meters), and on commercial vessels less than 79-feet (24-meters).
- **Proposal #4:** Exempt anyone who provides naval architecture and marine engineering services on all vessels less than 79-feet (24-meters).

Please reply by 24 November 2004.

Name: _____

Organization you represent: _____

Number of members in your organization: _____

Address: _____

Please send this form to:

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