

New Structural Exam Beginning in April 2011

In April 2011 a new 16-hour Structural Engineering NCEES (National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying) exam will replace the current SE I and SE II exams which will be administered for the last time in October 2010.

The new SE Exam will consist of two 8-hour components.

Friday – Vertical Forces (Gravity/Other) and Incidental Lateral

- 4 hours – Multiple choice problems – Everyone must answer all questions which include buildings and bridges.
- 4 hours - Essay Problems – Each person may choose whether to take the bridge oriented problems or the building oriented problems.
 - Bridge Problems - Three problems total; one 2-hour problem and two 1-hour problems.
 - Building Problems - Four problems total;

Saturday – Lateral Forces (Wind/Earthquake)

- 4 hours – Multiple choice problems – Everyone must answer all questions which include buildings and bridges.
- 4 hours - Essay Problems – Each person may choose whether to take the bridge oriented problems or the building oriented problems.
 - Bridge Problems - Three problems total; one 2-hour problem and two 1-hour problems.
 - Building Problems - Four problems total; Two problems will include Seismic Design Category D or higher, one problem will include wind speeds of 110 mph or higher.

To pass the exam, examinees will have to successfully complete both the Vertical Force and Lateral Force components, but these components may be taken and passed in different exam administrations.

Candidates who have passed the SE I or the SE II exam, or who are beginning the SE exam process now will have through the end of 2010 to pass both the SE I and SE II exams. If both SE I and SE II have not been passed by the end of 2010, then the full new 16-hour exam will have to be passed to qualify for the SE license.

For additional background information regarding the changes to the Structural Engineering exam, and for a more detailed SE exam specification go to the NCEES web site, www.ncees.org, and open the 3-25-09 News item.