

Starting your engineering career in Victoria

Rules you need to know

If you want to provide **professional engineering services** in Victoria, you must be:

- registered as a **Professional Engineer**, or
- working under the **direct supervision** of a registered Professional Engineer.

I'm a graduate. Can I still work in engineering?

Yes. When you first enter the workforce, you may not be able to register as a Professional Engineer, but you can begin building your career while gaining the experience needed for registration.

Until you are eligible for registration you can work under the **direct supervision** of a registered Professional Engineer.

You can also carry out work if it is only following a **prescriptive standard**.

What is a prescriptive standard?

A prescriptive standard is a clear set of steps or criteria for completing work, with little or no need for engineering judgement and no need for scientifically-based calculations.



Which areas of engineering require registration?

In Victoria, registration is required for professional engineering services in **5 prescribed areas** under the **Professional Engineers Registration Act 2019**:

Area	Examples of related focus areas
Civil	Geotechnical engineering, hydrology engineering
Structural	Structural engineering
Mechanical	Aerospace engineering, aeronautical engineering, equipment engineering, piping engineering, structural analysis engineering
Electrical	Power engineering, control engineering, electronics engineering, telecommunications engineering
Fire Safety	Fire safety engineering

If your area of engineering is not listed above, you may not need to register. Our new online tool, **RegCheck**, makes it easy to find out if registration is required.



What do I need to become registered?

You generally need relevant qualifications, such as:

- A **Washington Accord-accredited** engineering qualification, for example:
 - an undergraduate **Bachelor of Engineering**
 - a postgraduate **Master of Engineering**
- at least **5 years of experience** in the relevant area
 - 4 years must be postgraduate experience
- demonstrated competency in your area of practice.

Are there any exceptions?

In some cases, there may be exceptions to the 5-year experience requirement if you can demonstrate the required competency.

Further details on eligibility for registration and endorsement:

consumer.vic.gov.au/PE-before-you-apply.

Do I need to join an engineering body?

No. You do not need to be a member of, or affiliated with, an engineering body to become registered in Victoria.

Why this matters early in your career

Understanding the registration rules early can help you:

- make sure you are working legally
- plan your career pathway
- build the right experience
- prepare for registration when you are eligible.