

# Junior Engineers: The professional exam has been “reformatted”!

If the professional exam were a hard disk, the **Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec** would have just completely reformatted it. Junior engineers should be advised that this new «2.015» version is a major advancement compared to the previous exam, and offers nice improvements!



**T**he professional exam is a required and formative step for any junior engineer who wants to reach full engineer status. In preparing for it, the junior engineer studies subjects which normally cannot be learned on the field, but are nevertheless essential to the practice of engineering according to the proper rules. As such, the exam helps future engineers become true professionals.

However, in the past few years, the exam had become dated and less relevant. That is now a thing of the past: the exam and its preparatory document have been completely reviewed, significantly changed and tailored to the practice of engineering as it is experienced in this second decade of the 21st century!

Consequently, the Ordre proceeded to update the professional exam, while complying with the framework enforced by section 38 of the *Regulation respecting other terms and conditions for the issuance of permits by the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec*. Hence, the professional exam was divided in three parts intended to establish whether the junior engineer:

- is knowledgeable about Québec professional law, i.e. the *Professional Code* (Chapter C 26), the *Engineers Act* (Chapter I 9) and regulations passed under those two acts which apply to engineers;
- is familiar with the principles of professional practice, ethics and professional conduct, the engineer's role and obligations within society, technology's social impact, sustainable development, environmental protection and the duty to maintain one's skills;
- has basic knowledge in terms of civil liability, contract law, intellectual property, general commercial law, labour law, construction law, environmental law, as well as occupational health and safety law.

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Based on the foregoing, the Ordre mainly endeavoured to update the exam. As a result, the new version includes:

- more comprehensive review materials which help prepare the junior engineer for professional practice in the field of engineering;
- three restructured sections, with questions tailored to current engineering practice;
- 75% of new questions;
- updated graphic layout.

The exam's thorough review required rethinking the review materials intended to help the junior engineer

prepare for the exam, which were also dated. Good, even excellent news: all the necessary information was available in the *Guidelines to Professional Practice* ([www.gpp.oiq.qc.ca](http://www.gpp.oiq.qc.ca)), the «Web reference» for engineering practice!

The exam was therefore redone based on this very solid foundation, and subsequently tested with junior engineers. The engineers said they were satisfied with the contents of the exam, which according to them, aligned with their realities.

Junior engineers preparing for the professional exam now have access to a detailed review document covering subjects that have become imperatives in the current practice of engineering, such as ethics, the environment and professional responsibilities. The numerous simulation exercises found in that document also help junior engineers understand the relevance of the learning it provides in relation to their future roles and responsibilities.

Above all, the new review document is more adequate, more interesting to read, and even more formative and enlightening, and provides a good sense of the *Guidelines to Professional Practice's* usefulness as a reference. It will also always be up to date: as the *Guidelines to Professional Practice* are a dynamic, ever changing online reference, the review document will be regularly revised, like the professional exam. All to the benefit of junior engineers!