

EMF AND APEC ENGINEER AGREEMENTS
COUNTRY REPORT – NEW ZEALAND (IPENZ)

JUNE 2003 TO MARCH 2005

This report is an update on the country report presented to the International Engineers Meeting at Rotorua, New Zealand, in 2003. The New Zealand section of the International Professional Engineers Register (IntPE), which opened on 1 April 2003, combines the requirements of the Engineers Mobility Forum's 'International Professional Engineers Register' and the APEC Engineers Registers into one register.

The primary competence standard used for assessment of competence for IntPE is the same as that for the Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng), thus a majority of applicants undertaking assessment for CPEng have also chosen to be assessed for registration on the IntPE Register. Consequently, there has been a relatively high uptake of the IntPE quality mark in New Zealand. An outcome of the common assessment process is that IntPE registrants in New Zealand must undertake assessments to demonstrate current competence at intervals not exceeding 5 years to remain on the IntPE register. This assessment includes a review of the registrant's commitment to CPD, but involves a reassessment against all elements of the competence standard.

Applicants are assessed for competence within their own specific area of practice and are asked to align that practice area with one or two of 16 practice fields. The register is web-based and is accessible to any Internet user. Each registrant's practice field/s is/are recorded on the register.

IPENZ has submitted an updated assessment statement and samples of assessment documentation as part of the virtual review of APEC Engineer signatories. The updated assessment statement consolidates changes that resulted from the introduction of CPEng in 2003 and minor procedural changes to the CPEng Rules, which were introduced in January 2005.

The Standards and Accreditation Board, a subsidiary of the IPENZ Governance Board, is responsible for the setting of professional standards, including those for competent practitioners. Its delegated functions include approving all policies and standards related to education and professional competence assessment, plus approving recommendations for accreditation of programmes. Basil Wakelin, the present Chair and the staff member who acts as Secretary to the Board, (Brett Williams, IPENZ's Director Learning and Assessment) will both be present for the 2005 meetings.

The APEC Monitoring Committee in New Zealand is based on the Competence Assessment Board, another subsidiary Board of the IPENZ governance Board. The Competence Assessment Board is the Board that administers the application of competence standards to individual candidates. This Board has linked membership with the Standards and Accreditation Board. Jointly, these two Boards are the groups responsible for ensuring that IPENZ meets its obligations for the EMF and APEC agreements. The current Chair of the CAB, Paul Wilson, and the Secretary to the Board (IPENZ Registrar, Jeff Wastney), will also be present in Hong Kong. The full list of Members are attached as Appendix 1.

The new Building Act was enacted in 2004 and IPENZ is actively involved in contributing to the drafting of regulations related to the new Act. The new regulatory environment will have some impact on mobility of engineers. The regulatory framework uses Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng) registration as the benchmark of competence, and although the primary competence standard for CPEng is the same as that of IntPE (APEC Engineer), CPEng has a 'local knowledge' requirement that means engineers must demonstrate their ability to comprehend and apply accepted principles underpinning good practice for professional engineering that is specific to New Zealand. The degree of

New Zealand specific practice varies depending on the field of engineering practice – for example, the Structural and Geotechnical fields have New Zealand specific requirements arising from earthquake risks and CPEng registration in those areas requires evidence of linkages with current professional engineering in New Zealand - such as New Zealand training and/or work experience, New Zealand-based clients, or employment with a multi-national company with New Zealand-based operations.

The IPENZ credit schedule offers some relief in this situation. Any person from overseas registered on the IntPE or APEC Engineer registers in any co-signatory jurisdiction can apply for Professional Membership of IPENZ (MIPENZ) without further assessment. After minimal administrative checks to validate the applicant is in good standing, MIPENZ can be granted. New immigrants can then use this quality mark and work in New Zealand to develop local knowledge competence to the level required for CPEng.

As at 1 April 2005 there were 1009 registrants on the IntPE register (compared with 1836 on the CPEng register).

A C Cleland
Chief Executive
IPENZ ENGINEERS NEW ZEALAND
13 April 2005

J V Wastney
Registrar

(Appendix 1 added 27 May 05)

Appendix 1 - New Zealand APEC Engineer Monitoring Committee

The New Zealand Monitoring Committee currently consists of the Competence Assessment Board (as outlined in the CPEng Rules, Rules 77 to 79) and the Chief Executive of IPENZ. Members at 1 May 2005 are:

Chair	Paul Wilson
Members	Andrew Collow
	Greg Lowe
	Murray Brown
	Ross Major (IPENZ Board representative)
	Basil Wakelin (Chair of Standards and Accreditation Board)
	Andrew Cleland (Chief Executive IPENZ)
Secretary:	Jeff Wastney (Registrar, non-voting)