

ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

Western Australia Engineer registration and assessment

**How to apply for assessment of
qualifications, experience and competencies
for Western Australian registration**

March 2025
Version 1.4

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About Western Australian registration and assessment

1. If you carry out professional or technical engineering work in one or more of the prescribed areas of engineering in the building industry you will need to be registered as a building engineering practitioner in Western Australia (WA) under the *Building Services (Registration) Regulations 2011* (WA) (BSR Regulations) s.6.

As a first step, you will need to have your qualifications, experience and competencies assessed by an assessment entity which has been approved by the WA Government. The WA Government department administering this registration scheme is the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulations and Safety (LGIRS). Engineers Australia has been approved by LGIRS as an assessment entity, and this document will guide you through the different assessment pathways and show you how to complete your assessment with Engineers Australia.

Areas of Engineering

2. The Regulations require building engineering practitioners (individuals) to be registered in the following areas of engineering:
 - Structural engineering
 - Fire Safety engineering or Fire Systems engineering
 - Civil engineering
 - Mechanical engineering

Engineers Australia has been approved to undertake assessment of building engineering practitioners seeking registration in all these areas of engineering.

If your business (contractor) provides building engineering services, you will need to register as a building engineering contractor at the relevant level directly with LGIRS.

Levels of Engineering

3. There are three occupational levels a building engineering practitioner can register as, in the prescribed areas of engineering listed above. That is, as an engineering
 - Professional,
 - Technologist or
 - Associate.

Note: For Fire Safety, you can only register at the professional engineer level, and for Fire Systems you can only register as a technologist or associate in accordance with WA's specific requirements. (Refer to Table 1).

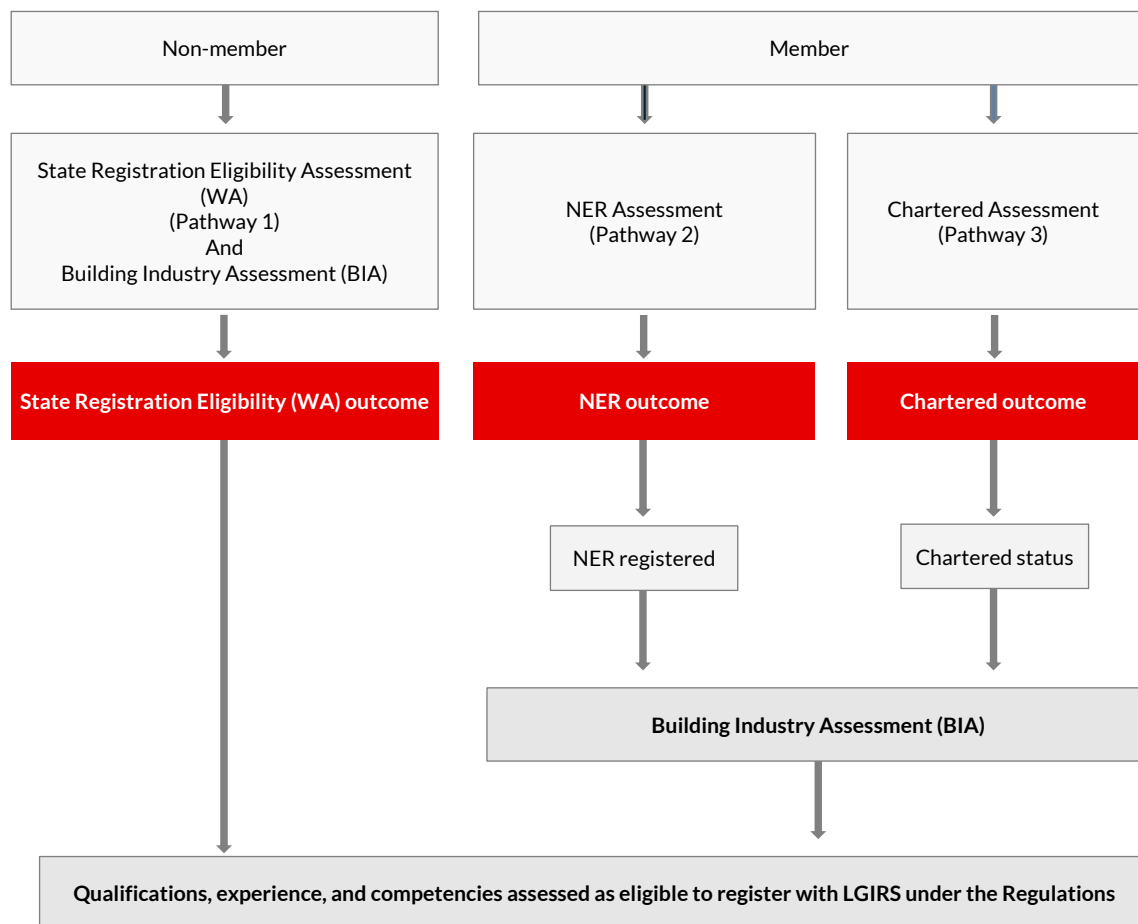
Mutual Recognition

4. If you are currently registered under a mandatory statutory registration scheme for building engineering practitioners in another Australian jurisdiction, you should contact [LGIRS](#) directly for advice on how to register using mutual recognition and automatic mutual recognition.

Assessment pathways

5. If you are not using mutual recognition, there are three assessment pathways available under Engineers Australia's assessment scheme:
- State Registration Eligibility (WA) Assessment pathway (non-member of Engineers Australia)
 - National Engineering Register (NER) Assessment pathway
 - Chartered Assessment pathway

Figure 1- Eligibility assessment pathways



6. Engineers Australia can assess you for registration under the Regulations whether you are a member of Engineers Australia or not. The State Registration Eligibility (WA) Assessment pathway is available only to non-members; the NER and Chartered Assessment pathways are only available to Engineers Australia members.
7. Under each of the three assessment pathways there are two components to the assessment.
- The first component is an Entry to Practice (Stage 1) Assessment in which the acceptability of your qualifications is determined.
 - The second component is an Independent Practice (Stage 2) assessment in which the acceptability of your experience and competency is determined.

Non-members

State registration eligibility assessment (WA)

8. If you are **not** a member of Engineers Australia and are **not** registered in another state, you can be assessed by Engineers Australia for WA registration. Under the State Registration Eligibility (WA) pathway you will need to apply for:
 - Entry to Practice (Stage 1) if you do not hold a Washington, Sydney, or Dublin Accord qualification,
 - Independent Practice (Stage 2) assessment, and
 - Building Industry Assessment (BIA).
9. The qualification requirements for WA registration in each of the areas and levels of engineering are shown in Table 1.

Table 1- Qualifications

Area of Engineering	Level (occupational category)	Qualification
Civil	Professional	Qualification in civil engineering accredited under the Washington Accord or: An Australian or overseas relevant academic qualification that has been assessed as substantially equivalent to an accredited Washington Accord qualification.
	Technologist	Qualification in engineering technology, science or design in the civil discipline accredited under the Sydney Accord or: An Australian or overseas relevant academic qualification that has been assessed as substantially equivalent to an accredited Sydney Accord qualification.
	Associate	Qualification in civil design or drafting accredited under the Dublin Accord or: An Australian or overseas relevant academic qualification that has been assessed as substantially equivalent to an accredited Dublin Accord qualification.
Structural	Professional	Qualification in civil or structural engineering accredited under the Washington Accord or: An Australian or overseas relevant academic qualification that has been assessed as substantially equivalent to an accredited Washington Accord qualification.
	Technologist	Qualification in engineering technology, science or design in the structural discipline accredited under the Sydney Accord or: An Australian or overseas relevant academic qualification that has been assessed as substantially equivalent to an accredited Sydney Accord qualification.
	Associate	Qualification in structural design or drafting accredited under the Dublin Accord or: An Australian or overseas relevant academic qualification that has been assessed as substantially equivalent to an accredited Dublin Accord qualification.
Mechanical	Professional	Qualification in mechanical engineering accredited under the Washington Accord or: An Australian or overseas relevant academic qualification that has been assessed as substantially equivalent to an accredited Washington Accord qualification.
	Technologist	Qualification in engineering technology, science or design in the mechanical discipline accredited under the Sydney Accord or: An Australian or overseas relevant academic qualification that has been assessed as substantially equivalent to an accredited Sydney Accord qualification.
	Associate	Qualification in mechanical design or drafting accredited under the Dublin Accord or: An Australian or overseas relevant academic qualification that has been assessed as substantially equivalent to an accredited Dublin Accord qualification.
Fire Safety	Professional	Qualification in a relevant field of engineering accredited under the Washington Accord, and a Graduate Diploma or Master degree in fire safety engineering if the foundation degree is not in fire engineering.

Fire Systems	Technologist	Diploma in fire systems design with units relevant to one or more prescribed fire systems or: An Australian or overseas relevant academic qualification that has been assessed as substantially equivalent to a Diploma in fire systems with units relevant to one or more prescribed fire systems.
	Associate	Diploma in fire systems design with units relevant to one or more prescribed fire systems or: An Australian or overseas relevant academic qualification that has been assessed as substantially equivalent to a Diploma in fire systems with units relevant to one or more prescribed fire systems.

Assessment application process

10. To begin the State Registration Eligibility (WA) Assessment, you will need to create an account in the Engineers Australia [member portal](#).
11. Complete your application via the **State Registration Eligibility** tile: apply for an eligibility outcome for statutory registration scheme(s).
12. If you do not have a qualification accredited under the Washington, Sydney, or Dublin Accords as per Table 1, you will need to apply for an Entry to Practice (Stage 1) Assessment initially.
13. If you do have a qualification accredited under the Washington, Sydney, or Dublin Accords you will proceed directly to an Independent Practice (Stage 2) assessment and a BIA.
14. For each of the prescribed area(s) and levels of engineering an applicant is applying register, the applicant shall have:
 - Five years of full-time relevant building engineering experience (at least four years being post-graduate)¹ in the last ten years. The exception to this is:
 - Fire Systems Technologists who require five years of full-time relevant building engineering experience in the last ten years and
 - Fire Systems Associates who require three years of full-time relevant building engineering experience in the past six years.
15. If you meet the assessment standard of the State Registration Eligibility (WA) pathway, you will be eligible for a WA Outcome Letter, which will be provided to you. Your outcome letter will note in which of the five areas of engineering and occupational level you are eligible to register. It is your responsibility to apply to LGIRS for registration as a building engineering practitioner. The eligibility requirements and process to register with LGIRS are available on their [website](#).

Entry to practice (stage 1) assessment

16. Entry to Practice (Stage 1) [competency](#) is typically demonstrated through the successful completion of an engineering education program at an Australian higher education institution, accredited by Engineers Australia under the Washington, Sydney, or Dublin Accords. Many overseas accredited engineering qualifications are also recognised under these Accords. [Check your qualification](#).
17. The Accord under which your qualification is accredited must match the occupational level in which you wish to register with LGIRS.
18. If your Assessor confirms that you hold a qualification accredited appropriately under one of the three Accords, your Entry to Practice competency will be confirmed and your application will move to the second component, the Independent Practice (Stage 2) assessment and a BIA.

¹ For a traditional career path, Engineers Australia considers that five years of engineering experience provides a sound base to develop the professional maturity for independent practice without supervision. Applicants using the State Registration Eligibility (WA) Assessment pathway will be required to demonstrate five years of engineering experience at the relevant occupational category level.

19. If you already have an Entry to Practice (Stage 1) assessment or a Migration Skills Assessment (MSA) outcome letter from Engineers Australia that confirms your academic qualifications meet the current academic requirements and at what occupational level, you do not have to complete another qualification assessment. You should upload a copy of the qualification assessment letter you have received from Engineers Australia with your application.

Independent practice (stage 2) assessment

20. To apply for an Independent Practice (Stage 2) assessment, you will need to upload the following documentation in colour:
- Photo identification.
 - Change of name documents (if applicable).
 - Evidence of your qualifications, including transcripts and testamurs.
 - A [detailed CV](#).
 - The names and contact details of two [referees](#) who can verify your work experience.
 - Evidence of your English language competence if you do not meet the exempt criteria.
 - Three career episodes that provide evidence you can demonstrate the elements of competence for a professional engineer, engineering technologist or engineering associate.
 - Summary statement of your demonstrated competencies in the following five elements of competence from the 'Australian Engineering Competency Standards Independent Practice - Professional Engineer' in the relevant area(s) of engineering:
 - Element 1 – Deal with ethical issues
 - Element 2 – Practise competently
 - Element 4 – Develop safe and sustainable solutions
 - Element 6 – Identify, assess and manage risks
 - Element 13 – Local engineering knowledge – according to your area of practice including a knowledge of any relevant standards and practices.
 - Evidence of any professional memberships you hold.
21. An interview will be conducted by an Assessor which will cover a BIA at the same time. The Assessor will review the documentation that you have provided and advise you if additional documentation/evidence is required. The Assessor will then contact your referees to confirm the validity of your claims. The Assessor will then contact you to arrange an online interview. The interview will allow the Assessor to validate your identification and your experience and competency claims.

Building Industry Assessment

22. To complete a Building Industry Assessment (BIA), at the time of your application, you will need to select that you require a BIA, the following documentation will need to be uploaded:
 - a. A [detailed CV](#).
 - b. Evidence of any professional development activities related specifically to the building industry.
 - c. A detailed statement showing **five** years (or **three** years if you are applying for fire systems associate) of successful, appropriate experience in the building industry summarising your demonstrated knowledge and practical application of relevant building laws and standards.
23. If you meet the assessment standard of the Independent Practice (Stage 2) and BIA under the State Registration Eligibility (WA) pathway, you will be eligible for a WA Outcome Letter, which will be provided to you. Your Outcome Letter will note in which of the four areas of engineering and occupational level you are eligible to register. It is your responsibility to apply to LGIRS for registration as a building engineering practitioner. The eligibility requirements and process to register with LGIRS is available on their [website](#).

NER or Chartered

24. If you are a registrant on the NER or Chartered and **not** registered in another state, you require a building industry assessment (BIA) to work in the WA building industry.
25. To apply for a BIA as a NER registrant or Chartered member, you will need to apply via the **State Registration Eligibility** tile on the [member portal](#).

The following documentation will need to be uploaded:

- a. A [detailed CV](#).
 - b. Evidence of any professional development activities related specifically to the building industry.
 - a. A detailed statement showing **five** years (or **three** years if you are applying for fire systems associate) of successful, appropriate experience in the building industry summarising your demonstrated knowledge and practical application of relevant building laws and standards.
26. An Assessor will review the information you have submitted and make contact to set up a short interview with you to discuss your application.
 27. If you are seeking a WA Outcome Letter in an area of engineering which does not directly match your NER area(s) of practice, you will need to login to the [member portal](#) and select the **National Engineering Register (NER)** tile to apply for an additional area(s) of practice. You will then need to select the **State Registration Eligibility** tile to apply for a BIA in that additional area(s) of practice.
 28. If you are seeking a WA Outcome Letter in an area of engineering which does not directly match your Chartered area(s) of practice, visit the [Areas of Practice](#) webpage to add an area of practice which can include a BIA.
 29. If you meet the assessment standard of the BIA, you will be eligible for a WA Outcome Letter which will state the area(s) of engineering and appropriate occupational level (Professional, Technologist or Associate) you are eligible to be registered as a building engineering practitioner. To access your WA Outcome Report, members will be able to login to the [member portal](#) to generate their WA Outcome Letter via the **Registration tab**. Non-members will have their WA Outcome Letter provided to them. It is your responsibility to apply to LGIRS for registration as a building engineering practitioner. The eligibility requirements and process to register with LGIRS is available on their [website](#).

Members

Not yet NER or Chartered

30. If you are a member of Engineers Australia and are **not** currently on the NER or **not** Chartered and **not** registered in another state, you will need to complete an Independent Practice (Stage 2) assessment to gain NER or Chartered status at the appropriate occupational level (Professional, Technologist or Associate) and also be assessed for a Building Industry Assessment (BIA), before you can be provided with a WA Outcome Letter.
31. Information to join the NER is available on the [NER page](#), and information about applying for Chartered is available on the [Chartered page](#) of our website.
32. For a BIA via the NER pathway, you will first apply for NER via the **National Engineering Register (NER)** tile and then apply for a BIA via the **State Registration Eligibility** tile on the [member portal](#). To apply for a BIA via the Chartered pathway, you will be sent a 'BIA Information Form' to accept a BIA as part of your Chartered interview.

The following documentation is required for both NER and Chartered pathways:

- a. A [detailed CV](#).
 - b. Evidence of any professional development activities related specifically to the building industry.
 - c. A detailed statement showing **five** years of successful, appropriate experience in the building industry summarising your demonstrated knowledge and practical application of relevant building laws and standards.
33. An Assessor will review the information you have submitted and make contact to set up an interview to discuss your application. The NER or Chartered interview will include the BIA.
34. Following your interview, you will receive an email advising of your assessment outcome. If you meet the assessment standard of NER or Chartered and BIA, you will be able to download your WA Outcome Letter, by logging into the Engineers Australia [member portal](#). Your WA Outcome Letter will note in which of the four areas of engineering and the appropriate occupational level (Professional, Technologist or Associate) you are eligible to register. It is your responsibility to apply to LGIRS for registration as a building engineering practitioner. The eligibility requirements and process to register with LGIRS is available on their [website](#).

Alternative equivalent qualifications

35. For applicants who do not have a qualification accredited under the Accord appropriate to the level in which registration will be sought, Engineers Australia has been authorised by LGIRS to undertake a holistic assessment of an applicant's qualifications, experience, and competencies under approved conditions. This allows Engineers Australia to determine if your combination of education and experiential learning has demonstrated substantial equivalence with the competencies and outcomes of:
- a Washington, Sydney, or Dublin Accord qualification, and
 - the experience and competency requirements as shown above.
36. In assessing whether you have demonstrated the required competencies and outcomes under this holistic assessment, the assessment will take into consideration any:
- academic qualifications, courses and training that you have undertaken,
 - professional memberships you have attained and the assessment outcomes to achieve those memberships, and
 - engineering experience you have gained.

Engineers Australia will use two or more of the following methods to assess your competence:

- evidence from work experience,
- evidence of completion of top-up courses,
- interviews,
- professional referee checks,
- evidence of qualifications held.

You will need to upload the following documentation in colour:

- Photo identification.
- Evidence of your qualifications, including transcripts of results and testamurs.
- A [detailed CV](#).
- The names and contact details of two [referees](#) who can verify your work experience.
- Evidence of competency in the English language at the Competent English level as defined by the Australian Department of Home Affairs (e.g. IELTS Band 6).
- Three career episode reports or examples of work undertaken.
- Details of formal and informal continuing professional development (CPD) that is relevant to the application.
- Evidence of any professional registration held.

To apply for an assessment via this alternative pathway, you need to apply for an Entry to Practice (Stage 1) Assessment via the Engineers Australia [member portal](#) and add comments that you are using the alternative pathway for WA registration eligibility.

37. The Assessor will review all the provided evidence against the 16 Elements of the Engineers Australia Entry to Practice (Stage 1) Competency Standard for a Professional Engineer, Engineering Technologist or Engineering Associate. These competency standards are aligned to the Washington, Sydney or Dublin Accord Graduate Attributes. To be eligible for registration under the Regulations you will require that the outcome of this holistic assessment is that you are recognised by Engineers Australia as a Professional Engineer, Engineering Technologist or Engineering Associate. You will have to provide evidence that you have demonstrated all the 16 Entry to Practice (Stage 1) competencies (including a deep understanding of mathematics and science) at the level demonstrated by a graduate of the appropriate Accord program of study.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

38. Under the [Registered building engineering practitioner approved CPD requirements](#), July 2024, LGIRS specifies that:
 - All registered building engineering practitioners, at all levels, excluding fire systems technologists and associates, shall undertake and document a minimum of 150 hours of CPD over a three-year period.
 - Fire systems technologists shall undertake and document 60 hours of CPD.
 - Fire systems associates shall undertake and document 50 hours of CPD.
39. Upon your renewal of your registration, you will not need to have your qualifications, experience and competency reassessed but will have to prove that you have been undertaking the required amount of CPD specified by LGIRS.
40. If you have been on a career break for at least three consecutive months, LGIRS will reduce your CPD requirements to:
 - 90 hours for all registered building engineering practitioners at all levels, excluding fire systems technologists and associates.
 - 40 hours for all registered fire systems technologists.
 - 30 hours for all registered fire systems associates.
41. If you are a member of Engineers Australia, LGIRS requires Engineers Australia to conduct your CPD Audit and Practice Review. If you satisfy Engineers Australia's CPD Audit and Practice Review, you will have also satisfied LGIRS' CPD requirements for renewal of your building engineering practitioner registration. Members will need to meet Engineers Australia's CPD requirements, these can be found on our [website](#).
42. If you are a non-member of Engineers Australia your CPD audit will be conducted by LGIRS.

More questions?

The assessment timeframe

- 43. The timeframe for the assessment of your application will depend on whether a decision can be made based on the documentation you submit or whether additional information is required.
- 44. Engineers Australia is committed to providing an assessment outcome within 90 calendar days from the time of receiving all the relevant documentation for a State Registration Eligibility (WA) assessment pathway.

Fees

- 45. The current fees for all assessment types discussed in this guidelines document, can be found on the Engineers Australia [website](#)

Need more information?

- 46. For information about Engineers Australia's assessment for registration under the Regulations, contact the Registration team at waregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au



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