



CIVIL ENGINNERING PROFESSION IN SPAIN

THE ROLE OF COLEGIO DE INGENIEROS DE CAMINOS Y PUERTOS

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|--|----|
| Introduction | 3 |
| The Civil Engineering Profession in Spain | 3 |
| Obtaining Professional license | 4 |
| Professional Recognition..... | 4 |
| 1. Legal Framework..... | 4 |
| 2. Concept..... | 5 |
| 3. Assessment Organ | 5 |
| 4. Process of recognition request and review | 5 |
| a.- Professional Examination:..... | 6 |
| b.-Practice Period: | 7 |
| Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos (CICCP)..... | 8 |
| Membership Grades..... | 10 |
| Routes to Membership..... | 12 |
| Applying for Membership | 12 |

Introduction

This document intends to give advice to engineers qualified as Chartered Engineer about how professional practice is regulated in Spain and how the Colegio of Ingeniero de Caminos, Canales y Puertos (CICCP) can help them in their process of professional recognition. If you have any further inquiries or you would like further information about any of the issues herewith mentioned, please contact us at 17jfs@ciccp.es

The Civil Engineering Profession in Spain

The Civil Engineering Profession in Spain is regulated by the Ministry of Fomento. The title of Ingeniero de Caminos, Canales y Puertos is protected by the Ministry of Fomento. Registration is needed in Spain for professional practice. The registration Body is the Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos.

Civil engineering employers in Spain range from small firms to large, multinational companies. Civil engineering organisations are involved with the planning, design, project management, safety management, construction, maintenance, operation and decommission of:

- Transport systems – Roads, railways, airports, canals, harbours, jetties, bridges and tunnels to transport goods and people swiftly and safely.
- Public health and environment services – Water supplies, dams, reservoirs, pipelines to provide safe water and hydroelectric power; sewers, sewage treatment works, sewage outfalls to prevent pollution and disease; irrigation, drainage schemes to increase arable land, flood and coastal protection, land drainage, river embankments, breakwaters and sea walls
- Structures – Bridges, viaducts, oil platforms, electricity distribution grids, foundations and structural frameworks for buildings of all types from houses and schools to offices and factories, sports stadiums and hospitals; flood and coastal protection, land drainage, river embankments, breakwaters and sea walls.

Broadly speaking there are three types of civil engineering employer:

- Clients: Organisations or individuals that commissions the project. Some clients do not have engineers on their staff full time so they bring in external consultants. But others - like ADIF – Spanish Rail Agency, AENA, Spanish Air Control Agency, water companies and property developers- are responsible for building, running and

managing assets that require full-time input from engineers. You could get involved with feasibility studies and outline design, detailed design, project management and, ultimately, managing the finished asset and even decommissioning it. Usually once a project has been planned by in-house engineers, the client hands it over to consultants and contractors to carry out the detailed design and building.

- Consultancy firms: Consultants get involved with planning and designing projects. Consulting engineers may be brought in at the start of a project to help with feasibility and costing, or may be called in later, when the client wants detailed design work carried out.
- Work includes preparing tenders, technical design, preparing design, etc. Much of a consultant's work is office based, but they also supervise on-site work.
- Contractors: Contractors build the projects, employing labour and bringing in equipment and materials to translate the designer's plans into reality. Contractors employ engineers to implement the designs and manage the work on-site, calculations, site surveys and detailed drawing.

Obtaining Professional license

EU Civil Engineering Professionals are eligible to become one of the following:

- a) Section Members (professionally qualified), once they fulfill all the requirements of the one of the areas of expertise of civil engineering granted to Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos.
- b) Full Members (professionally qualified), once they fulfill all the requirements of the Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos.

Professional Recognition

1. Legal Framework

- - Directive 89/48 the EEC, of the Council of the European Communities, 21 of December of 1988

- - Royal Decree RD1665/1991, of 25 of October, by which is regulated the system of recognition of Higher Education diplomas of members States of the European Union in recognised professions that require a University degree of three years minimum, and forms the basic legal framework established in Directive 89/48 the EEC.
- - Ministry Order of 12 of April of 1993 that develops RD 1665/1991.

2. Concept

According to Royal Decree 1665/1991 the recognition of higher education diplomas in the EU will permit citizens of other member States, with professional qualifications obtained in a member State, analogous to which those demanded in Spain to practice the civil engineering profession, can take up the profession in the same condition as nationals.

Compensation measures will only be applicable to those cases in which the diploma obtained or the professional practice in other Member State differs substantially or does not cover areas of expertise required for the practice of the civil engineering profession in Spain as Ingeniero de Caminos, Canales y Puertos.

3. Assessment Organ

The review of higher education diplomas of other EU Member States from EU citizen applicants is commissioned to the Public Works Ministry (Ministerio de Fomento). This organ is entitled to authorize the professional practice of the applicant as Ingeniero de Caminos, Canales y Puertos or state the compensation measures needed to be taken by the applicant to obtain his authorization.

4. Process of recognition request and review

The recognition procedure has the following phases:

- Application to the Secretaría General Técnica of the Ministerio de Fomento requesting professional recognition as Ingeniero de Caminos, Canales y Puertos (Annex I of the Order).
- Annex documentation to the application is the following:
 - Passport or ID card of EU Member State.

- Higher education diploma and professional license accreditation, if possible.
- Academic Certificate or Diploma indicating academic level obtained, course structure, subject levels obtained, course/s taken and subject's application and theoretics hour.
- The review of the enclosed documents and the procedure launch is commissioned to the Secretaría General Técnica of the Ministry of Public Works, which may notify the applicant the existence of a professional license more adequate degree to his academic and professional merits, although different from the requested.
- After a preliminary documentary review, the Ministry commissions a technical report to Colegio, which comprises the differences of diplomas of the applicant and those entitling professional license in Spain, as well as the analysis of the scope of professional activities authorized in both Member States.
- The Framework of this technical report by Colegio indicates the above mentioned differences, if any, and the recommendation of Colegio for professional recognition or its denial. This report will also present a compensation measures proposal, practice period specifications, or a subject list for professional examination to be taken by the applicant for obtaining his recognition.
- The applicant will be required to take up a professional examination or a practice period, up to the applicant's election. In both cases this compensation measures will relate to non-covered areas of professional practice by the applicant demanded by Spanish law.

a.- Professional Examination:

1. This examination will comprise exclusively on the subjects non covered by the applicant's diploma and its aim is to test the professional knowledge of the applicant in those areas.
2. The subject list of matters will be defined by the Secretaría General Técnica of the Ministry, although may ask Colegio for further assistance.
3. The Review Panel of the Professional Examination will be chaired over by Secretario General Técnico of the Ministry of Fomento and will act as secretary a public servant of that Secretariat. The other three members

are an Ingeniero de Caminos, Canales y Puertos in public service, a civil engineering Professor appointed by the University Council and an appointee of **Colegio**.

4. The Review Panel aim is the exam preparation, the exam correction and, according to its result, the applicants' qualification for its recognition.
5. The applicants not qualified may repeat their examination. The new examination may be taken no earlier than six months after the test and no later than a year afterwards.

b.-Practice Period:

1. The professional practice period, will adapt to a specific program determined by the Secretaría General Técnica of the Ministry of Fomento, in agreement with the Secretaría General Técnica of the Ministry of Science and Innovation, being able to ask Colegio for further consultation.
2. For such practice period, the applicant will appoint a tutor. **Ministry of Fomento will consult Colegio in relation to the tutor applicant's proposal.** If in 15 days there is no negative response by Colegio, the tutor appointment will be sustained.
3. The tutor must be a licensed professional of the area of expertise required for the practice period. A list of possible voluntary tutors is available at Colegio. **Colegio updates this list annually and informs Secretaría General Técnica of the Ministry of Fomento.**
4. The practice period will take place in the tutor's employer and under responsibility his responsibility. The duration of such practice period will not be able to exceed 3 years.
5. Once ended, the tutor will issue the practice period report in 15 days a to the review panel, communicating the applicant's result and its possible qualification. This report is also consulted with Colegio.

The procedure for diploma recognition has a maximum of 4 months deadline, counting since the presentation of the complete documentation by the applicant.

In the cases in which a professional examination is to be taken or a practice period is to be fulfilled, deadline will be upheld until the Examination takes place or until the tutor's report is received by the Review Panel. The procedure ends with the professional recognition of the applicant or its motivated request denial.

Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos (CICCP)

The Institution

In Spain the profession of civil engineering – the equivalent of the title in Spanish is: Ingeniero de Caminos, Canales y Puertos – is linked, from its very birth, to the name of Agustín de Betancourt, the founder of the faculty of Civil Engineering, dating as far back as 1802 the foundation of the first Escuela de Ingenieros de Caminos (Faculty of Civil Engineering), in Madrid.

Currently, there are 11 civil engineering faculties all over Spain.

The Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos (the official body) was founded in 1953 as a corporation of public interest and a legal entity in its own right. The main purposes of the Colegio are to regulate the practice of civil engineering, to be the exclusive representative of the profession of the Spanish Civil Engineers both national and internationally; to cooperate with the Public Administration, to arbitrate professional disputes and to defend the professional interests of civil engineers.

The Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos acts towards a higher level of employment for its professionals, helps young graduates to find employment, as well as to provide continuous professional development courses organised by the Colegio.

Compulsory membership of Colegio is required in order to practice as a professional civil engineer. All those professionals who hold the officially acknowledged degree as civil engineer have the right to request membership from the Board of Directors of the Colegio.

Applicants from the EU as well as from third countries are required to obtain prior recognition of their civil engineering degree from the Ministry of Public Works or the official approval of the Ministry of Education before becoming a member of the Colegio.

Number of members in the organisation:

Currently the Colegio has over 25.000 members.

Form of establishment:

The Bylaws by which Colegio is ruled, were modified in 1979 and new statutes were approved in October 2003 and are legally based in the “*Ley de Colegios Profesionales 2/1974*” (Law on Professional Bodies of 1974).

The Colegio is a single body, with its head office in Madrid and 19 autonomous offices (‘demarcaciones’) all over Spain with their own operational rules. Each member of the Colegio belongs to a specific autonomous office, according to his/her home address.

The General Council is the supervising body and assesses the Board of Directors which is the executive managing and administrative body of the Colegio.

Among the many activities embraced by the Colegio, we highlight the following:

Certification (‘Visado’)

This is a process by means of which the Colegio certifies the authenticity of the author of a project (signed by a civil engineer member of the Colegio). Furthermore it certifies certain details of the project. In the event that a client does not pay a member for his project, the Colegio may initiate the legal process against the client in the name of the member. This mandatory certification process is the responsibility of the autonomous offices which charge an amount of money for doing so.

Professional Standing Committees

Professional Standing Committees are held in order to defend professional aspects of different issues. The Standing Committees are:

- Public Service
- Environment
- Young Professionals
- Land Development and Urban Services
- Transport
- Professional Activity
- Water and Energy
- Public Works Financing and Construction
- Consultancy
- Culture
- Academic & Research
- **Water Resources and Energy**

Other Activities

Founded in 1953, the Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos has been more than 50 years protecting, like Corporation of public right with own legal personality, to all the competent titleholders, defending its interests and regulating civil engineers' professional activity in the Spanish Society. Besides to facilitate the exercise of the profession and to defend it, to order the professional activity, to arbitrate the professional questions, to collaborate with the Administration and to show the opportune national and international representations, the School of Engineers of Ways, Channels and Ports also it tries the greater level of use, the access to the professional life of the new engineers and adapts its formation through the courses that the own School organizes and distributes.

The body of law regarding Professional Associations is achieved through Law 2/1974, on Professional Associations. The Bye Laws that regulate Colegio were modified in 2003 being finally approved by Royal Decree.

Our purpose is to qualify professionals engaged in civil engineering, exchange knowledge and best practice, and promote their contribution to society. Our members are amongst the very best civil engineers in the world and uphold our core values of integrity, trust, ethical behaviour, quality and professionalism. Colegio is an internationally recognised source of civil engineering knowledge and expertise.

Membership Grades

Presently, CICCPC remodelled our existing membership to fully reflect the structure of today's industry. There are 3 in all:

- ✓ Student

- ✓ Section Member

- ✓ Full Member

Partial and Full Members must be professionally licensed. The criteria for the professionally qualified membership grades also meet the Spanish Standard for

Professional Engineering Competence issued by Spain's civil engineering regulating authority Ministry of Public Works.

Membership fees The entrance fee to the **Colegio** is € 135.84. Entrance fee is charged to those entering who finished their Civil Engineering studies **within twelve months from its application a.k.a Young Professionals(*)**.

() In the case of applicants subject to professional recognition procedures the relevant date to this fact will be Ministerial Order recognition issuance date.*

The **reinstatement fee** for engineers, on leave, wanting to return to register with the Colegio, is € 135.84.

Annual Subscription Fees

| Grade | Residency | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| | Spain | US & Canada | Other countries |
| Retirees | € 67.92 | € 67.92 | € 67.92 |
| 75+ years | Exempt | Exempt | Exempt |
| Full members | € 271.64 | € 157.55 | € 190.15 |
| Unemployed | € 27.16 | € 27.16 | € 27.16 |
| Post graduate scholar | € 67.92 | € 67.92 | € 67.92 |
| Young professionals | | | |
| Year 1 | € 67.92 | € 67.92 | € 67.92 |
| Year 2 | € 135.84 | € 135.84 | € 135.84 |

Routes to Membership

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Applying for Membership

If you are interested in applying for CICCPC membership we recommend you visit our website www.ciccp.es and read the relevant documentation available.