

July 19, 2022

SUBJECT: Use of “Software Engineer” and Related Titles in Canada

Engineers Canada is taking this opportunity to voice the alignment of Provincial and Territorial engineering regulators in relation to use of “software engineer” and related titles in Canada. Use of “software engineer”, “computer engineer” and related titles that prefix “engineer” with IT-related disciplines and practices, is prohibited in all provinces and territories in Canada, unless the individual is licensed as an engineer by the applicable Provincial or Territorial engineering regulator. Each province and territory regulates the practice of engineering within their jurisdiction, as set out in their respective legislation. To practice engineering in Canada, or to use the title “engineer”, you must hold and maintain a license from one of Canada’s twelve engineering regulators.

Disregarding prohibitions on use of title is misleading to the public. Professional engineers are held to high professional and ethical standards and work in the public interest. The public places a high degree of trust in the profession and these layers of accountability and transparency help keep Canadians safe.

The term “engineer” is protected and restrictions on its use are enforced in each and every province and territory in Canada. This applies even if your company is internationally based and not headquartered in Canada or if you use the same term/title for the same role in other countries. Any employee who works in Canada is prohibited from using the title “engineer” or practicing engineering without a license. **There is no jurisdiction in Canada where unlicensed individuals or companies are permitted to engage in software (except Québec) or computer engineering, or use titles implying the right to do so (including Quebec).**

Enforcement action is frequently taken across Canada against individuals who improperly hold themselves out as engineers. Courts have frequently ordered removal of the term engineer from job titles and required corresponding revision of online websites and social media. In many cases, individuals have also been fined in relation to their misuse of title (see ‘legal precedents’ on this [webpage](#) for more information).

If you would like suggestions for alternative titles that would be appropriate and legal to use for your roles and responsibilities, please reach out to your regulator for more information.

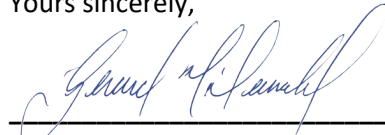
ABOUT US

Engineers Canada is the national organization that represents the 12 provincial and territorial engineering regulators that license the more than 300,000 members of the engineering profession in Canada. Engineering is a self-regulated profession in Canada and our organization exists to support the provincial and territorial engineering regulatory bodies. Together, we work to advance the profession in the public interest.

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If you need any further guidance on this issue and the nature of Engineers Canada's involvement, please reach out to Megan Falle, Regulatory Liaison at megan.falle@engineerscanada.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Gerard McDonald, MBA, P.Eng., ICD.D
Chief Executive Officer, Engineers Canada

Signed and agreed upon by the twelve engineering regulators in Canada;

Kimberley King
-- Engineers
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