

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 7274

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8495, otherwise known as the Philippine Mechanical Engineering Act of 1998, which was enacted into law on February 12, 1998 is the current law that regulates the practice of mechanical engineering. Its predecessor Commonwealth Act 294, otherwise known as Mechanical Engineering Law which was enacted into law in June 9, 1938, was the first law regulating the practice of mechanical engineering and established the Board of Mechanical Engineering Examiners. The first amendment was about sixty (60) years and since then twenty seven (27) years had passed that the current practice of the profession is inadequate to cope with the rapid growth in technologies.

The current law had its own limitation that the practice of mechanical engineering profession is stifled to fully perform the potential of the profession. Likewise, there are overlapping provisions with the law of other professions that caused confusion about the scope of responsibility. In fact, there are a number of industrial facilities that have been erected and operated without proper consultation with mechanical engineers which can jeopardize the safety of the operation. These are just examples of the issues that the current law is silent about.

A key improvement in the proposed new law for the mechanical engineering profession is the detailed description, including skills and attributes, of the positions of the Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer as part of the Career Progression Specialization Program (CPSP). Other updates in the proposal are the increase in the number of the Professional Regulatory Board members to fast-track the implementation of the provision of this new law; defining the scope of work of the mechanical engineer; demanding the authority with jurisdiction and Local Government Unit in the full implementation of the new law and among others. With these updates, our mechanical engineers in the country shall be placed at par or better than its counterparts elsewhere in the world and will become an active participant in the development of our industry specifically supporting the "Talentong Pinoy" program of the government.

This new law shall strengthen the practice of mechanical engineering which is the backbone of development and industrialization of our country. Henceforth, it is timely to amend the current law to address the needs of the time to get the full potential of the mechanical engineering profession.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT

REGULATING AND STRENGTHENING THE PRACTICE OF MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, ALIGNING WITH INTERNATIONALLY
RECOGNIZED MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PRACTICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress
assembled:*

Article I
General Provisions

Section 1. This Act shall be known as the Philippine Mechanical Engineering Act.

Section 2. *Statement of Policy.* – It is hereby declared as the policy of the state to regulate and strengthen the practice of mechanical engineering and certified plant mechanics in the Philippines, in recognition of their vital role in nation-building development, industrialization, and public safety, in order to ensure the safety, quality, efficiency, and integrity of mechanical works and installations across all sectors of the economy.

Furthermore, it is the policy of the state to encourage continuous professional development, upgrade mechanical engineering education to guarantee attainment of internationally accepted skills and attributes of engineers, uphold ethical standards, and foster an environment of competence, excellence, and innovation among mechanical engineers and plant mechanics, to meet the demands of industrial growth, environmental sustainability, and global competitiveness through regulatory measures, programs and activities.

Section 3. *Coverage of this Act.* – This act shall cover all aspects of mechanical engineering practice as follows:

- a. Examination, registration and licensure of mechanical engineers;
- b. Supervision, control and regulation of the practice of mechanical engineering;
- c. Development, upgrading and updating of the curriculum of the mechanical engineering profession in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs);
- d. Development and improvement of the professional competence and practice of mechanical engineers through among others, continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Career Progression and Specialization Program (CPSP) for the advanced professional mechanical engineer; and
- e. Integration of all mechanical engineers and certified plant mechanics under one national Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of mechanical engineers and certified plant mechanics which shall be recognized by the Board of Mechanical Engineering and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

Section 4. *Definition of Terms* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean as follows:

- a. Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) - refers to the Philippine

Society of Mechanical Engineers (PSME) as the accredited and integrated professional organization of Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineers, Professional Mechanical Engineers, Registered Mechanical Engineers, and Certified Plant Mechanics.

- b. Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer (APME) – refers to a mechanical engineer with extensive experience and expertise, often holding a professional mechanical engineer license and potentially specializing in a specific area within mechanical engineering.
- c. Career Progression and Specialization Program (CPSP) – is a PRC policy initiative mandated under RA No. 10912 (CPD Act of 2016) that set a structured framework design to help licensed professional to advance their career by enhancing their skills, competencies, and qualification aligned to both national and international professional standards.
- d. Certified Plant Mechanic (CPM) – refers to a licensed professional qualified to perform mechanical work limited to the installation, operation, and maintenance of mechanical equipment requiring not more than 500 kW capacity.
- e. Commission on Higher Education (CHED) refers to the government agency created to lead, promote, and regulate higher/tertiary education in the Philippines created under Republic Act No. 7722, hereinafter referred to as “CHED”.
- f. Mechanical equipment, machinery includes the following:
 - 1. All prime movers such as steam engines and turbines, internal/external combustion engines and gas engines and turbines installed or used in mobile or stationary equipment, machineries and processes;
 - 2. Steam generators such as boilers and other similar steam generating equipment;
 - 3. Furnaces and incinerators;
 - 4. Heat exchanger such as but not limited to cooling towers, kilns and dryers, cookers, coolers and heaters;
 - 5. Materials handling equipment, such as but not limited to pumps, cranes, feeders, conveyors, hoists, elevators, escalators, mechanized dumbwaiters, moving ramps and walkways;
 - 6. Heating, air-conditioning, ventilating, and refrigeration equipment and machinery, including compressors, fans, and blowers;
 - 7. Mechanical pollution abatement and environmental and energy control system such as but not limited to clean room, solid waste removal, odor- control equipment, boiler chimney, emission monitoring and control equipment, closed parking, smoke control, and tunnel ventilation equipment;
 - 8. Pipeline and piping system with a working pressure of not less than 70 kPa, installed or intended for installation above or below ground used in the conveyance of steam, water, air, gas, fuel, chemicals, and wastewater from domestic, commercial and/or industrial sources;
 - 9. Fired and unfired pressure vessels;
 - 10. Printing machines;
 - 11. Mechanical working machines for water and wastewater treatment systems, fire protection and suppression system and space development and exploration;
 - 12. Mechanical working machines for metallic and non-metallic materials and other mechanical equipment and machinery whether installed on land, underground, or onboard watercraft such as power barges, rigs and other commercial and cargo ships;
 - 13. Mechanical machinery and equipment used in production, mechanized harvesting, processing as ready to eat or shelf- stable products, controlled atmosphere storage, refrigerated preservation, transportation and distribution of food and other perishable products to include but not limited to agricultural (fresh produce, poultry, livestock) and fisheries products; and

14. Other mechanical equipment or machinery similar to those enumerated above.

- g. Mechanical processes, works, projects or plants shall include but not limited to steam plants, industrial plants, geothermal plants, dendro- thermal plants, nuclear plants, ocean thermal energy conservation (OTEC), renewable energy plants, combustion plants, hydraulic plants, pumping plants, compressed gas plants, food processing plants, all kinds of mills, shops, factories, shipyards dry docks, heating, air conditioning, ventilating and refrigeration plants containing any mechanical equipment, machinery or process deriving power from steam, fossil fuels, wind, air, gas, water, solar heat, nuclear energy, ocean waves and tides, biomass and energy from waste or other renewable and conventional energy sources;
- h. Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) - is a quality assurance national system for the development, recognition and award qualifications based on standards of knowledge, skills and values acquired in different ways and methods by learners and workers of the country. It describes the levels of educational qualifications and sets the standards for qualification outcomes.
- i. Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers (PSME) is a non-stock, non- profit professional organization of mechanical engineers and certified plant mechanics, which refers to the accredited integrated professional organization.
- j. Professional Mechanical Engineer (PME) – refers to a person who, after meeting the required experience and qualifications, and upon approval of a technical engineering report or design project, has been conferred the title of “Professional Mechanical Engineer” by the Professional Regulatory Board of Mechanical Engineering, and the Professional Regulation Commission. They play a vital role in ensuring that engineering projects adhere to safety standards, energy efficiency, and sustainable design principles.
- k. Professional Regulatory Board of Mechanical Engineering (PRBME) refers to the administrative body created by law to supervise and regulate the practice of mechanical engineering and is the ultimate authority in the practice of the mechanical engineering profession in the Philippines. It shall be hereinafter referred to as the “Board”.
- l. Professional Regulation Commission refers to the government agency described under Republic Act No. 8981, hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”.
- m. Resident Engineer is the engineer in charge and responsible for overseeing and managing the daily operations of a plant to ensure that the plant operations are continuous, reliable, optimal, safe, and compliant with the specified engineering standards and regulations.
- n. Registered Mechanical Engineer (RME) – refers to an individual who has passed the Mechanical Engineer licensure examination conducted by the Professional Regulatory Board of Mechanical Engineering, and the Professional Regulation Commission, and is authorized to practice mechanical engineering, which includes tasks like design, operate, maintain, and supervise mechanical systems and equipment, ensuring safety, efficiency, and reliability in industrial and engineering operations.
- o. Specialty Council - refers to a group of experts or specialist in particular field of specialization in the practice of mechanical engineering under the multi-specialty council of PSME, recognized by the Professional Regulatory Board of Mechanical Engineer (PRBME) and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), to develop and provide structured training programs to ensure the quality of training, formulate procedural guidelines to establish the skills and competency in the chosen field of specialization prior to endorsing for recognition as APME- Specialist. Procedural guidelines shall be formulated to define the process.
- p. Total Capacity Rating - Refers to the total kilowatt ratings of all mechanical equipment or machinery as defined in letter (g) of this Section, installed for use in such mechanical process works, projects or plants, whether in operation or not, and without regard to the number of capacities of the mechanical equipment, machinery or processes receiving power from or intended to be driven by such prime movers.

Section 5. Scope of Practice of Mechanical Engineering. – This act shall cover all aspects of mechanical engineering practice or mechanical engineering services as mentioned in Section 3 within the meaning and intent of this Act, but not limited to the following:

- a. Consultation, valuation, inspection, investigation and management services requiring mechanical engineering knowledge;
- b. Engineering design, preparation of plans, specifications, evaluation and projects studies, cost estimates and approval of the same for mechanical equipment, machinery, or processes of any mechanical works, projects or plants for whatever legal purposes;
- c. Management or supervision of the erection, installation, alteration, repair, inspection, testing, and commissioning of mechanical equipment, machinery, or process in mechanical works, projects, or plants;
- d. Management, supervision, operation, tending, or maintenance and repair or improvement of any mechanical equipment, machinery, or process in mechanical work, projects, or plants;
- e. Plants mentioned above include industrial and power plants, but not limited to food manufacturing plants, commercial and high-rise buildings, hospitals and malls, semiconductor and pharmaceutical processing plants, light and heavy industries, which use mechanical equipment and machinery in their operation;
- f. Management or supervision of the manufacture, sale, supply, or distribution and after-sales services of mechanical equipment, parts, or components, as well as to ensure the quality and safety of machinery and equipment, either locally manufactured or imported through adherence to the performance standard according to the sound mechanical engineering principles and practices;
- g. Management or supervision on the erection, installation, alteration, testing, and commissioning of mechanical fire protection systems in any facility;
- h. Teaching of mechanical engineering professional subjects in government-recognized and accredited engineering schools in compliance with CHED requirements;
- i. Employment in government or private institutions as an advanced professional mechanical engineer, professional mechanical engineer, registered mechanical engineer, or certified plant mechanic if the nature and character of his/her work is in line with his/her profession requiring professional knowledge of the science of mechanical engineering;
- j. Management or supervision of the mechanical system design, installation and commissioning, operation, and maintenance with close collaboration with other professional disciplines, and to ensure regulatory compliance of Facilities/Building Management System (FBMS);
- k. Tending, operating, and maintaining semiconductor equipment, health care facility equipment and machinery, and equipment and machinery controlled by electronics/pneumatic controls;
- l. All other activities advancing the arts and sciences of mechanical engineering, the allied arts and sciences, and related human factors for the benefit of the general public by protecting the environment and natural resources for the welfare of posterity,
- m. Conduct trainings related to the practice of the mechanical engineering profession in the fields, but not limited to, fire protection system, occupational safety and health, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, refrigeration, manufacturing, maritime, environment, industrial and other fields where there is a practice and/or application of mechanical engineering as defined in this act, and
- n. All other practices of profession and vocation similar to those enumerated above are considered to be a practice of the mechanical engineering profession.

The Board, subject to approval of the Commission, may add to, or exclude from, this section any activity or act of professional practice, or revise it as the need arises to conform to changes and new developments brought about by the latest developments in Mechanical Engineering practice.

Article II

Professional Regulatory Board of Mechanical Engineering

Section 6. Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory Board of Mechanical Engineering. – There shall be a Board, under the administrative control and supervision of the commission, to be composed of a Chairman and four (4) members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from the three (3) candidates per position chosen and ranked by the commission, the candidates shall be chosen from the five (5) nominees for each position submitted by the AIPO, in accordance with the existing rules and regulations promulgated for this purpose.

Section 7. Power and duties of the Board. – The board shall continue to exercise the following specific powers, functions, duties, and responsibilities:

- a. Promulgate and adopt the rules and regulations necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act;
- b. To regulate and supervise the registration, licensure, and practice of Mechanical Engineering, Certified Plant Mechanic, and other allied professions in accordance with this law;
- c. To administer oaths in connection with the successful examinees entering the practice of Mechanical Engineering;
- d. To issue the certificate of registration to successful examinees;
- e. To issue, suspend, and/or revoke, after due process, certificates of registration and issue, cancel, and suspend professional licenses or cancel special permits for the practice of mechanical engineering, for causes provided by law;
- f. To adopt an official seal of the Board;
- g. To prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethical and Professional Standards for the practice of the mechanical engineering profession;
- h. To prescribe guidelines in the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program in coordination with the accredited association of mechanical engineers;
- i. To monitor the conditions affecting the practice of Mechanical Engineering profession or occupation under their respective jurisdictions and whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement of the profession or occupation and/or the maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical standards, and for this purpose the members of the board duly authorized by the commission with deputized employees of the commission, may conduct ocular inspection in all establishments, and other engineering facilities, and in the case of schools, in coordination with the Commission of Higher Education (CHED);
- j. To hear and investigate cases arising from violations of this law, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder and the codes of ethics and, for this purpose, may issue summons, Subpoena Ad Testificandum and Subpoena Duces Tecum to alleged violators and/or witnesses to compel their attendance in such investigations or hearings: Provided, that, the decision of the board shall, unless appealed to the commission, become final and executory after fifteen days from receipt of notice of judgment or decision;
- k. To delegate the hearing or investigation of administrative cases filed before them, except in cases where the issue or question involved strictly concerns the practice of the profession or occupation, in which case, the hearing shall be presided over by at least one (1) member of the board concerned, assisted by a legal or hearing officer of the commission;
- l. To conduct, through the legal officers of the commission, summary proceedings on minor violations of their respective regulatory laws, violations of the rules and regulations issued to implement their respective laws, including violations of the general instructions to examinees committed by examinees, and render summary judgment thereon which shall, unless appealed to the commission, become final and executory after fifteen (15) days from receipt of notice of judgment or decision;

- m. Subject to final approval by the commission, to recommend registration without examination and the issuance of the corresponding certificate of registration and professional identification card (PIC);
- n. After due process, to suspend, revoke or reissue, reinstate certificate of registration or licenses for causes provided by law;
- o. To prepare, adopt and issue the syllabi or tables of specifications of the subjects for examinations in consultation with the academe; determine and prepare the questions for the licensure examinations which shall strictly be within the scope of the syllabus or table of specifications of the subject for examination; score and rate the examination papers with the name and signature of the board member concerned appearing thereon and submit the results in all subjects duly signed by the members of the board to the commission within ten (10) days from the last day of examination unless extended by the commission for justifiable cause/s;
- p. To prepare an annual report of accomplishments on programs, projects, and activities of the board during the year for submission to the commission after the close of each calendar year and make appropriate recommendations on issues or problems affecting the profession to the commission.
- q. Approve, issue, limit or revoke temporary license to practice mechanical engineering; and
- r. Discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary for the enhancement of the mechanical engineering profession and the upgrading, development and growth of mechanical engineering education in the Philippines.

All policies, resolutions, rules and regulations of the Board shall be subject to the review and approval of the Commission.

Section 8. *Qualifications of the Board Members.* – The chairman and members of the Professional Regulatory Board of Mechanical Engineering must possess the following qualifications at the time of their appointment:

- a. A natural born citizen and resident of the Philippines for at least five (5) consecutive years prior to his/her appointment;
- b. At least fifty (50) years of age;
- c. A holder of a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card as a Professional Mechanical Engineer (PME), duly qualified to practice as a professional engineer in the Philippines;
- d. A member in good standing of the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO);
- e. At least Professional Mechanical Engineer and in active practice as such, either in self-practice, employment in government service, or in the private sector for at least ten (10) years prior to his appointment;
- f. Must not, for a period of five (5) consecutive years prior to appointment, be a member of the faculty of any school, academy, institute, college, or university where a regular course in mechanical engineering is being taught, nor have pecuniary interest in or administrative supervision over any such institutions of learning;
- g. Must not, for a period of five (5) consecutive years prior to appointment, be connected with a review center or with any group or association where review classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination are offered or conducted at the time of appointment; and
- h. Has never been convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude.

Section 9. *Term of Office.* – The members of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years from the date of their appointment or until their successor shall have been qualified and duly appointed, unless, however, that such incumbent member has been reappointed for another three (3) year term. No member of the Board shall serve for more than two (2) regular terms. Any vacancy occurring within the term of a member due to resignation, conviction of any

kind, disability, or death shall be filled by appointment by the President of the Philippines; and such member appointed shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term vacated without prejudice to serve for a maximum of two (2) full terms. If the appointee comes from the incumbent Board, he shall serve the remaining vacated term in addition to the previous years he had already served and shall be qualified for reappointment in his new position: Provided, his aggregate number of years of service shall not exceed two (2) regular full terms. Each member of the Board shall take his oath of office prior to the official performance of his duties.

Section 10. *Compensation and Allowances of the Board Members.* – The Chairman and members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to the compensation and allowances being received by the Chairmen and members of existing regulatory boards in the Commission and as may be provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 11. *Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat and Support Services.* – The Board shall be under the general supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board, including applications for examination, examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation, administrative cases, and other investigative cases involving the profession shall be kept by the Commission. The Commission shall designate the secretary of the Board and shall provide the Secretariat and other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 12. *Removal of Board Members.* – The President of the Philippines, upon recommendation of the commission, may suspend or remove any member of the board for neglect of duty, incompetence, manipulation or rigging of the licensure examination results, disclosure of secret information or the examination questions prior to or after the conduct of the said examination, or tampering of the grades therein, for unprofessional or unethical conduct, or for any final judgment or conviction of crimes involving moral turpitude by the courts, after having given the member concerned an opportunity to be heard and/or to defend himself/herself in a proper administrative investigation.

Section 13. *Annual Report.* – The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year, submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines through the Professional Regulation Commission, giving a detailed account of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year and making recommendations for the adoption of measures that will upgrade and improve the conditions affecting the practice of mechanical engineering in the Philippines.

Article III **Examination, Registration, and License**

Section 14. *Examination Required.* – Except as otherwise provided in this act, all applicants seeking to be registered and licensed as mechanical engineers and certified plant mechanics shall undergo and pass the required examinations to be given by the board in such places and dates as the commission may designate in accordance with the provisions of existing laws.

Section 15. *Categories.* – Certificates of registration for the practice of mechanical engineering shall be of four (4) categories and in the order of rank as follows:

- a. Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer (APME);
- b. Professional Mechanical Engineer (PME);
- c. Mechanical Engineer; and
- d. Certified Plant Mechanic (CPM).

Section 16. *Qualifications for Examinations.* – To be allowed to take the examination for Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer (APME), Professional Mechanical Engineer (PME), Mechanical Engineer, or Certified Plant Mechanic, an applicant must, at the time of

the filing of his/her application, establish to the satisfaction of the board that:

- a. He/she is a citizen of the Philippines qualified to take the examination as provided for in section 33 of this act;
- b. He/she is of good moral character and has not been convicted by a court of law of a criminal offense involving moral turpitude;
- c. For Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer (APME):
 - (i) He/she has a valid certificate of registration as a registered professional mechanical engineer and is a holder of a valid professional license;
 - (ii) Must have at least seven (7) years of practice in the specific field of specialization as a professional mechanical engineer; and
 - (iii) Must be a member in good standing of the AIPO.
- d. For Professional Mechanical Engineer:
 - (i) Has a valid certificate of registration, and he is a registered mechanical engineer and a holder of a valid professional license;
 - (ii) Has graduated from an engineering school or college of recognized standing, after completing an approved course in mechanical engineering;
 - (iii) Has a specific record of a total of five (5) years or more of active mechanical engineering practice, reckoned from the time he registered a mechanical engineering practice;
 - (iv) Is competent to practice, as attested to by at least two (2) professional mechanical engineers with personal knowledge of the applicant's competence; and
 - (v) Must be a member in good standing of the AIPO.
- e. For Registered Mechanical Engineering Examinations:
 - (i) He/she is a holder the degree of Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, subject to compliance with minimum requirements as prescribed by the board, such equivalent and/or related engineering course or program from any school, institute, college, or university recognized by CHED or state where it is established, after completing a resident collegiate course equivalent to that of a full baccalaureate degree;
- f. For Certified Plant Mechanic Examinations:
 - (i) Has at least five (5) years of practical experience in the operation and maintenance of mechanical plants or equipment, which shall be certified by a licensed mechanical engineer or a professional mechanical engineer; or
 - (ii) A minimum of two (2) years of formal education in mechanical technology or a vocational course recognized by the government and at least three (3) years of relevant plant-related experience; or
 - (iii) A holder of a valid TESDA NC-II or NC-III in mechanical-related qualifications (such as machining, diesel power plant operation and maintenance, refrigeration and air conditioning, and other related mechanical programs) issued by a TESDA-accredited institution, and at least three (3) years of plant experience certified by a professional mechanical engineer or registered mechanical engineer; or
 - (iv) He has completed at least three (3) years of a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering program and finished the subjects on stationary or power plant engineering or any mechanical plant operation.

Section 17. Scope of examination. – The scope of examination and the methods of procedure shall be prescribed by the Board with special reference to the applicants – ability to perform the type of engineering work pertaining to the particular category he is to be registered in.

(A) Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer – For purposes of confirming the expertise of the applicant, the following shall be complied to the satisfaction of the board:

- a. A recommendation from the specialty council for the field of expertise applied for;

- b. A certified experience record from the date the applicant took oath as a registered professional mechanical engineer, indicating the inclusive dates, companies worked for, if applicable, description of specific responsibilities, and significant accomplishments; and
- c. An oral examination or interview to further elaborate the contents of the documents submitted.

(B) Professional Mechanical Engineer - For purposes of confirming the service record and clarifying the technical engineering report submitted by the applicant, an oral examination or interview shall be conducted by the board with the following documents:

- a. A certified experience record from the date the applicant took oath as a registered mechanical engineer, indicating the inclusive dates, companies worked for;
- b. Technical engineering report covering an evaluation, an analysis, a study, or a critical discussion of a mechanical engineering project or subject, on one or several technical aspects such as: design, construction, installation, commissioning, testing, operation, maintenance, repair, research, and the like. The technical engineering report shall be supported by engineering principles and data. Published and unpublished scientific papers or treatises on mechanical engineering theories and applications may be considered as complying with the requirement; and
- c. Two (2) certifications of competency signed by two (2) professional mechanical engineers to the effect that the experience record submitted by the applicant is factual and that the technical engineering report submitted was actually prepared by the applicant.

The applicant must obtain passing marks on the experience record and on the technical engineering report in order to qualify as a professional mechanical engineer.

(C) Mechanical Engineer - The applicant shall pass a written examination on different subjects or group of subjects prescribed by the Board, and within the syllabi prepared by the Board with emphasis on power plant and industrial plant engineering, mathematics, engineering economics, economic analysis, laws and ethics and machine design. The subjects in which the applicant for Mechanical Engineers shall be examined are:

- a. Machine Design, Materials, and Shop Practice
- b. Industrial and Power Plant Engineering
- c. Mathematics Engineering, Economics, and basic engineering sciences

(D) Certified Plant Mechanic - The examination for Certified Plant Mechanic may be written or oral on subject matters based on the following submitted statement of experience:

- a. Elements of Power Plant Machinery
- b. Elements of Industrial Plant Machinery; and
- c. Shop Machinery and Practice. Subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board may amend or revise the subjects, their syllabi, passing average, and the system and procedure in the licensure examinations for the practice of mechanical engineering and the corresponding weight pursuant to implementing rules and regulations issued for this purpose. The said subjects and their syllabi may be amended by the Board so as to conform to technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the profession.
- d. For Oral examination, a candidate must have at least three (3) years of experience in the three subject matters specified above and shall satisfy other requirements of the Board.

The oral examination may be structured and provided, then can only be availed by an applicant who has extensive practical experience of at least ten (10) years in a mechanical plant operation, certified by at least two (2) licensed mechanical engineers who have personal knowledge of the applicant's skills and competency.

An implementing guideline shall be developed by the board to standardize the process of the oral interview, to ensure the applicant meets minimum competency standards.

Section 18. *Ratings.* – To pass the examination, a candidate for an advanced professional mechanical engineer, a professional mechanical engineer, a mechanical engineer, and certified plant mechanic must obtain an average of seventy percent (70%) on all subjects, with no rating below fifty percent (50%) in any of the subjects.

Section 19. *Report of Ratings.* – The Board shall submit to the Commission the ratings obtained by each candidate within fifteen (15) days after the examinations, unless extended for just cause.

Section 20. *Re-examination.* – An applicant who fails to pass the examination for the third time shall be allowed to take another examination only after the lapse of one year.

Section 21. *Oath.* – All successful candidates in the examination shall be required to take an oath of profession before the Board or any government official authorized to administer oaths, prior to entering upon the practice of the mechanical engineering.

Section 22. *Issuance of Certificates of Registration and Professional License.* – Upon payment of the registration fee as established by the Commission, the Board shall issue a certificate of registration to any applicant who has met all the requirements specified in this Act for the particular category he is registering in.

All certificates of registration shall indicate the full name of the registrants, signed by all the members of the Board and the Commission, and affixed with the official seal of the Commission. The issuance of a certificate of registration by the Board to a registrant is evidence that the person named therein is entitled to all the privileges of a registered and licensed advanced professional mechanical engineer, professional mechanical engineer, mechanical engineer, or certified plant mechanic, as the case may be, for as long as said certificate remains valid.

A professional license Identification card bearing the registration number, date of issuance, expiry date, and duly signed by the chairman of the Board, shall likewise be issued to every registrant who has paid the prescribed fees, and has submitted a certificate of membership in good standing from the AIPO and proof of completion of the CPD requirements. The said card shall be renewed every three (3) years, subject to requirement(s) as the Board may thereafter prescribe and upon proof of completion of the mandatory CPD requirements. No person shall practice mechanical engineering in this country unless such person has secured a license to practice Mechanical Engineering in the manner herein provided. A licensee is entitled to practice the profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto until the expiration of the validity of his license.

Pursuant to the requirement of the Career Progression and Specialization Program (CPSP) as required by the Philippine Qualification Framework (PQF), and with the approval of the Commission, certificates of specialty shall be issued to Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineers by the Board, upon the recommendation or endorsement by the AIPO Specialty Council.

Section 23. *Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO).* – There shall be one (1) integrated and accredited professional organization of mechanical engineers and certified plant mechanics in the country, which shall be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a non- stock, non-profit corporation and recognized by the Professional Regulatory Board of Mechanical Engineering, the Professional Regulation Commission, and all other government agencies. Every advanced professional mechanical engineer, professional mechanical engineer, mechanical engineer, and certified plant mechanic, upon registration with the commission as such, shall become a member of this Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO). Those who have been previously registered by the Board

but are not members of this accredited professional organization at the time of effectivity of this Act, shall be allowed to register as members of this organization within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act. Membership in this accredited professional organization shall not be a bar to membership in other associations of mechanical engineers and certified plant mechanics.

All registered and licensed engineers, and certified plant mechanics shall pay the required fees and dues to receive and obtain all the benefits and privileges appurtenant to members.

The Accredited Integrated Professional Organization shall implement the continuing professional education, provide continuing professional education, and/or development program promulgated by the board and/or the commission, compliance with which shall be one of the requisites for the maintenance of membership in good standing of the professional in the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization. All members of good standing of this accredited professional organization shall be issued an annual membership card indicating the membership number and validity period of the membership, which shall be affixed to all plans, specifications, and any document signed by the member in the course of practice of his/her profession. Failure to maintain membership in good standing in the accredited integrated professional organization shall be a cause for listing of the individual as delinquent in the roster of professionals.

Section 24. Seal of an Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer. – An advanced professional mechanical engineer shall, upon registration, obtain a seal of such design prescribed by the Specialty Council and with the concurrence of the Board, bearing the registrant's name, the certificate number, and the legend as an Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer in a specific field of specialization.

The board shall issue a template on the details of the stamp of professional license to indicate, among others, the specialty of the advanced professional mechanical engineer.

Specialized consulting services (i.e. highly advanced knowledge and skill of scientific, engineering principles and skills on the design, analysis, evaluation, engineering, construction, erection, inspection, testing and commissioning, operation and control, maintenance, reliability and performance, technical services and decommissioning of mechanical equipment, component, and system), and in signing and sealing mechanical plans, drawings, permit applications as engineer-on-record, specifications, reports and other technical documents prepared by himself/herself and/or under his/her direct supervision. Provided that it shall be submitted or used professionally. It shall be unlawful for anyone to stamp or seal any document with the said seal after the certificate shall have been revoked or cancelled.

Section 25. Seal of a Professional Mechanical Engineer. – A professional mechanical engineer shall, upon registration, obtain a seal of such design prescribed by the Board, bearing the registrants- name, the certificate number and the legend - Professional Mechanical Engineer.- Designs, plants, specifications, project feasibility studies, appraisals, recommendations, technical reports, proposals, and other professional documents involving mechanical equipment, works, projects or plants shall be stamped on every sheet with said seal of the registrant when filed with government authorities or when submitted or use professionally: *Provided*, that it shall be submitted or used professionally: *Provided*, that it shall be unlawful for anyone to stamp or seal any document with the said seal after the certificate shall have been revoked or cancelled.

The board shall issue a template on the details of the stamp of professional license to indicate, among others, the specialty of the professional mechanical engineer.

Section 26. Non-issuance of Certificate for Certain Grounds. – The Board shall not issue a certificate of registration to any person convicted by court of competent jurisdiction of any crime involving moral turpitude, or immoral or dishonorable conduct or any person of unsound mind declared by a court of competent jurisdiction, furnishing the party concerned a written

statement containing the reasons for such action, which statement shall be incorporated in the records of the Board.

Section 27. Revocation and Suspension of Certificate. – The Board shall have the power, upon proper notice and hearing, to suspend or revoke any certificate of registration of any registrant for any cause:

- a. Specified in the preceding section, or
- b. For the use in whatever way of any fraud or deceit in obtaining a certificate of registration, or
- c. For gross negligence, incompetence or ignorance in the conduct of the profession resulting to death, injury of persons, or damage to property,
- d. For unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, and
- e. For violation of the code of ethics for mechanical engineers and certified plant mechanics

Provided, That the action of the Board shall be subject to appeal to the Commission within fifteen (15) days from notice, whose decision on the matter shall be final.

Section 28. Grounds for Suspension and Revocation of Licenses. – The Board shall have the power, upon due notice and hearing, to revoke or suspend the license of advanced mechanical engineers, professional mechanical engineers, mechanical engineers, or certified plant mechanics, or to cancel a temporary/special permit for any cause specified in the preceding sections, including any of the following:

- a. The use or perpetuation of any fraud or deceit in obtaining a certificate of registration, or
- b. For incompetence, negligence, or for abatement of the illegal practice of mechanical engineering, resulting in death, injury to persons, or damage to property,
- c. Violation of the provisions of this Act, its implementing Rules and Regulations and/or
- d. Violations of Policies of the Board including the Code of Ethics for Mechanical Engineering:

Provided, however, that such action of the Board shall be subject to appeal without prejudice to the right of the aggrieved party to apply with the proper Regional Trial Court for appropriate relief.

Section 29. Reinstatement and Replacement of the Certificates. – The Board, upon application and for reasons of equity and justice, may reinstate the validity of a revoked certificate of registration and professional license, upon payment of the required fees, at least two (2) years after revocation. A new certificate of registration to replace any certificate lost, destroyed or mutilated may be issued, subject to the rules of the Board, and upon payment of the required fee.

Section 30. Validity of License. – The professional license shall serve as evidence that the licensee can lawfully practice a profession until the expiration of its validity.

The validity of the professional license shall depend on existing law adopted by the commission. However, the renewal can only be done upon submission of an AIPO-issued certificate of membership in good standing (COGS), proof of completion of the CPD requirements, and payment of the renewal fee corresponding to the number of years of license validity, and other requirements as required by the board.

Section 31. Entitlement of Hazard Pay. – Mechanical engineers or certified plant mechanics are entitled to hazard pay when they are involved in hazardous undertakings or assigned to hazardous workplaces. They shall be paid hazard allowances ranging from ten (10%) to thirty (30%) percent of their monthly basic salary, depending on the nature and extent of the hazard

involved.

The following shall be considered hazardous workplaces:

- a. Radiation-exposed laboratories and service workshops;
- b. Remote/depressed areas;
- c. Areas declared under a state of calamity or emergency;
- d. Strife-torn or embattled areas;
- e. Laboratories and other disease-infested areas; and
- f. Workplaces that are considered or defined by the Department of Labor and Employment's rules and regulations as hazardous or high- risk.

Section 32. *Vested Rights: Automatic Registration of Practicing Mechanical Engineers.*

– All practicing Mechanical Engineers who are registered at the time this Act takes effect, shall automatically be registered.

Section 33. *Coverage of Temporary/Special Permits.* – The Professional Regulatory Board of Mechanical Engineering concerned shall recommend the approval of the registration to the Commission and authorize the issuance of a certificate of registration/license and professional identification card, with or without examination, to a foreigner who is registered under the laws of their state or country and whose certificate of registration issued therein has not been suspended or revoked: Provided, That, the requirements for the registration or licensing in said foreign state or country are substantially the same as those required and contemplated by the laws of the Philippines and that the laws of such foreign state or country allow the citizens of the Philippines to practice the profession on the same basis and grant the same privileges as those enjoyed by the subjects or citizens of such foreign state or country: Provided, further, That, the Commission may, upon recommendation of the Board concerned, authorize the issuance of a certificate of registration/license or a special temporary permit to foreign professionals who desire to practice their professions in the country under reciprocity and other international agreements; consultants in foreign- funded, joint venture or foreign-assisted projects of the government, employees of Philippine or foreign private firms or institutions pursuant to law, or health professionals engaged in humanitarian mission for a limited period of time: Provided, finally, That agencies, organizations or individuals whether public or private, who secure the services of a foreign professional authorized by law to practice in the Philippines for reasons aforementioned, shall be responsible for securing a special permit from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), pursuant to PRC and DOLE rules

Foreigners employed as technical officers, training officers or consultants in such special branches of mechanical engineering who, in the judgment of the Board, are necessary and advantageous for the country particularly in the aspects of technology transfer, may be issued temporary permits: Provided, That agencies, organizations or individuals whether public or private, who secure the services of a foreign professional authorized by law to practice in the Philippines for reasons aforementioned, shall be responsible for securing a special permit from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), pursuant to PRC and DOLE rules, Provided further, That such engagements have satisfied conditions, as may be deemed necessary as follows:

- a. Non-availability of a mechanical engineer and/or mechanic in the country who is competent, able and willing at the time of engagement to perform the service for which the foreigner is desired for;
- b. The foreign engineer shall work in collaboration and under the administrative supervision of a licensed Filipino mechanical engineer, responsible for the mechanical processes, works, projects or plant; and
- c. The foreigner must have been in the prior employ of the engaging firm, or its foreign business partner, outside of the Philippines for a period of not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the date of his engagement;

- d. Any particular or specific engagement shall not be in excess of six (6) months but may be renewed once, if necessary, except when such engagement is for a newly established firm in which case the period of engagement may be for a longer term but not to exceed a total term of two (2) years.

Section 34. Indication of License and Professional Tax Receipt. – The Mechanical Engineer shall be required to indicate his/her Professional License number, the duration of validity, including the professional tax receipt number on the documents he/she signs, uses or issues in connection with practice of his/her profession.

Article IV Practice of the Profession

Section 35. Field of Action Authorized for Each Category: Prohibition. – It shall be unlawful for any person, unless authorized under this Act:

- a. to practice as a mechanical engineer, or a certified plant mechanic, unless he/she is a holder of a valid license for the specified profession.
- b. to obtain a seal for an advanced professional mechanical engineer of such design not prescribed and approved by the board.
- c. to stamp or seal any document if his/her license has already expired or he/she has not been reinstated to the practice of the profession.
- d. to be in charge of the enforcement of laws, ordinances, or regulations relating to the implementation, construction, repair, operation, and maintenance, testing, and evaluation of mechanical systems, structures, machinery and equipment, and other mechanical and engineering facilities unless he/she is a duly licensed advanced professional mechanical engineer.
- e. to approve or endorse any plans, designs, specifications, or project studies which have not been prepared and submitted in full accord with the provisions of this act, nor shall any payment be approved for any work, plans and specifications of which have not been so prepared, signed, and sealed by a duly registered advanced professional mechanical engineer.
- f. to be in responsible charge of the preparation of plans, designs, investigations, valuation, technical reports, specifications, project studies, or estimates, or to be in performance of other professional mechanical engineering activities unless he/she is a duly licensed Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer.
- g. to teach professional subjects in the mechanical engineering course unless he/she is a duly licensed Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer (APME) or Professional Mechanical Engineer, or a Master- degree or Doctorate degree holder in mechanical engineering.
- h. to be in responsible charge of the construction, erection, installation, alteration, or of the performance of a mechanical engineering service in connection with the manufacture, sale, supply or distribution of any mechanical works, project or plant either for himself/herself or for others, unless he/she is a duly registered Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer (APME), Professional Mechanical Engineer or Mechanical Engineer.
- i. to operate, tend or maintain, or be in-charge of the operation, tending, or maintenance of any mechanical works, projects, plant of 100 kw., or more but not more than 500 kw unless he/she is a duly licensed Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer (APME), Professional Mechanical Engineer, a duly licensed Mechanical Engineer or a duly licensed Certified Plant Mechanic.
- j. to operate, tend, or maintain or be in-charge of the operation, tending, or maintenance of any mechanical equipment, machinery or process for any mechanical work[s], project[s] or plant[s] over 500 kilowatts but not more than 3000 kw unless he/she is a duly licensed Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer (APME), Professional Mechanical Engineer or a duly licensed Mechanical Engineer.

- k. to operate, tend or maintain, or to be in charge of the operation, tending or maintenance of any mechanical equipment, machinery, process for any mechanical works, projects or plants of over 5000 kw unless he/she is a duly licensed Professional Mechanical Engineer or Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer (APME).

Section 36. Personnel Requirement. – Every mechanical process, work, project, or plant as defined in Section 35 shall have no less than the following complement of resident licensed Professional Mechanical Engineer, licensed Mechanical Engineer, or Certified Plant Mechanic;

- a. For a total capacity rating of 100 kw but not more than 500 kw: There must be one (1) Certified Plant Mechanic, or one (1) licensed Mechanical Engineer, or one (1) licensed Professional Mechanical Engineer: *Provided*, That every mechanical work, project, or plant in this category operating in more than one shift every twenty four hours, shall have in addition to the minimum personnel herein required, one certified plant mechanic, or a licensed Mechanical Engineer, or a licensed Professional Mechanical Engineer in-charge of each and every additional shift.
- b. For a total capacity rating of over 500 kw but not more than 3000 kw: There must be one (1) Certified Plant Mechanic, and one (1) licensed Mechanical Engineer or a licensed Professional Mechanical Engineer: *Provided*, That every mechanical work, project, or plant in this category operating in more than one shift every twenty-four (24) hours shall have, in addition to the minimum personnel herein required at least one (1) Certified Plant Mechanic and one (1) licensed Mechanical Engineer or a licensed Professional Mechanical Engineer in-charge of each and every additional shift.
- c. For a total capacity rating of over 5000 kw: There must be one (1) Certified Plant Mechanic, one (1) licensed Mechanical Engineer and one (1) licensed Professional Mechanical Engineer: *Provided*, that every mechanical work, project, or plant in this category operating in more than one shift every twenty-four (24) hours shall have, in addition to the minimum personnel herein required at least one (1) Certified Plant Mechanic, one (1) licensed Mechanical Engineer and one (1) licensed Professional Mechanical Engineer in-charge of each and every additional shift, and one (1) licensed Advance Professional Mechanical Engineer.

Section 37. Preparation of Plans and Supervision of Construction by Licensed Engineers Required. – It shall be unlawful for any person to order or otherwise cause the fabrication, construction, erection, installation or alteration of any mechanical equipment, machinery or process for any mechanical works, projects, or plants, unless the designs, plans, layouts or specifications have been prepared by or under the responsible charge of, and duly signed and sealed by a Professional Mechanical Engineer or an Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer of specialized field if already defined by the specialty council. Likewise, proposals and quotations for the supply and fabrication of mechanical equipment, works, projects, plants, mechanical pollution abatement systems, mechanical fire protection systems, pressurized pipes with a working pressure of not less than 70 kPa., shall be duly signed and sealed by a Professional Mechanical Engineer or an Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer of a specialized field, whichever is applicable.

Section 38. Practice Not Allowed for Firms and Corporations. – The practice of mechanical engineering is a professional service, admission to which shall be determined upon the basis of an individual's personal qualifications. No firm, company partnership, association or corporation may be registered or licensed as such for the practice of mechanical engineering: *Provided*, however, That persons properly registered and licensed as mechanical engineers may form and obtain registration with the Security and Exchange Commission of a firm, partnership or association using the term - Mechanical Engineers- and or –Architect and Mechanical Engineers- but nobody shall be a member, partner or associate unless he/she is a duly registered and licensed mechanical engineer, and the members who are mechanical engineers shall only render work and services proper for mechanical

engineers as defined in this Act.

Section 39. *Posting of Certificates.* – The owner, manager, or other person in-charge of any mechanical works, projects, or plants of one hundred (100) kw or more, of a firm, co-partnership, corporation or joint-stock association, shall post or cause to be posted in a conspicuous place within such plant of business, the original certificate of registration of the engineer or engineers and of the certified plant mechanic/s employed in such plant, in a frame protected by transparent glass or its equivalent.

Section 40. *Roster of Engineers and Mechanics.* – A roster showing the names and place of business of all registered advanced professional mechanical engineers, professional mechanical engineers, mechanical engineers, and certified plant mechanics, shall be prepared by the Commission, which shall be made available to accredited integrated professional organizations upon formal written request, subject to the requirements of the data privacy law (RA 10173).

Section 41. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreign mechanical engineer or mechanic shall be allowed to practice mechanical engineering or be given a certificate of registration or be entitled to any of the privileges under this Act unless he can prove in the manner provided by the rules of Court or by specific provisions of law or regulations, that the country of which he/she is a subject or citizen, in the spirit of reciprocity, permits Filipino mechanical engineers and/or mechanics to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subject or citizens of such country or state.

Section 42. *Enforcement of the Act by the Officers of the Law.* – The Professional Regulation Commission shall be the enforcement agency of the Board. As such, the Commission shall implement the concerned provisions of this Act. Enforce its implementing rules and regulations as adopted by the Board, conduct investigations on complaints, including violations of the Code of Conduct of the profession, and prosecute when so warranted.

Likewise, the Local Government Unit should supplement the enforcement of this Act through applicable legal instruments.

It shall be the duty of all duly constituted authorities through the officers of the law of the national government, or any provincial, city, or municipal government or any political subdivision thereof, to enforce the provisions of this act and to prosecute any person violating the same.

No officer or employee of the government, chartered cities, provinces and municipalities now or hereinafter charged with the enforcement of laws, ordinances or regulations relating to the implementation, construction, repair, operation and maintenance, testing and evaluation of mechanical structures, machineries and equipment, and other mechanical engineering facilities, shall accept or endorse any plans, designs, specifications or project studies which have not been prepared and submitted in full accord with the provisions of this Act, nor shall any payment be approved by any such Officer for any work, the plans and specifications of which have not been so prepared, signed and sealed by a duly registered advanced professional mechanical engineer. This provision shall be implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Local Building Officials in the issuance of building permits and certificate of occupancy under the National Building Code, and by all concerned national government entities and local government units (LGUs) in the procurement and in the discharge of their regulatory and auditing functions, including the issuance of permits, pertaining to mechanical structures, machineries and equipment, and other mechanical engineering related facilities or projects.

Likewise, the compliance of the personal requirement as stated in Section 36 shall be complied with as a matter of public safety in issuing the required permits.

Section 43. *Qualification Requirements.* – In a government or private institution where a position requires a Master- degree holder, a holder of a professional mechanical engineer

license shall be recognized as an equivalent eligibility. Likewise, where a position requires a professional mechanical engineer's license, a holder of a master's or doctorate degree in mechanical engineering, with a registered mechanical engineer's license shall be eligible for the position.

Article V

Penal And Concluding Provisions

Section 44. *Penalties.* – In addition to the administrative sanctions imposed under this Act any person who violates any of the provisions of this Act and its rules and regulations shall, upon conviction be penalized by a fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00) nor more than one million pesos (Php 1,000,000.00), or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than three (3) years, or both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

Section 45. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board shall formulate and issue the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 46. *Funding Provisions.* – Such sums as may be necessary to carry out provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Section 47. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or portion of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not invalidate all other sections or portions not affected thereby.

Section 48. *Repealing Clause.* – RA 8495, is hereby repealed and all other laws, parts of law, others, ordinances, or regulations relative to the practice of mechanical engineering which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 49. *Transitory Provisions.* –

- a. Expansion of the Board of Mechanical Engineering. — The present Board shall continue to function in the interim until such time as the new Board composition shall be constituted, Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.
- b. Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer licensure – Those who does not qualify for the seven (7) years' experiences as PME but with extensive experience in any specialized field of at least ten (10) years shall be evaluated under the equivalent qualification system as approved by the Board or competent authority deputized by the board to evaluate the equivalency of the experience, shall be given two (2) years to apply as APME after the effectivity of this Act.
- c. Introduction of the Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer Category. — The Professional Mechanical Engineers possessing valid certificates of registration issued under RA 8495 shall, after the approval of this Act, continue to practice until the full implementation of the Advanced Professional Mechanical Engineer as provided in this Act.

Section 50. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or a major daily newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, whichever is earlier.

Approved,