

TEMPORARY PERMITS: It's up to you!

You are working on a project which requires importing a technology or an expertise: have you made sure that the engineer who came here to help from outside Québec is indeed a member of the Ordre des ingénieurs?

Indeed, it often happens that a project is carried out in collaboration with an engineer from another province or country. The work is proceeding well; the engineer in question signs plans and specifications and then, the question begs: did this person have the right to carry out these acts?

Unfortunately, sometimes the answer is “no” because the professional in question is not a member of the Ordre.

Consequently, these plans have no legal value and this person could face a sanction of \$10,000 or less. Section 24 of the Engineers Act is very clear on the matter:

1. All plans and specifications for works contemplated by section 2 must be signed and sealed by an engineer who is a member of the Order or by a holder of a temporary licence, except plans and specifications prepared outside Québec and relating exclusively to the making of machines and apparatus comprised in the works contemplated by paragraph c of the said section and intended for use for purposes of industrial manufacture. (Engineers Act, section 24)

When you ask an engineer to come here from outside Québec, it is your responsibility, as a member of the Ordre, to verify whether this person, who will carry out engineering acts, is also a member of the Ordre. You can do so by simply asking the person or by contacting the Ordre's Registration Service at 514 845-6141, extension 2465.

In doing so, you will safeguard engineering trade practices in Québec as well as the reputation of all Québec engineers.

TEMPORARY PERMIT

If the person is not entered on the Ordre's roll, he or she can apply for a temporary permit. The Ordre issues this type of permit to engineers who come to Québec to work on a particular project. That is why the permit is granted for a limited time, usually a year.

Consequently, the individual in question must obtain a permit for each project on which he or she is likely to work. Of course, once he or she will have obtained a temporary permit, the engineer will have to comply with the laws that govern the practice of engineering in Québec.

When you ask an engineer to come here from outside Québec, it is your responsibility, as a member of the Ordre, to verify whether this person, who will carry out engineering acts, is also a member of the Ordre.

The application process for a temporary permit is different whether the applicant resides in Canada or in another country. If the applicant resides in Canada, he or she must be a member of a Canadian professional engineering association. If the applicant resides elsewhere, he or she can obtain a temporary permit on one of the following conditions:

- He or she holds an engineering degree, a Bachelor's of applied sciences or an equivalent diploma from a school or university recognized by the Ordre's Board of directors;
 - He or she is a member of a professional engineering association recognized by the Ordre's Board of directors.
- Once the conditions are met, the foreign applicant can choose between two types of permits:
- A permit which gives the right to act as a collaborator of a member of the Ordre; he or she will then provide support to a member of the Ordre who will sign the plans and specifications along with the foreign applicant.
 - A permit which gives the right to act as an engineer responsible for a project – he or she will need to be assisted by a member of the Ordre who will ensure the quality of the work and compliance with Québec laws and regulations.

In every case, it is essential that the person in question apply for and obtain a temporary permit prior to performing acts reserved for engineers in Québec. The process in its entirety can take one to eight weeks, depending on the Executive Committee's schedule (this committee is responsible for authorizing permits) as well as the date on which the application was received.

To learn more about the registration process, please refer to the Web site at: www.oiq.qc.ca, section “I am a candidate”, subsection “Temporary permits”. You can also contact the Ordre's Registration Services at 514 845-6141 or 1 800 461-6141, extension 2467.