



State Board of Registration For
Professional Land Surveyors
Department of Business Regulation
Division of Design Professionals
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building 68-2
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Joint Informational Bulletin – March, 2014

On September 27, 1990, the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (the “Joint Board”) issued a memorandum commonly referred to as the “Task List”. The purpose of the memorandum was to offer guidelines to registrants, State and municipal regulatory authorities, and the general public regarding which of the two professions was authorized to perform certain “tasks”, acknowledging that both engineers and land surveyors are involved in the “incidental” practice of certain “crossover” functions.

In the more than twenty years since the “Task List” was issued, the Joint Board has been abolished and separate Boards have been created for both professions. The Boards operate within the Department of Business Regulation, Division of Design Professionals. The current Boards recognize that the professions continue to evolve, that qualifications for registration have been revised, that education curricula have changed, and that the RIDEM has instituted its own licensing system for the design of septic systems.

This Informational Bulletin, issued jointly by the State Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors and the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, seeks to clarify which areas of “common” practice are properly conducted by the respective professions. It does not alter the statutory definitions, nor does it rise to the level of regulation. This document is a guideline for registrants, State and municipal regulatory authorities, and the general public. The Boards will revisit this Bulletin periodically to adapt it to changes in the professions.

| <u>Function</u> | <u>PLS</u> | <u>PE (Civil)</u> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Property / Boundary Line Survey | Yes | No |
| Topographic Survey | Yes | Yes – limited *1 |
| Survey Control | Yes | No |
| Hydrographic Survey | Yes | Yes – limited *1 |
| Property Descriptions | Yes | Yes |
| Drainage Design | Yes – limited *2 | Yes |
| Construction Layout | Yes | Yes – limited *3 |
| OWTS Design | Yes – limited *4 | Yes – limited *4 |
| Highway Design | No | Yes – *5 |
| Subdivision Design | Yes – limited *6 | Yes – limited *5 |
| Utility Service Design | No | Yes |
| Condominium Boundary Survey Plat & Unit Plans | Yes | Yes – limited *7 |
| As-built Survey | Yes | Yes – limited *8 |
| Elevation Certificates | Yes | Yes – limited *9 |

- *1 - Excludes mapping which requires survey ground control, or mapping that is required to be certified to the Standards outlined in the “State of Rhode Island Procedural and Technical Standards for the Practice of Land Surveying”, as amended. If the dimensions or infrastructure/improvements are shown to property lines, then a boundary survey by a Professional Land Surveyor is required.
- *2 - Drainage design shall be limited to 1 single-family lot and shall adhere to the “Rhode Island Stormwater Management Guidance for Individual Single-Family Residential Lot Development”, as amended.
- *3 - Initial control points shall be set by a Professional Land Surveyor.
- *4 - Limits of design jurisdiction shall be as defined in the “Rules Establishing Minimum Standards Relating to Location, Design, Construction and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems” effective July 2010, as amended.
- *5 - Boundary Survey, Lot Lines, Street Lines, Rights of Way, Easement Lines and Record Plan shall be prepared by a Professional Land Surveyor.
- *6 - Grading design, utilities, etc. shall be prepared by a Professional Engineer.
- *7 - The condominium Plat must be prepared by a Professional Land Surveyor; unit Plans may be prepared by a Professional Engineer.
- *8 - Nothing in this Bulletin shall preclude a Professional Engineer (Civil) from performing such incidental measurements necessary for the design, construction stake-out, construction and post-construction records of an engineering project, provided that these measurements are not related to property lines, lot lines, easement lines, or right-of-way lines, the establishment of which are required to be made by a Professional Land Surveyor.
- *9. Pre-construction only.