

Continuing education changes Board adjusts requirements due to COVID-19

On April 17, the Board voted to modify continuing education requirements for licenses expiring on December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021 as follows:

- **Regarding Rule 9.2.1 and 9.2.2, the required number of actual CE hours is 20 (in lieu of 30) for professional engineers and 16 (in lieu of 24) for architects. For architects, 8 of the hours must address the safeguarding of life, health, and property.**
- **Regarding Rule 9.3.1 (5), the limit on restricted online, non-live CE activities is raised to no more than one-half (in lieu of one-fourth).**
- Regarding Rule 9.3.2, the minimum number of required ethics hours is unchanged at 1 hour.
- Regarding Rule 9.3.5, self-guided activities may constitute no more than five hours for architects or six hours for professional engineers.
- Regarding Rule 9.4.3, the maximum number of carryover hours is unchanged and remains at half the biennial requirement (15 for professional engineers and 12 for architects).

It is important to note that these modifications are temporary. The intent of the modifications are to address recent developments that may reduce the availability of in-person CE opportunities and restrict travel. In addition, the reduction of hours reflects the Board understanding that some licensees may be facing other hardships, unrelated to their practice, that may adversely impact their ability to gain CE hours.

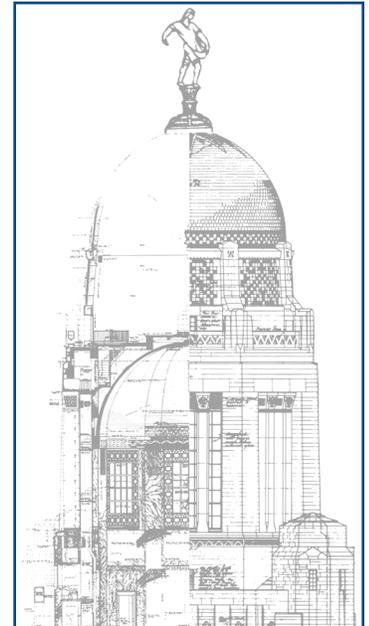
The Board has also received numerous questions about what kind of courses are approved. Below are some key points to

keep in mind when selecting a course for architectural and/or engineering CE hours.

- The continuing education activity must be related to the practice of architecture and/or engineering.
- The Board has final authority with respect to approval of courses and credits and does not pre-approve courses.
- The Board does not require that architectural-related courses be AIA-approved.
- Any web-based activity in which both the instructor and attendees have the ability to receive and discuss information in real time is not restricted. A licensee can accrue all their hours this way.
- Self-reported activities are separate and different from web-based activities. Self-reported CE learning is learning obtained during a self-directed educational activity. This activity may not have a sponsor or host; you did not receive a certificate for this educational time and you earned it under your own direction and guidance. Any licensee who wants to self-report should complete the self-reported form located on the Board's website. A licensee can gain credit for these activities in accordance with Rule 9.3.5.

To learn more about the continuing education guidelines and restrictions, please visit Chapter 9 of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act handbook at ea.nebraska.gov/ea-act.

If you have any questions about the modifications to continuing education or requirements and restrictions, please contact the Board at nbea.office@nebraska.gov. ■



BOARD MEMBERS

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Chair, Professional Engineer,
Brainard

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Daniel Thiele
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Suelter, Dvorak newest Board members

The Board and staff are pleased to welcome Jason Suelter, P.E, S.E. and Bruce Dvorak, Ph.D., P.E., to the Nebraska Engineers and Architects Board.

Suelter, who was appointed by the governor in February, is the 60th member of the Board and licensed as a civil and structural professional engineer.

He grew up on a farm outside of Brookville, Kansas, and received a Bachelor of Science from Benediction College in Kansas and a Masters of Civil Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Suelter is the President of Vector Structural Design in Lincoln. He also serves on the Structural Exam Committee for NCEES, is a member of American Society of Civil Engineers, and a member of the Diocese of Lincoln Building Committee.

“I look forward to helping to provide direction concerning structural questions and concerns as well as my overall experience with working with NCEES, fellow consultants and contractors,” Suelter said about working on the Board. “I am hoping to learn the integral part that the board plays to provide direction for our architectural and engineering professionals throughout the state.”

Dvorak, who was appointed to the Board in March, is the Board’s engineering education member. Originally born



Jason Suelter, P.E.

in Hastings, Nebraska, Dvorak grew up in Lincoln. He has a Bachelors in Civil Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, along with a Master’s in Environmental Engineering and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.



Bruce Dvorak, Ph.D., P.E.

Dvorak works the University of Nebraska-Lincoln teaching civil engineering and is licensed as a professional environmental engineer, making him the first member of the Board licensed in that discipline.

“As an Engineering faculty member, I hope to share a perspective from those that help educate our young engineers,” Dvorak said. He would also like to “learn more

about the oversight of the engineering and architecture professions in Nebraska.”

Dvorak is a member of the American Chemical Society, American Society of Civil Engineers, Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors, Water Environment Federation and American Water Works Association. He has also completed a term on the Board of Directors of the American Water Works Association.

Suelter replaces professional engineer member, Jennifer Klein and Dvorak replaces professional engineering education member Randall “Randy” Peters. ■



Board presents to NPZA, APA members

On March 5, Compliance Officer Amy Habe and Public Information Officer Molly Mayhew presented to the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association and the Nebraska Chapter of the American Planning in Kearney, Nebraska.

Habe and Mayhew covered a variety of topics including explaining the mission of the Board, when an architect or professional engineer need to be involved on new building, renovation and addition projects, and compliance.

The Board staff is available for presentations across Nebraska to further explain the aforementioned topics. If your organization or society would like to have to Board staff present, please contact molly.mayhew@nebraska.gov or (402) 471-3044. ■

NCARB releases AXP guidance for candidates

As the architectural community navigates the COVID-19 outbreak, our Board and NCARB know how difficult this period is for many of architects and architect candidates.

NCARB has begun to receive concerns and questions from record and certificate holders about employment experience opportunities for students, graduates, and licensure candidates. However, NCARB has no plans to offer additional ways to gain AXP experience as a response to the pandemic. NCARB has listed the following reasons in support of their position:

- AXP is focused only on the core requirements, that the profession determined, to develop competency in the tasks one should be competent in performing at the point of licensure, independently.
- The development of AXP led to the elimination of ‘elective’ hours, and ‘other experience’ that was ‘self-directed’ and/or gained through means other than actual

experience performing the required tasks. This reduced the experience requirement by 1,860 hours.

- AXP requires experience to be ‘paid experience’, not academic education or self-directed education. There is no substitute for actual experience.
- Licensure demonstrates to the public that the architect has had the education and experience, and has been tested on their knowledge & skills to be competent to perform architectural services independently, protecting their HSW.
- The competency of an architect at licensure cannot be compromised or changed because of economic conditions. Therefore, the means of gaining competency through education and experience cannot be compromised.

For licensure candidates who have been and/or continue to participate in the AXP, NCARB has provided the

following reminders to help minimize concerns so candidates do not miss out on opportunities to further their career.

Experience Does Not Expire

- All experience that is submitted to the candidate’s AXP supervisor and ultimately approved will not expire as long as it complies with the rules of the experience setting.
- Once the experience is submitted by the licensure candidate, the reporting requirement is no longer a concern, even if a supervisor is slow to approve it.

In other words, there is no time limit on approving AXP reports, just a requirement to submit valid experience in a timely manner.

AXP, continued on page 4

New Compliance Officer, Accounting Clerk join NBEA

The Board and staff welcomes new Compliance Officer, Amy Habe, and Accounting Clerk, Connie Belt.

Habe is a native of Wilber, Nebraska and has a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and a Minor in Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Habe most recently worked within the Department of Health and Human Services as a Quality Control Specialist for Developmental Disabilities for six years. Prior to that, Habe worked as a Social Worker in Colorado.

“I am enjoying learning new statutes and regulations with the Board,” Habe said. “I also look forward to working with members of the community and using my prior experience and

knowledge to support the Board and deliver quality work.”

Belt hails from Centralia, Missouri and has an Associates Degree in Secretarial Science from Union College in Lincoln. She has worked in accounting since high school and was most recently the Facility Manager at a manufacturing company.

When asked what she enjoys about her new position with the Board, Belt exclaimed “the people! I also enjoy working in an atmosphere that is calm and has open communication.”



Amy Habe



Connie Belt

Outside of accounting, Belt enjoys participating in marathons, obstacle course races, skydiving and other extreme sports. ■

Board preserves historical documents

After almost a year of sorting, organizing, and scanning, the Board has a digitized history of its beginnings.

It all started with four boxes and some curiosity.

“I wanted to know more about the Board’s beginnings,” Molly Mayhew, Public Information Officer for the Board said. “And before I knew it, I had four musty boxes filled with letters, maps, reports, speeches, and bill drafts.”

The boxes have been with the Board and staff since before the Board was even created, shuffled from one location to the next for a centennial. Correspondence goes back as far as 1919, when the first engineering bill was drafted for Nebraska.

“I was able to find that Nebraska had actually submitted several bills between 1913 and 1937 for the creation of some kind of architecture or engineering board,” Mayhew said. “It’s really astonishing that these papers have survived through the years and can still lend so much information about the how and why the Board was created.”

There are over 1,000 historic papers, a majority of which are correspondence between the founding members of the Board and other engineers and architects throughout the state.

A digital log of the papers is still being made by subject matter and respondent but anyone can request to view the papers through an information request to molly.mayhew@nebraska.gov. ■

AXP, continued from page 4

Submit Reports When There is Experience to Report

- Licensure candidates are not required to continuously submit experience reports if they have no experience to report.
- If they are no longer employed in an acceptable experience setting, they do not need to submit anything.
- However, candidates can always take advantage of “Other Experience Opportunities” under Setting O to continue making progress in the AXP while not employed.

Some licensure candidates report a belief that they need to submit a report every six months or they will lose AXP. They only need to submit a report if they have experience to submit; if there is no experience to submit then they do not need to worry.

Work Performed Remotely Qualifies for AXP

- As long as a candidate’s AXP supervisor is aware of what the licensure candidate is doing and has control over and knowledge of

their work, licensure candidates can still submit experience gained while working virtually, and the supervisor can still approve it. They do not need to be co-located in the same workplace.

- It is important for licensure candidates to continue to collaborate with their supervisor.
- If the working relationship has changed from being co-located to a virtual workplace, the licensure candidate may need to have more frequent check-ins to ensure their supervisor is aware of their progress toward developing competencies, as well as the AXP experience areas in which the candidate needs more work experience.

Report in Shorter Timeframes

- Licensure candidates should check in with their supervisor to determine how often they should report their experience.
- NCARB recommends submitting experience in shorter time frames such as every couple of weeks or not longer than once a month.
- This will help mitigate any potential issues if there is a change in employment, or if

their supervisor becomes ill or unreachable.

Reporting Requirement Extensions

- From the AXP Guidelines (pg. 19) - Provisions have been made for reasonable extensions to the two-month filing period.
- For more information on the reporting requirements and extensions, please refer to the NCARB website.

NCARB is continuing to work with Prometric test centers to understand and convey plans for testing centers here in the U.S. and abroad. In response to the closure of testing centers,

NCARB has updated the ARE 5.0 Testing and Rescheduling Policies. Candidates who have been impacted by the coronavirus should contact NCARB Customer Relations to receive assistance with answering questions.

To help architects and architect candidates stay informed, NCARB has also created a website (www.ncarb.org/press/2020-coronavirus-update) with updates in relation to the coronavirus. Users will find important information along with ways to stay connected with NCARB. ■

NCARB NEWS

Prometric Closure

Prometric has decided to keep all test centers in North America closed until May 1. As a result, NCARB has extended their no-cost rescheduling period for Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) appointments and is adding an additional six-month rolling clock extension to all valid passing scores.

- Prometric is continuing to monitor the Coronavirus outbreak to determine when they will reopen test centers.
- When Prometric does reopen centers, they will only be operating at 50 percent capacity to maintain social distancing for those who are testing.
- If a reopened test center is booked beyond the 50 percent capacity limit, Prometric will randomly select candidates to reschedule in order to ensure a safe testing environment.
- All rescheduling fees have been waived until further notice.
- Rescheduling existing appointments and scheduling new appointments over the next several months may be difficult due to limited seat availability. Prometric recommends candidates schedule future appointments for times this summer and into early fall to avoid further disruption.

For further information from prometric, please visit www.prometric.com/closures. For more information and update-to-date information about the ARE, please visit ncarb.org/press/2020-coronavirus-update.

Rolling Clock Adjustment

- An additional six-month rolling clock extension will automatically be applied to all passing ARE scores that were valid as of March 1, 2020, to accommodate for the test center closures and limited seat availability over the next several months. This will add to the three-month extension already added to valid passing scores.
- All extensions will be granted by the end of April to ensure no exam scores will expire before testing returns to normal. Candidates do not need to take any additional action to receive this extension.

Moving Forward

- Candidates can check the Prometric test center closures website to determine if your test center remains closed. Updates regarding Prometric's COVID-19 response will be found there. ■

NCEES NEWS

Pearson VUE Closures Extended

Pearson VUE professional test centers in the United States and Canada will remain closed through April 30. On-campus Pearson VUE select test centers are subject to closure at the school's direction. Examinees scheduled to test at an on-campus test center on or before April 30 should contact the center directly to confirm its status.

All examinees impacted by the closure of a Pearson VUE test center are eligible to reschedule their exam at no charge. NCEES has emailed impacted examinees.

Paper-and-Pencil Exams

NCEES anticipates the number of paper-and-pencil examinees in October will be almost twice normal levels. NCEES books test sites more than a year in advance. They are working with these existing sites to add an extra day of testing on Thursday and more sites will be added if necessary.

Exam disciplines will be split between Thursday and Friday to balance the number of examinees for each day. Examinees must test on the designated day for their exam discipline and will not be allowed to choose a preferred test day.

For further updates, please visit ncees.org/covid-19/.

Education Awards

The 2020 NCEES Engineering Education Award and Surveying Education Award competitions have been canceled due to the significant impact of the COVID-19 on colleges and universities.

Engineering and surveying programs planning to submit entries for the 2020 competitions are encouraged to hold them for 2021. Competition details for 2021 will be available in October.

Update-to-date information about the competition can be found on NCEES's website at ncees.org/education/engineering-award/.

NCEES celebrates centennial

Throughout 2020, NCEES will be celebrating its 100th year by sharing historical facts through social media and the NCEES website.

To learn about the creation and evolution of the NCEES organization, visit ncees.org/about/history/. ■

Recently Resolved Compliance Cases

The following complaints were reviewed for compliance by the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects, and resolved via the action noted. These summaries are provided for licensee education and information, and should not be interpreted as a full description of the complaints described. In complaints where disciplinary action was taken by the Board per Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-3444, the names of the individuals and/or organizations involved are included.

Complaint 19.03 Unlicensed Practice

The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the addition of a one-story commercial structure comprising approximately 10,956 square feet. The plans did not appear to be prepared by a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer.

Action: This project was subject to the Act because the building area comprised more than 5,000 square feet of commercial space classified as Factory (F) Occupancy under the International Building Code. The Board authorized the remediation process described in Rule 8.4 to bring the project into compliance with the Act. The remediation professionals conducted reviews, identified deficiencies, and recommended corrections. The complaint was dismissed upon removal of all deficiencies.

Complaint 19.10 Unlicensed Practice

The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the construction of a one-story commercial structure comprising approximately 11,940 square feet. The plans did not appear to be prepared by a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer. The Complaint also alleged the project resulted in damage to adjacent private property.

Action: This project was subject to the Act because the building area comprised more than 5,000 square feet of space classified as a Storage (S) Occupancy under the International Building Code. After an investigation, the Board dismissed the complaint after it discovered that licensed design professionals were indeed involved in the design of the project.

Complaint 19.16 Professional Misconduct

The Board received a complaint of professional misconduct by a licensee. The complaint alleged that a professional engineer completed a misleading report and was not completed in good faith.

Action: After an investigation, the Board did not find evidence to substantiate the complaint and dismissed it. The Board found that the licensee acted with reasonable care and competence in preparing the report, in accordance with Rule 5.1.1.

Complaint 19.11 Incompetence

A complaint was filed against a professional engineer alleging that a storm water pollution prevention plan prepared by that licensee was incompetently designed, resulting in damage to adjacent private property.

Action: The Board reviewed the project's design documents, and found that the professional engineer responsible designed the project with reasonable care in accordance with Rule 5.1.1. The Board dismissed the complaint upon not finding any violation of the Nebraska E&A Act or the Board's Code of Conduct.

Complaint 19.12 Incompetence

A complaint was filed against a municipality in central Nebraska alleging that a project designed by a professional engineer for the municipality

was incompetently designed, which resulted in private property damage.

Action: The Board reviewed the project's basis of design, and found that the professional engineer responsible designed the project with reasonable care in accordance with Rule 5.1.1. The Board dismissed the complaint upon not finding any violation of the Nebraska E&A Act or the Board's Code of Conduct.

Complaint 19.14 Incompetence

A complaint was filed against a professional engineer and architect alleging incompetence in relation to a project's design, closeout procedures, and project administration.

Action: After an investigation, the Board found that the professional engineer and architect responsible designed the project with reasonable care and competence in accordance with Rule 5.1.1. The Board dismissed the complaint upon not finding any violation of the Nebraska E&A Act or the Board's Code of Conduct.

Complaint 20.05 Unlicensed Practice

The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the renovation of a one-story commercial structure comprising approximately 1,400 square feet. The plans did not appear to be prepared by a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer.

Action: Following the investigation, the Board determined the work constituted the practice of architecture and engineering, but the total adversely impacted area comprised less than 1,000 square feet of space classified as Assembly (A) Occupancy under the International Building Code. Therefore, the renovation work qualified for an exemption to the Act in accordance with the Rules 10.3.1 and 10.4.1 and the Board dismissed the complaint.

Licensure Updates

November 14, 2019 - April 22, 2020

Architects by Exam

Joseph V. D'Elia	Austin	TX
Molly J. Haas	Omaha	NE
Daniel C. Scott	Omaha	NE
Erin C. Sebring	Omaha	NE
Eric M. Winkler	Omaha	NE

Professional Engineers by Exam

Civil

Braulio I. Araya	Omaha	NE
Christopher L. Bears	Omaha	NE
Kylie R. Berger	Omaha	NE
Alexandra R. Berney	Elkhorn	NE
Edward J. Bjorling	Papillion	NE
Linsey A. Brown	Omaha	NE
Anthony R. Cameli	Omaha	NE
Kyle T. Christensen	Lincoln	NE
Benjamin A.W. DeGagne	Omaha	NE
Benjamin S. Drews	Omaha	NE
Todd A. Earl	Omaha	NE
Jonathan B. Fischer	YORK	NE
Jessica L. Frehse	Council Bluffs	IA
Daniel J. French	Omaha	NE
Christie J. Hasenkamp	Omaha	NE
Kyle E. Heddens	Omaha	NE
Michael C. Holton	Omaha	NE
Hanna C. Jones	Overland Park	KS
Kyle T. Klabunde	Omaha	NE
Mitchell J. Kowalewski	Omaha	NE
Maxwell J. Kreuzberg	Lincoln	NE
Austin T. Kuecher	Council Bluffs	IA
Brandon P. Landis	Omaha	NE
Weston T. Loehr	Kansas City	MO

Benjamin P. Lorenzen	Omaha	NE
Riley S. Mahnke	Lincoln	NE
Noah L. Miner	Milwaukee	WI
Michael J. Nachreiner	Omaha	NE
Nathan D. O'Keefe	Lincoln	NE
Connor J. Olberding	Omaha	NE
Noah A. Pitts	Lincoln	NE
Daria V. Sakharova	Bellevue	NE
Tyler L. Schmidt	Omaha	NE
Kristin R. Schmit	Randolph	NE
Rachel A. Schulz	Omaha	NE
Pranav M. Shakya	Bennington	NE
Jason R. Sindelar	Lincoln	NE
Christopher A. Skeen	Omaha	NE
Michael P. Steffensmeier	Omaha	NE
Jared L. Svagera	Omaha	NE
Elizabeth R. Vacek	Omaha	NE
Benjamin M. Wagner	Omaha	NE
Matthew G. Welker	Lincoln	NE
Austin P. White	Lincoln	NE
Nathan J. Williams	Omaha	NE

Control Systems

Mark P. Fischer	Omaha	NE
Kaitlyn E. Rohloff	Omaha	NE

Electrical and Computer

Casey A. Behrends	Overland Park	KS
Timothy K. Leiferman	Omaha	NE
Andrew R. Meusch	Omaha	NE
Joshua J. Wilson	Oakland	NE

Fire Protection

Eric L. Cutler	Omaha	NE
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Mechanical

Nathan W. Bowman	Elkhorn	NE
Levi L. Epperson	Omaha	NE
Tamara L. Haglund	Omaha	NE
Brent A. Kraay	Omaha	NE
Trenten J. Meyer	Lincoln	NE
David L. Pitlor	Omaha	NE
Sara R. Robbins	Omaha	NE
Steven C. Santelman	Elkhorn	NE
Eric D. Stodola	Omaha	NE
Wyatt D. Suddarth	Omaha	NE
Michael D. Toczek	Omaha	NE
Ryan M. Tommey	Omaha	NE
Michael S. Zelensky	Omaha	NE

Metallurgical and Materials

Joel D. Hassebrock	Omaha	NE
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Structural

Daniel J. Auwerda	Grand Island	NE
Ryan J. Bateman	Omaha	NE

In Memoriam

Architects

Bruce Anderson	Lincoln	NE
Edwin W. Laurinat	North Platte	NE
Homer L. Puderbaugh Jr.	Lincoln	NE

Professional Engineers

John T. Baker	Scottsbluff	NE
Stanley V. Johnson	WAYNE	NE
John J. Krings	Columbus	NE
Donald R. Nelson	Lincoln	NE
Jack D. Pickett	Naperville	IL

Passing of former Board Member, Homer Puderbaugh

In February 2020, former architect education board member, Homer Puderbaugh, passed away. Puderbaugh served on the Board between 1990 and 1994 and was the third architect education member to serve. He resigned from the Board early pending his retirement with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as Chair of the Department of Architecture. He was a recipient of the Distinguished Architect Award in 1993.



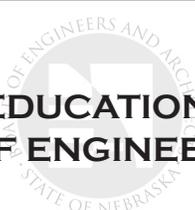


STATE OF NEBRASKA BOARD OF ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS

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JUN	12	Board Meeting
	1	PE Registration Opens
JUL	3	Office Closed - Holiday
AUG	7	Board Meeting
	20	PE Registration Closes
SEP	7	Office Closed - Holiday
	11	Board Meeting
OCT	12	Office Closed - Holiday
	16	Board Meeting
	23-24	NCEES PE Exams
NOV	11	Office Closed - Holiday
	26-27	Office Closed - Holiday
DEC	11	Board Meeting
	14	PE Registration Opens
	24	Office Closed - Holiday



CONTINUING EDUCATION CERTIFICATE NEBRASKA BOARD OF ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS

This is to certify that the person named below has earned 0.25 continuing education units for Architects and Professional Engineers by thoroughly reading the May 2020 edition of the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects newsletter, *The Nebraska Professional*.

NAME OF PARTICIPANT

I attest, by the responses recorded below, my signature, and on my professional honor, that I have personally read and am familiar with the May 2020 edition of the *The Nebraska Professional*.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Will AXP experience expire due to COVID-19? |
| 2. | How many CE hours are required for architects and P.E.'s renewing in 2021? |
| 3. | Pearson Vue test centers will be closed through at least what date? |

Signature

License No.

Date

If you claim credit for reading the newsletter and are audited, you will be required to produce this completed certificate as documentation.