



State of Rhode Island  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION**  
Division of Building, Design and Fire Professionals

**JOINT INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN**

Issued March 2014 – Revised February 2019

**BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND  
BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS**

This Informational Bulletin jointly issued by the State Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors (PLS) and the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers (PE), 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 being considered 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.

**History of the “Task List”**

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.

Since the original “Task List” was issued in 1990, 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 Building, Design and Fire 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 Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (“RIDEM”) has instituted its own licensing system for the design of septic systems.

## Task List

<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

**Notes:**

- \*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 the 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 RIDEM Regulation entitled “Rules Establishing Minimum Standards Relating to Location, Design, Construction and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems,” [250-RICR-150-10-6](#).
- \*5 - Boundary Surveys, Lot Lines, Street Lines, Rights of Way, Easement Lines and Record Plans 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.