

# How to apply for assessment of qualifications, experience and competencies for Victorian state registration

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ENGINEERS  
AUSTRALIA

<b>About Victorian registration and assessment</b>	<b>3</b>
Areas of Engineering	3
Assessment pathways	3
<b>Are you registered on NER?</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Are you a Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng)?</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Are you a member but neither NER registered nor hold Chartered status?</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Are you neither NER registered nor hold Chartered status?</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Preparing your BLA-Direct assessment application</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Are you NER registered but not a member of Engineers Australia?</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>More questions?</b>	<b>14</b>
The assessment timeframe	14
From eligibility assessment to registration?	14
Need more information?	14
Fee table	14

# About Victorian registration and assessment

1. If you wish to be registered as a Professional Engineer in Victoria under the Professional Engineer Registration Act 2019 (PER Act), you will firstly need to have your qualifications, experience and competencies assessed by an Assessment Entity which has been approved by the Victorian Government. The Victorian Government department administering this registration scheme is the Business Licensing Authority (BLA). Engineers Australia has been approved by the BLA as an Assessment Entity, and this document will guide you through the different assessment pathways and show you how to complete your assessment with Engineers Australia.

## Areas of Engineering

2. The PER Act requires engineers to be registered only in the following five areas of engineering:
  - Fire safety engineering
  - Electrical engineering
  - Mechanical engineering
  - Civil engineering, and
  - Structural engineering

Engineers Australia has been approved to undertake assessment of engineers seeking registration in all five of those areas of engineering.

## Assessment pathways

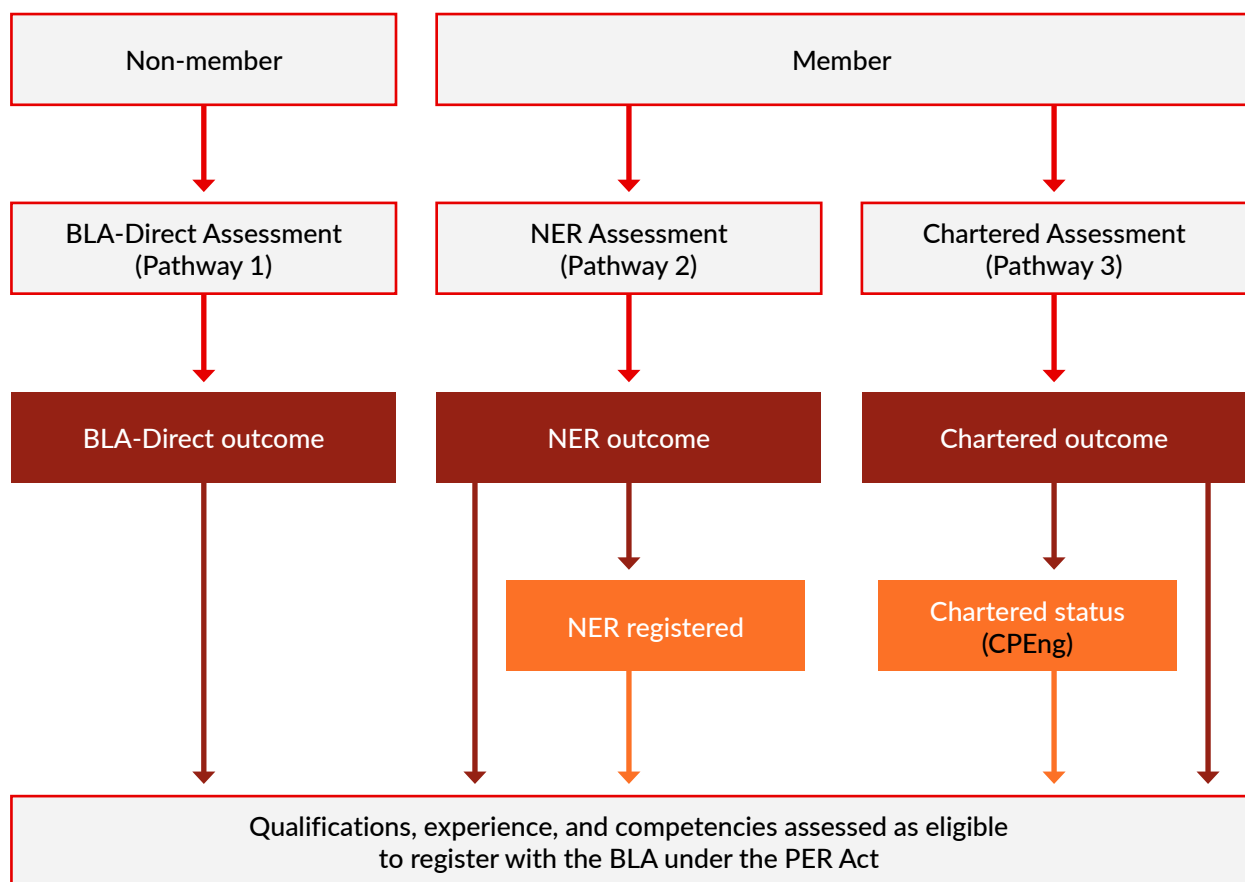
3. There are three assessment pathways available under Engineers Australia's assessment scheme:
  1. NER assessment pathway (members of Engineers Australia only)
  2. Chartered assessment pathway (members of Engineers Australia only)
  3. BLA-Direct assessment pathway (non-members of Engineers Australia only)
4. Engineers Australia can assess you for registration under the PER Act whether you are a member of Engineers Australia or not. The BLA-Direct assessment pathway is available only to non-members, the NER and Chartered assessment pathways are only available to Engineers Australia members.
5. Under each of the three assessment pathways there are two components of the assessment.
  1. The first component is an 'Entry to Practice' assessment in which the acceptability of your qualifications is determined.
  2. The second component is an 'Independent Practice' assessment in which the acceptability of your experience and competency is determined.

### Important note regarding mutual recognition

*If you are currently registered under a mandatory statutory registration scheme for professional engineers in another Australian state or territory (eg RPEQ) or New Zealand you should contact Consumer Affairs Victoria for advice on mutual recognition of your existing registration.*

# Are you registered on NER?

Figure 1 - Eligibility pathways for PER Act



## (Member of Engineers Australia only)

6. If you are a NER registered professional engineer and a member of Engineers Australia, you do not need to undergo any further assessment of qualifications, experience, or competencies. You are considered to have already successfully completed both components of the Victorian registration assessment unless you need a statement about eligibility for a building industry endorsement (see paragraph 8). You will be able to access a BLA Outcome Report from Engineers Australia stating that you have demonstrated the required qualifications, experience, and competencies for registration under the PER Act. Your report will note in which of the five areas of engineering you are eligible to be registered, based on your NER Area(s) of Practice. It is your responsibility to apply to the BLA for registration and endorsement as a professional engineer. The eligibility requirements and process to register with the BLA are available on the [Consumer Affairs Victoria website](#).
7. To access your outcome report, please log in to the [EA member Portal](#) and generate your outcome report automatically via the link on the Registration Tab. There is no fee payable for this outcome report. Please note that your automatically generated outcome report will not contain a statement about eligibility for a building industry endorsement. See paragraph 8 for information about building industry endorsements.
8. If you are a professional engineer and wish to practice in the Victorian building industry, you must have your Victorian State registration endorsed by the BLA. Engineers Australia has been approved to assess an engineer's eligibility for a building industry endorsement. If you are a member of Engineers Australia and are currently registered on the NER, you should [complete an application via State Registration Eligibility tile on MyPortal](#) requesting a building endorsement assessment. You will need to include the following information:
  - A CV
  - Evidence of any professional development related specifically to the building industry
  - A short statement showing a minimum of three years of successful, appropriate experience in the building industry and summarising your demonstrated knowledge and practical application of:
    - Victorian building laws and standards
    - The operation and use of the National Construction Code as it applies to the area(s) of engineering for which you have been assessed.
9. The current fee for this building industry endorsement assessment is **\$351.45 including GST**.
10. An Assessor will review the building industry information you have submitted and provide an outcome report with a statement of eligibility for a building industry endorsement letter if you have shown you have the required knowledge and a minimum of three years of successful, appropriate experience in the building industry.
11. If you are seeking a Victorian BLA Outcome Report in an Area of Engineering which does not directly match your NER Area of Practice, you should send an email to [vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au) for further information. You may be required to provide additional evidence of your qualifications, experience and competence in your requested Area of Engineering, and an additional fee of **\$351.45 including GST** may be payable.

12. Under some circumstances, an Engineers Australia member who is not currently NER registered but was assessed as eligible for NER registration in the past 12 months, may be able to receive a Victorian BLA Outcome Report. If you believe you may be in this situation, please send an email to [vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au) for further information.
13. The PER Act requires a minimum of 4 years of post-graduation experience before registration. You may however have been awarded NER registration with less than 4 years of post-graduate experience. If you are a NER registered engineer with less than 4 years of post-graduate experience, you will need specific approval from the General Manager Professional Standards or General Manager Chartered Assessment to confirm eligibility to be registered under the PER Act. If you require this specific approval, please send an email to [vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au) describing your situation and requesting a specific approval letter.
14. Visit Engineers Australia's website for further information about how to become registered on the [NER](#).

### **Important note regarding Continuing Professional Development**

*Under the PER Act, the BLA will register you for a period of three years. At the end of the registration period, you can apply to the BLA to be reregistered. To be reregistered you will not have to have your qualifications, experience and competency reassessed but will have to prove that you have been undertaking an amount of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) specified by the BLA.*

*If you are registered under the PER Act and are also a member of Engineers Australia (registered on NER and/or holding Chartered status), the BLA requires Engineers Australia to audit your continuing professional development to ensure compliance with the BLA specified CPD criteria. If you satisfy Engineers Australia's CPD audit program you will have also satisfied the BLA's requirements for reregistration. Engineers Australia's CPD requirements [can be found on our website](#).*

# Are you a Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng)?

## (Member of Engineers Australia only)

15. If you are currently a Chartered professional engineer member of Engineers Australia (CPEng), you do not need to undergo any further assessment of qualifications, experience, or competencies unless you need a statement about eligibility for a building industry endorsement (see paragraph 17). You are considered to have already successfully completed both components of the Victorian registration assessment. You will be able to access a BLA Outcome Report from Engineers Australia noting that you have demonstrated the required qualifications, experience, and competencies for registration under the PER Act. Your report will note in which of the 5 areas of engineering you are eligible to be registered, based on your Chartered Area(s) of Practice. It is your responsibility to apply to the BLA for registration and endorsement as a professional engineer. The eligibility requirements and process to register with the BLA are available on the [Consumer Affairs Victoria](#) website.
16. To access your outcome report, please log in to the Engineers Australia's [member portal](#) and generate your outcome report automatically via the link on the Registration Tab. There is no fee payable for this outcome report. Please note that your automatically generated outcome report will not contain a statement about eligibility for a building industry endorsement. See paragraph 17 for information about building industry endorsements.
17. If you wish to practice in the Victorian building industry you must have your Victorian State registration endorsed by the BLA. Engineers Australia has been approved to assess an engineer's eligibility for a building industry endorsement. If you currently hold Chartered status, you should [complete an application via State Registration Eligibility tile on MyPortal](#) seeking a building endorsement assessment. You will need to include the following information:
  - A CV
  - Evidence of any professional development related specifically to the building industry
  - A short statement showing a minimum of three years of successful, appropriate experience in the building industry and summarising your demonstrated knowledge and practical application of:
    - Victorian building laws and standards
    - The operation and use of the National Construction Code as it applies to the area(s) of engineering for which you have been assessed.
18. The current fee for this assessment **\$351.45 including GST**.
19. An Assessor will review the building industry information you have submitted and provide an outcome report with a statement of eligibility for a building industry endorsement if you have shown you have the required knowledge and a minimum of three years of successful, appropriate experience in the building industry.
20. If you are seeking a Victorian BLA Outcome Report in an Area of Engineering which does not directly match your CPEng Area of Practice, you should send an email to [vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au) for further information. You may be required to provide additional evidence of your qualifications, experience and competence in your requested Area of Engineering, and an additional fee of **\$351.45 including GST** may be payable.

21. Under some circumstances, an Engineers Australia member who does not currently hold CPEng status but was assessed as eligible for CPEng status in the past 12 months, may be able to receive a Victorian BLA Outcome Report. If you believe you may be in this situation, please send an email to [vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au) for further information.
22. The PER Act requires a minimum of five years of experience before registration. You may however have been awarded Chartered status with less than five years of experience. If you are a Chartered engineer (CPEng) with less than five years of experience, you will need specific approval from the General Manager Professional Standards or General Manager Chartered Assessment to confirm eligibility to be registered under the PER Act. If you require this specific approval, please send an email to [vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au) describing your situation and requesting a specific approval letter.
23. The PER Act also requires a minimum of four years of post-graduation experience before registration. You may however have been awarded Chartered status with less than four years of post-graduate experience. If you are a Chartered engineer (CPEng) with less than four years of post-graduate experience, you will need specific approval from the General Manager Professional Standards or General Manager Chartered Assessment to confirm eligibility to be registered under the PER Act. If you require this specific approval, please send an email to [vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au) describing your situation and requesting a specific approval letter.
24. Visit Engineers Australia's website for further information about how to become a [Chartered engineer](#).

### **Important note**

*Under the PER Act, the BLA will register you for a period of three years. At the end of the registration period, you can apply to the BLA to be reregistered. To be reregistered you will not have to have your qualifications, experience and competency reassessed but will have to prove that you have been undertaking an amount of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) specified by the BLA.*

*If you are registered under the PER Act and are also a member of Engineers Australia (registered on NER and/or holding Chartered status), the BLA requires Engineers Australia to audit your continuing professional development to ensure compliance with the BLA specified CPD criteria. If you satisfy Engineers Australia's CPD audit program you will have also satisfied the BLA's requirements for reregistration. Engineers Australia's CPD requirements can be found on [our website](#).*



## Are you a member of Engineers Australia but neither NER registered nor hold Chartered status?

25. If you are a member of Engineers Australia and are not currently NER registered, or don't currently hold Chartered status, you will need to firstly gain NER registration or Chartered status before you can be provided with a Victorian BLA Outcome Report. Information about applying for NER registration is available on the [NER page](#) of our website, and information about applying for Chartered status is available on the [Chartered pages](#). After you have been awarded NER registration or Chartered status you can apply for a Victorian BLA Outcome Report, and a statement of eligibility for a building endorsement if appropriate, in accordance with the advice provided above. It is your responsibility to apply to the BLA for registration and endorsement as a professional engineer. The eligibility requirements and process to register with the BLA are available on the [Consumer Affairs Victoria website](#).

## Are you neither NER registered nor hold Chartered status?

26. If you are not a member of Engineers Australia and wish to be assessed by Engineers Australia, you can apply to be assessed under the BLA-Direct assessment pathway.
27. For each of the prescribed areas of engineering for which you are applying through the BLA-Direct Pathway, you must have successfully completed either—
- a) A Washington Accord accredited under-graduate Bachelor of Engineering degree or post-graduate Master of Engineering degree in either structural, civil, electrical, mechanical and/or fire safety or related area of engineering that is relevant to the area/s of engineering in which registration is sought,  
OR
  - b) A Washington Accord accredited under-graduate Bachelor of Engineering degree or post-graduate Master of Engineering degree in civil, structural, electrical, or mechanical or related area of engineering that is relevant to the area of engineering of fire safety engineering, plus an under-graduate or post-graduate level qualification specialising in fire safety engineering offered by an Australian or overseas university. (This alternative is only for the assessment of professional engineers applying for registration in the area of fire safety engineering.)  
OR
  - c) An Australian or overseas non-Washington Accord academic qualification in a relevant area/s of engineering (structural, civil, electrical, mechanical and/or fire safety or related area of engineering) that has been assessed as substantially equivalent to an accredited Washington Accord under-graduate Bachelor of Engineering degree or a post-graduate Master of Engineering degree by:
    - the signatory to the Washington Accord 1989, for the country where the qualification was obtained, or
    - Engineers Australia.

ALSO

28. For each of the prescribed areas of engineering for which you are applying through the BLA-Direct Pathway, you must have –

- a) Gained five years of engineering experience in the relevant area/s of engineering, of which at least four years must be post-graduate experience. The experience must have been gained in the last 10 years. [If you intend to become registered under the PER Act as a ‘non-practising’ professional engineer, please contact us at [vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au) for further information.]

AND

- b) Demonstrated competency in the following five elements of competence from the ‘Australian Engineering Competency Standards Stage 2 - Experienced Professional Engineer’ in a relevant area/s of engineering:

- Element 1 – Deal with ethical issues
- Element 2 – Practice competently
- Element 4 – Develop safe and sustainable solutions
- Element 6 – Identify, assess, and manage risks, and
- Element 13 – Engineering knowledge – according to your area of practice including a knowledge of standards and practices.

AND

- c) If applying for assessment with the intention of applying to the BLA to become an endorsed building engineer, demonstrated knowledge and practical application of:
- Victorian building laws and standards, and
  - the operation and use of the National Construction Code as it applies to the relevant area/s of engineering (structural, civil, electrical, mechanical and/or fire safety engineering).

**Important note for those applicants without a Washington Accord qualification, or a qualification equivalent to a Washington Accord qualification.**

29. Engineers Australia has been authorized by the BLA to undertake holistic assessment of an applicant’s qualifications, experience, and competencies under approved conditions. This allows Engineers Australia to determine if your combination of education and experiential learning has demonstrated substantial equivalence with the competencies and outcomes of:

- a Washington Accord undergraduate Bachelor of Engineering degree, and
- the experience and competency requirement shown above.

30. In assessing whether you have demonstrated the required competencies and outcomes under this holistic assessment, the BLA-Direct Assessor will take into consideration any:

- academic qualifications, courses, and training that you have undertaken,
- professional memberships you have attained and the assessment outcomes to achieve those memberships, and
- professional engineering experience you have gained.

Engineers Australia will use two or more of the following methods to assess your competence:

- evidence from work experience
- evidence of completion of top-up courses

- interviews
- professional referee checks
- evidence of qualifications held

**You will be required to provide:**

- a) Photo identification
- b) Copies of all qualifications held, including a transcript of results as well as a testamur
- c) A CV (with name of a referee who confirms the experience)
- d) Evidence of competency in the English language at the Competent English level as defined by the Australian Department of Home Affairs (e.g. IELTS Band 6) ([Check the requirements here](#)).
- e) Three career episode reports ([Check the requirement here](#)).
- f) Summary statement of your competencies
- g) Certified evidence of any professional registration held

31. The Assessor will review all the provided evidence against the 16 Elements of the Engineers Australia Stage 1 Competency Standard for Professional Engineer. These competency standards are aligned to the Washington Accord Graduate Attributes. To be eligible for registration under the PER Act you will require that the outcome of this holistic assessment is that you are recognised by Engineers Australia as a professional engineer. You will have to provide evidence that you have demonstrated all the 16 Stage 1 competencies (including a deep understanding of mathematics and science) at the level demonstrated by a graduate of a Washington Accord program of study.

**Two of the Stage 1 competencies are:**

- Element 1.1 Comprehensive, theory-based understanding of the underpinning natural and physical sciences and engineering fundamentals applicable to the engineering discipline, and
- Element 1.2 Conceptual understanding of the mathematics, numerical analysis, statistics and computer and information sciences which underpin the engineering discipline.

32. Engineers Australia's experience of having conducted these holistic assessments for several years has been that an applicant is extremely unlikely to have developed, through workplace learning alone, the range and depth of Elements 1.1 and 1.2 required of a Washington Accord course graduate.

# Preparing your BLA-Direct assessment application

33. To begin the BLA-Direct assessment application you will need an Engineers Australia Identification (EA ID). [Create your EA ID](#).
34. You should [complete an application via State Registration Eligibility tile on MyPortal](#) to submit your BLA direct application.
35. Under this assessment Pathway, the first component is an Entry to Practice assessment of your qualifications. Entry to Practice competency is typically demonstrated through the successful completion of an engineering education program at an Australian university accredited by Engineers Australia under the Washington Accord. Many overseas accredited engineering qualifications are also recognised under the Washington Accord ([Check your qualification here](#)).
36. If your BLA-Direct Assessor confirms that you hold a qualification accredited under the Washington Accord, your Entry to Practice competency will be confirmed and your application will move to the second component, the Independent Practice assessment stage.
37. If you have a qualification which is not accredited under the Washington Accord, you must undertake an Eligibility for Membership (Stage 1) assessment, (even if you do not wish to become a member of Engineers Australia). In that assessment, academic certificates and transcripts, Curriculum Vitae and career episodes will be reviewed by the Assessor to assess your qualification against Engineers Australia's Stage 1 Competency Standard for Professional Engineer. There is a separate fee payable for this Eligibility for Membership (Stage 1) assessment. To find further information about, and apply for, an Eligibility for Membership (Stage 1) assessment, [please click here](#).
38. If you already have an Eligibility for Membership (Stage 1) assessment or Migration Skills Assessment outcome letter from Engineers Australia that confirms your academic qualifications meet the current academic requirements for standing as a professional engineer in Australia, you do not have to have another qualifications assessment. You should attach a copy of the qualifications assessment letter you have received from Engineers Australia with your application.
39. If you have an appropriate Eligibility for Membership (Stage 1) assessment or Migration Skills Assessment outcome letter, or have an accredited Washington Accord qualification, there is no fee payable for the Entry to Practice component of the BLA-Direct assessment.
40. The second component in your assessment is the Independent Practice assessment. The evidence you will need to provide for an independent practice assessment is:
  - a) a CV – verified through interview and referees.
  - b) names and contact details of two referees – to corroborate your experience.
  - c) examples of work – hard copy format or through a presentation. Evidence requirements are dependent on the years of experience and seniority of the candidate.
41. The BLA-Direct Assessor will review the documentation that you have provided and advise you if additional evidence is required. The Assessor will then contact your referees to confirm the validity of your claims. The Assessor will then contact you to arrange an interview (online or face-to-face as appropriate). The interview will allow the Assessor to validate your identification and your experience and competency claims.
42. The current fee for this assessment **\$590.00 including GST**.

43. In your application email you should advise if you wish to be assessed for a building industry endorsement to your assessment. If you advise that you do wish to be assessed for a building industry endorsement, you will be required to provide the following additional information:
- Evidence of any professional development related specifically to the building industry
  - A short statement showing a minimum of three years of successful, appropriate experience in the building industry and summarising your demonstrated knowledge and practical application of:
    - Victorian building laws and standards
    - The operation and use of the national Construction Code as it applies to the area(s) of engineering for which you have applied to be assessed.
44. There is no additional fee payable for a building industry endorsement assessment if you request that assessment at the same time as your BLA-Direct assessment (i.e. when completing the application form).
45. The BLA-Direct Assessor will review the building industry information and provide a statement of eligibility for a building industry endorsement to you if you have shown that you have the required knowledge and a minimum of three years of successful, appropriate experience in the building industry.
46. Upon successful assessment under the BLA-Direct assessment pathway, you will be emailed a report from Engineers Australia stating that you have demonstrated the required qualifications, experience, and competencies for registration under the PER Act. Your report will note in which of the five areas of engineering you are eligible to be registered, based on your NER Area(s) of Practice. Your report will also note if you eligible for a building industry endorsement. It is your responsibility to apply to the BLA for registration and endorsement as a professional engineer. The eligibility requirements and process to register with the BLA available on the [Consumer Affairs Victoria](#) website.

## Are you NER registered but not a member of Engineers Australia?

47. Only Engineers Australia members who are registered on NER are able to access a Victorian BLA Outcome Report without further assessment as that benefit is only available to those in a complying membership scheme. If you are currently registered on NER but not currently a financial member of Engineers Australia, you will need to use the BLA-Direct assessment pathway described above. You should however firstly send an email to [vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au) advising of your situation as a NER registered non-member. You will be advised which, if any, components of the BLA-Direct assessment will be used for your assessment. In many cases you will be considered to have already successfully completed both the Entry to Practice and Independent Practice components. The fee to be charged in this case will depend on the nature of the assessment required.

## More questions?

### The assessment timeframe

48. The time frame for the assessment of your application will depend on whether a decision can be made based on the documentation you submit or whether additional information is required. Typically, the initial assessment of your application should take 3-4 weeks.

### From eligibility assessment to registration?

49. To obtain registration as a Victorian Registered Engineer with the Building Licensing Authority you will need to apply to the BLA, including the outcome report (s) provided to you by Engineers Australia.

For more information on the application to the BLA see the [BLA website](#).

### Need more information?

50. For information about Engineers Australia's assessment for registration under the PER Act, contact the Registration Team at [vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:vicregistration@engineersaustralia.org.au) or on +61 2 6270 6555 or Toll Free: 1300 653 113.

### Fee table

Assessment types	Membership	Fee
Outcome report	Chartered professional member and EA professional member on the NER	\$0
Outcome report for an additional area of practice in which you are not Chartered or registered on the NER	Chartered professional member and EA professional member on the NER	\$351.45 incl GST
Building Industry Endorsement	Member and non-member	\$351.45 incl GST
BLA Direct assessment	Non-member	\$590.00 incl GST
BLA Direct assessment and Building Industry Endorsement	Non-member	\$590.00 incl GST
Stage 1 Assessment	Non-member with qualifications not recognised under the Washington Accord	\$750.00 incl GST



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