



Prior Approval Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is “Prior Approval?”

A: The Federal Election Commission (FEC) requires federal political action committee to obtain written approval from ACEC members before it may solicit, accept, or process contributions from employees of the member firm. Prior Approval may be granted for up to five (5) consecutive years by the firm and may be withdrawn at any time. Only one approval form is required per firm.

Q: Can anyone from the firm sign the Prior Approval form?

A: Prior Approval may be granted by anyone so authorized by the firm. This includes the firm’s chief executive or the owner/principal but may also include those designated to represent the firm at ACEC state and national meetings.

Q: Will ACEC/PAC directly solicit employees at my firm?

A: That’s up to you. By signing a Prior Approval form, you could allow ACEC to solicit all principals and senior executives in your firm, or only certain individuals in the firm. You could also give ACEC approval to accept voluntary contributions, but request that no solicitations be made to firm employees, and ACEC will honor the request. A firm can also request that only a certain branch or branches be granted approval.

Q: Our firm has our own Federal PAC; can we still contribute to ACEC/PAC?

A: Yes. Even if your firm has a federally registered PAC, your employees can still contribute up to \$5,000 each year to ACEC/PAC. The same holds true for Federal PACs that give a “PAC-to-PAC” contribution to ACEC/PAC.

Q: Why should a firm sign a Prior Approval form?

A: In practical terms, granting Prior Approval allows firm employees who wish to support ACEC/PAC the ability to do so, since ACEC/PAC cannot accept contributions without a signed Prior Approval form. Congressional legislation will continue to directly affect firms, and ACEC/PAC is the engineering industry’s biggest and most effective tool for helping to elect U.S. House and Senate members that support policies favorable to the industry. We need the support of every firm to ensure the industry’s voice is heard on Capitol Hill.

If you have any questions about the prior approval form or ACEC/PAC, please contact Jennifer Pugh at (202) 347-7474 or at jpugh@acec.org.