The documents, codes, and standards that I used to prepare this new edition were the most current available at the time. In the absence of any other specific need, that was the best strategy for this book.

Engineering practice is often constrained by law or contract to using codes and standards that have already been adopted or approved. However, newer codes and standards might be available. For example, the adoption of building codes by states and municipalities often lags publication of those codes by several years. By the time the 2013 codes are adopted, the 2015 codes have been released. Federal regulations are always published with future implementation dates. Contracts are signed with designs and specifications that were “best practice” at some time in the past. Nevertheless, the standards are referenced by edition, revision, or date. All of the work is governed by unambiguous standards.

All standards produced by ASME, ASHRAE, ANSI, ASTM, and similar organizations are identified by an edition, revision, or date. However, although NCEES lists “codes and standards” in its lists of mechanical engineering PE exam topics, unlike for the civil engineering PE exam, no editions, revisions, or dates are specified. My conclusion is that the NCEES mechanical engineering PE exam is not sensitive to changes in codes, standards, regulations, or announcements in the Federal Register. That is the reason that I referred to the most current documents available as I prepared this new edition.

The relationship of the exam to specific codes is discussed in more detail in the Introduction.