

STATE OF COLORADO

DIVISION OF REGISTRATIONS

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MEMORANDUM

Bill Owens
Governor

Richard F. O'Donnell
Executive Director

Rosemary McCool
Director

To: ALL STATE OF COLORADO BUILDING OFFICIALS

Date: February 2004

Re: Architect or Professional Engineer Seal on Plans and Specifications

As an update to the attached 1995 memorandum on the sealing of architectural and engineering documents, the Colorado Board of Examiners of Architects and the Colorado Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors are issuing further clarification in this memorandum.

With the continued adoption of the International Codes in Colorado and throughout the United States, the role of the design professional is ever more predominant. Construction documents, when required by state and local jurisdictions shall be sealed by a State of Colorado licensed architect or professional engineer when such plans/specifications conform to the regulations and restrictions of the building code under Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 30-28-205.

Colorado law treats each seal equally under those circumstances. This does not mean that an architect has the privilege to seal structural, electrical, plumbing or mechanical documents, or an engineer could seal architectural plans (occupancy classification, type of construction, location on property, allowable floor area, occupant loads, etc). The licensee may only practice within their area of expertise.

The role of the Building Official and the design professional are to ensure public safety through design and construction standards. Through construction document design, submittal and review, the Building Official has the responsibility of the jurisdiction to verify expertise within each discipline (i.e., architectural, mechanical/plumbing, electrical, structural, fire protection, etc.). The completed design/construction documents shall only be sealed by a qualified design professional practicing in their respective field of expertise.

Additionally, if the Building Official finds inappropriate sealing of design/construction documents by design professionals, he/she has an obligation to the Colorado Board of Examiners of Architects and the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors to provide such information for further review and/or possible disciplinary action.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of the Boards.

Duane A. Boyle, Board President
Colorado Board of Examiners of Architects

Peter D. Monroe, P.E., Board Chair
Colorado Board of Registration for
Professional Engineers and Professional
Land Surveyors

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Attachment

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