

Position Statement on Sealed Truss Placement Diagrams for Non DSA-SS & OSHPD 1, 2 and 4 Projects in the State of California

Updated May 28, 2008

Introduction:

The Truss Placement Diagram (TPD) is not to be viewed as an engineering document except as stated below; rather it is provided to assist the installer in properly locating the trusses within the structure. All the necessary truss engineering and analysis is found on the Truss Design Drawings (TDD).

If a TPD is provided, it is recommended that the Building Designer review and approve the TPD to ensure that the intended load paths have not been altered.

If a Truss Design Engineer were to seal a TPD, it has been suggested that they could inappropriately be held responsible for ensuring the proper flow of loads through the truss to the bearing and support structure below the truss and into the foundation.

A Truss Design Engineer would only undertake Building Designer responsibilities under a special set of circumstances, including that he/she is professionally capable of taking on such responsibility and that he/she are properly compensated for the work.

Issue:

Certain jurisdictions in California are requesting engineering seals on Truss Placement Diagrams (TPD) (also known as a truss placement plan, truss layout, framing plan or framing layout). The following information should be used to provide insight into why component manufacturers should seriously consider all the ramifications of providing seals on TPD for projects governed by the 2007 California Code of Regulations, Title 24, also referred to as the *California Building Code*.

This information is based on the *California Professional Engineers Act*¹, *Rules of the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors*² and the *2007 California Building Code*³.

Industry Recommendation:

The California professional engineering law and the *California Building Code* provide the basis upon which to evaluate the need to provide an engineer's seal on a Truss Placement Diagram (TPD). Based on this evaluation, a TPD does not require a professional engineer's seal for non DSA-SS & OSHPD 1, 2 and 4 projects.

¹ www.dca.ca.gov/pels/pe_act.pdf

² www.dca.ca.gov/pels/boardrules.pdf

³ www.bsc.ca.gov/title_24/default.htm The 2007 triennial edition of the California Code of Regulations, Title 24 (California Building Standards Code) applies to all occupancies that applied for a building permit on or after January 1, 2008, and remains in effect until the effective date of the 2010 triennial edition.



Prepared with assistance from the California Engineered Structural Components Association. – a local chapter of SBCA.

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Requiring this Truss Placement Diagram to be sealed, where it is not prepared by an engineer or under his/her immediate personal supervision, is contrary to California law (*see Appendix E and Appendix F*) which states:

Rules of the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

411. Seal and Signature. ...**(g)** (1) All professional engineering plans, specifications, reports, or documents (hereinafter referred to as "documents") shall be signed and sealed in accordance with the requirements of the Professional Engineers Act and any other laws related to the practice of professional engineering and shall be signed and sealed in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the licensee(s) in responsible charge of the work.

Professional Engineers Act

Section 6735 (a) All civil (including structural and geotechnical) engineering plans, calculations, specifications, and reports...shall be prepared by, or under the responsible charge of, a registered civil engineer and shall include his or her name and license number.

Appendix A

Background:

The TPD is not to be viewed as an engineering document except as stated below; rather it is provided to assist the installer in properly locating the trusses within the structure. All the necessary truss engineering and analysis is found on the Truss Design Drawings (TDD).

If a TPD is provided, it is recommended that the project's Building Designer or RDP review and approve the TPD to ensure that the intended load paths have not been altered.

If a Truss Design Engineer were to seal a TPD, it has been suggested that they could inappropriately be held responsible for ensuring the proper flow of loads through the truss to the bearing and support structure below the truss then onto the foundation.

Truss Design Engineers would only undertake Building Designer responsibilities under a special set of circumstances, including that he/she is capable of taking on such responsibility and that he/she are properly compensated for the work.

Analysis:

Plans and Specifications

The *2007 California Building Code* (see **Appendix C** for complete text) provides that the plans and specifications for a project shall be prepared by a licensed architect or engineer where required by the law of the jurisdiction in which the project is being constructed. In particular, the *California Building Code* states:

106.3.2 Submittal documents. ...When [Plans, specifications, engineering calculations, diagrams, soil investigation reports, special inspection and structural observation programs and other data] are not prepared by an architect or engineer, the building official may require the applicant submitting such plans or other data to demonstrate that state law does not require that the plans be prepared by a licensed architect or engineer. The building official may require plans, computations and specifications to be prepared and designed by an engineer or architect licensed by the state to practice as such even if not required by state law.

The plans and specifications should in turn clearly define the scope of the work proposed by the Building Designer:

106.3.3 Information on plans and specifications. Plans and specifications...shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature and extent of the work proposed and show in detail that it will conform to the provisions of this code and all relevant laws, ordinances, rules and regulations.

In preparing the construction documents, the Building Designer needs to provide the Truss Designer with the information necessary to properly design the trusses for the building. According to *ANSI/TPI 1-2002 Chapter 2* (see **Appendix D**), which is adopted by reference in *2006 IBC* [see **Appendix C** (101.5), (2303.4.2), (2306.1), and (Chapter 35 "Reference Standards")], the following information should be provided:

ANSI/TPI 1-2002 Chapter 2

2.5.2 The Building Designer...shall provide the following:

- 2.5.2.1** All Structural Element and Truss orientations and locations;
- 2.5.2.2** Information to fully determine all Truss profiles;
- 2.5.2.3** All Structural Element and Truss bearing conditions;
- 2.5.2.4** The location, direction, and magnitude of all dead and live loads applicable to each Structural Element and Truss...

- 2.5.2.5 All Structural Element and Truss anchorage designs required to resist uplift, gravity, and lateral loads;
 - 2.5.2.6 Allowable vertical and horizontal deflection criteria and any specific criteria...
 - 2.5.2.7 Proper transfer of design loads affecting the Structural Elements and Trusses;
 - 2.5.2.8 Adequate connections between Trusses and between Structural Elements...but not Truss to Truss girder connections...
 - 2.5.2.9 Permanent bracing design for the Building...and permanent bracing for all Structural Elements and Trusses...
- 2.5.3 The Building Designer shall be responsible for the adequacy of the design of the Building Structural System [and]...shall evaluate the effect of the Trusses and the Structural Elements supplied, on the Building Structural System.

Truss Design and Preparation of Truss Design Drawings

Assuming the requisite information is provided within the construction documents issued by the RDP or Building Designer, the Truss Designer's sole responsibility is to properly design the individual trusses according to this information. Once designed, a truss is then depicted on a TDD. The Truss Designer is therefore specifically responsible for the single truss design depicted on each TDD.

Who Typically Prepares Truss Placement Diagrams?

Assuming the requisite information is provided in the construction documents, TPD are prepared by component manufacturer personnel who are not typically Truss Designers. The individuals preparing TPD are trained individuals who work as truss technicians, truss take-off specialists or truss salespeople. As TPD are typically prepared outside the Truss Designer's scope of work, they may not be reviewed or even seen by the Truss Designer. TPD are generally not prepared within the typical duties of the Truss Designer and are therefore not prepared under the Truss Designer's direct supervision.

To Require Truss Placement Diagrams to be Sealed Would Violate California Law.

Because TPD are generally neither created by nor created under the immediate personal supervision of a licensed design professional, they cannot be sealed. Requesting a Truss Design Engineer to seal a non-registered person's work is illegal in California per the *Rules of the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors* (see **Appendix E**) and the *Professional Engineers Act* (see **Appendix F**), which state in pertinent part:

411. Seal and Signature. ... (g) (1) All professional engineering plans, specifications, reports, or documents (hereinafter referred to as "documents") shall be signed and sealed in accordance with the requirements of the Professional Engineers Act and any other laws related to the practice of professional engineering and shall be signed and sealed in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the licensee(s) in responsible charge of the work.

Section 6735 (a) All civil (including structural and geotechnical) engineering plans, calculations, specifications, and reports...shall be prepared by, or under the responsible charge of, a registered civil engineer and shall include his or her name and license number.

Why are Truss Placement Diagrams Prepared?

TPDs are intended to assist customers, erectors and code enforcement officials in positioning or locating the trusses and related structural components supplied by the component manufacturer.

Their function is to serve as detailed installation instructions. They indicate the component manufacturer's assumed location for each truss or related component that has been designed and manufactured.

For example, a truss or related structural building component is no different than a window that is manufactured and in turn installed within a building. A window may be a highly engineered component

of a house with specific installation specifications and instructions. However, there is no requirement to provide an engineer's seal on the installation instructions for windows.

The International Code Committee (ICC) Has Recently Codified That Truss Placement Diagrams Should Not Be Sealed

The state of California has adopted the International Codes. The 2000 and 2003 *International Building Codes (IBC)* did not clearly define TPD. As such, some incorrectly inferred that they were part of the "Truss Design Drawings" which are defined as follows [2303.4.1 (*see Appendix C*)]:

2006 IBC 2303.4.1 2303.4.1.2 Truss design drawings. The written, graphic and pictorial depiction of each individual truss shall be provided to the building official and approved prior to installation. ...

To clear up any confusion on this issue, Section 2303 of the *2006 IBC*, which is the nationally recognized model building code the *California Building Code* is based upon, has been revised to include the following regarding "Truss Placement Diagram":

2006 IBC 2303.4.3 Truss Placement Diagram. A diagram supplied by the truss manufacturer that identifies the proposed location for each individually designated truss and references the corresponding Truss Design Drawing. The Truss Placement Diagram shall be provided as part of the Truss Submittal Package, and with the shipment of trusses delivered to the job site. Truss Placement Diagrams shall not be required to bear the seal or signature of the Truss Designer.

Exception: When the Truss Placement Diagram is prepared under the direct supervision of a registered design professional, it is required to be signed and sealed.

This change provides much greater clarity and better communication and appears in the 2006 Edition of the *International Building Code*.

Appendix B

Key Definitions:

TRUSS DESIGN DRAWING (TDD):

The graphic depiction of an individual truss, which describes the design and physical characteristics of the truss.

TRUSS PLACEMENT DIAGRAM (TPD):

The illustration supplied by the Truss Manufacturer identifying the location assumed for each Truss, which references each individually designated Truss Design Drawing. The truss placement diagram shall be provided as part of the truss submittal package, and with the shipment of trusses delivered to the job site. Truss placement diagrams shall not be required to bear the seal or signature of the truss designer.

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS:

Written, graphic and pictorial documents prepared or assembled for describing the design, location and physical characteristics of the elements of a project necessary for obtaining a building permit. Construction drawings shall be drawn to an appropriate scale.

REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL (RDP):

An individual who is registered or licensed to practice his or her respective design profession as defined by the statutory requirements of the professional registration laws of California.

Unique Definitions for Structures that require a RDP:

BUILDING DESIGNER:

The Owner of the Building contracts with a Registered Design Professional for the design of the Building Structural System and who is responsible for the Construction Documents.⁴

TRUSS DESIGN ENGINEER:

The individual or organization responsible for the design of Trusses. Each individual truss design drawing shall bear the seal and signature of the Truss Design Engineer.⁵

Unique Definitions for Structures that do not require a RDP:

BUILDING DESIGNER:

The Owner of the Building or the individual or organization that contracts with the Owner for the design of the Building Structural System and/or who produces the Construction Documents.⁶

TRUSS DESIGNER:

The individual or organization responsible for the design of trusses.⁷

⁴ Adapted from IBC Section 106.1

⁵ Adapted from IBC Section 2303.4

⁶ Adapted from IBC Section 106.1

⁷ Adapted from IBC Section 2303.4

Appendix C

The language in RED signifies sections of the code or law that have been used in the foregoing document to make it easier for the reader to see the language in context.

2007 Triennial Edition of CCR, Title 24 California Building Code, Volume 1 Chapter 1 ADMINISTRATION

101.5 Referenced codes. The codes, standards and publications adopted and set forth in this code, including other codes, standards and publications referred to therein are, by title and date of publication, hereby adopted as standard reference documents of this code. When this code does not specifically cover any subject related to building design and construction, recognized architectural or engineering practices shall be employed. The National Fire Codes and the Fire Protection Handbook of the National Fire Protection Association are permitted to be used as authoritative guides in determining recognized fire prevention engineering practices.

106.3.2 Submittal documents. Plans, specifications, engineering calculations, diagrams, soil investigation reports, special inspection and structural observation programs and other data shall constitute the submittal documents and shall be submitted in one or more sets with each application for a permit. When such plans are not prepared by an architect or engineer, the building official may require the applicant submitting such plans or other data to demonstrate that state law does not require that the plans be prepared by a licensed architect or engineer. The building official may require plans, computations and specifications to be prepared and designed by an engineer or architect licensed by the state to practice as such even if not required by state law.

EXCEPTION: The building official may waive the submission of plans, calculations, construction inspection requirements and other data if it is found that the nature of the work applied for is such that reviewing of plans is not necessary to obtain compliance with this code.

106.3.3 Information on plans and specifications. Plans and specifications shall be drawn to scale upon substantial paper or cloth and shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature and extent of the work proposed and show in detail that it will conform to the provisions of this code and all relevant laws, ordinances, rules and regulations. Plans for buildings of other than Group R, Division 3 and Group U Occupancies shall indicate how required structural and fire-resistive integrity will be maintained where penetrations will be made for electrical, mechanical, plumbing and communication conduits, pipes and similar systems.

2001 California Building Code, Volume 2 Chapter 23 WOOD

SECTION 2303 MINIMUM STANDARDS OF QUALITY

2303.1 General. Structural sawn lumber; end-jointed lumber; prefabricated wood I-joists; structural glued-laminated timber; wood structural panels, fiberboard sheathing (when used structurally); hardboard siding (when used structurally); particleboard; preservative-treated wood; structural log members; structural composite lumber; round timber poles and plies; fire-retardant-treated wood; hardwood plywood; wood trusses; joist hangers; nails; and staples shall conform to the applicable provisions of this section.

2303.4 Trusses.

2303.4.1 Design. Wood trusses shall be designed in accordance with the provisions of this code and accepted engineering practice. Members are permitted to be joined by nails, glue, bolts, timber connectors, metal connector plates or other approved framing devices.

2303.4.1.1 Truss designer. The individual or organization responsible for the design of trusses.

2303.4.1.2 Truss design drawings. The written, graphic and pictorial depiction of each individual truss shall be provided to the building official and approved prior to installation. Truss design drawings shall also be provided with the shipment of trusses delivered to the job site. Truss design drawings shall include, at a minimum, the information specified below:

1. Slope or depth, span and spacing;
2. Location of joints;
3. Required bearing widths;
4. Design loads as applicable;
5. Top chord live load (including snow loads);
6. Top chord dead load;
7. Bottom chord live load;
8. Bottom chord dead load;
9. Concentrated loads and their points of application as applicable;
10. Controlling wind and earthquake loads as applicable;
12. Each reaction force and direction;
13. Metal connector plate type, size, thickness or gage, and the dimensioned location of each metal connector plate except where symmetrically located relative to the joint interface;
14. Lumber size, species and grade for each member;
15. Connection requirements for:
 - 15.1. Truss to truss;
 - 15.2. Truss ply to ply; and
 - 15.3. Field splices.
16. Calculated deflection ratio and maximum vertical and horizontal deflection for live and total load as applicable;
17. Maximum axial tensile and compression forces in the truss members; and
18. Required permanent individual truss member bracing and method per Section 2303.4.1.5, unless a specific truss member permanent bracing plan for the roof or floor structural system is provided by a registered design professional.

Where required by one of the following, each individual truss design drawing shall bear the seal and signature of the truss designer:

- 1. Registered design professional; or**
- 2. Building official; or**
- 3. Statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed.**

Exceptions:

1. When a cover sheet/truss index sheet combined into a single cover sheet is attached to the set of truss design drawings for the project, the single sheet/truss index sheet is the only document that needs to be signed and sealed within the truss submittal package.
2. When a cover sheet and a truss index sheet are separately provided and attached to the set of truss design drawings for the project, both the cover sheet and the truss index sheet are the only documents that need to be signed and sealed within the truss submittal package.
3. *Exceptions 1 and 2 are not permitted by DSA-SS and OSHPD 1, 2 and 4.*

2303.4.1.3 Truss placement diagram. The truss manufacturer shall provide a truss placement diagram that identifies the proposed location for each individually designated truss and references the corresponding truss design drawing. The truss placement diagram shall be provided as part of the truss submittal package, and with the shipment of trusses delivered to the job site. Truss placement diagrams shall not be required to bear the seal or signature of the truss designer.

Exception: When the truss placement diagram is prepared under the direct supervision of a registered sealed.

2303.4.1.4 Truss submittal package. The truss submittal package shall consist of each individual truss design drawing, the truss placement diagram for the project, the truss member permanent bracing specification and, as applicable, the cover sheet/truss index sheet.

2303.4.1.5 Truss member permanent bracing. Where permanent bracing of truss members is required on the truss design drawings, it shall be accomplished by one of the following methods:

1. The trusses shall be designed so that the buckling of any individual truss member can be resisted internally by the structure (e.g. buckling member T-bracing, L-bracing, etc.) of the individual truss.

The truss individual member buckling reinforcement shall be installed as shown on the truss design drawing or on supplemental truss member buckling reinforcement diagrams provided by the truss designer.

2. Permanent bracing shall be installed using standard industry bracing details that conform with generally accepted engineering practice. Individual truss member continuous lateral bracing location(s) shall be shown on the truss design drawing.

2303.4.1.6 Anchorage. All transfer of loads and anchorage of each truss to the supporting structure is the responsibility of the registered design professional.

2303.4.1.7 Alterations to trusses. Truss members and components shall not be cut, notched, drilled, spliced or otherwise altered in any way without written concurrence and approval of a registered design professional. Alterations resulting in the addition of loads to any member (e.g., HVAC equipment, water heater) shall not be permitted without verification that the truss is capable of supporting such additional loading.

2303.4.2 Metal-plate-connected trusses. In addition to Sections 2303.4.1 through 2303.4.1.7, the design, manufacture and quality assurance of metal-plate-connected wood trusses shall be in accordance with TPI 1. Manufactured trusses shall comply with Section 1704.6 as applicable.

2303.4.3 Additional requirements. [DSA-SS & OSHPD 1, 2 and 4] In addition to Sections 2304.1 and 2304.2, the following requirements apply:

1. Construction Documents. The construction documents prepared by the registered engineer or licensed architect for the project shall indicate all requirements for the truss design, including:

1.1 Truss profiles and layout, including girder truss locations.

1.2 Design loads, support reactions, uplift or lateral connection forces, and deflection criteria.

1.3 Connection details to structural and nonstructural elements (e.g., nonbearing partitions).

1.4 Bridging and bracing attachments to supporting structural elements.

1.5 Wood species and minimum grade (refer to Section 2304.11.3, Tables 2306.3.1 and 2306.3.2 Note a, and AF&PA SDPWS Tables 4.2A and 4.2B, Note 2).

1.6 For metal plate connected wood trusses, also refer to ANSI/TPI 1, Section 2.2.

2. Truss Design Drawings. Each truss design drawing shall bear the signature and stamp or seal of the registered engineer or licensed architect responsible for the truss design.

3. Requirements for Approval. The truss design drawings and engineering analysis shall be provided to the enforcement agency and approved prior to truss fabrication, in accordance with C.C.R., Title 24, Part 1. Alterations to the approved truss design drawings or manufactured trusses are subject to the approval of the enforcement agency.

4. Special Inspection During Truss Manufacture. Refer to Section 1704A.6.2 for special inspection requirements during the manufacture of open-web trusses.

Exception: [OSHPD 2] Special inspection shall be per Chapter 17 instead of Chapter 17A.

SECTION 2306
ALLOWABLE STRESS DESIGN

2306.1 Allowable stress design. The structural analysis and construction of wood elements shall be in accordance with the following applicable standards:

Truss Plate Institute, Inc.

TPI National Design Standard for Metal Plate Connected Wood Truss Construction

Part IV: Recognized Standards



Truss Plate Institute
583 D'Onofrio Drive, Suite 200
Madison, WI 53719

Standard reference number	Title	Referenced in code section number
TPI 1-2002	National Design Standards for Metal-plate-connected Wood Truss Construction	2303.4.2, 2306.1

Appendix D

ANSI/TPI 1-2002

National Design Standard for Metal Plate Connected Wood Truss Construction

Chapter 2 – Standard Responsibilities in the Design Process Involving Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses

2.5 BUILDING STRUCTURAL SYSTEM DESIGN DOCUMENTS

- 2.5.1 The Building Designer, through the Structural Design Documents shall provide that the Structural Elements and Trusses shall not be subjected to adverse influences including, but not limited to moisture, temperature, and corrosive chemicals and gases. This provision shall specifically include notice for the Truss Designer of environments expected to result in wood moisture content exceeding 19 percent, and temperatures and/or corrosion potential that are unusually high relative to typical wood buildings.
- 2.5.2 The Building Designer, through the Structural Design Documents shall provide information sufficiently accurate and reliable to be used for facilitating the supply of the Structural Elements and for developing the design of the Trusses for the Building, and shall provide the following:
- 2.5.2.1 All Structural Element and Truss orientations and locations;
- 2.5.2.2 Information to fully determine all Truss profiles;
- 2.5.2.3 All Structural Element and Truss bearing conditions;
- 2.5.2.4 The location, direction, and magnitude of all dead and live loads applicable to each Structural Element and Truss including, but not limited to, loads attributable to: roof, floor, partition including any directions other than given in ANSI/TPI 1-2002, mechanical, fire sprinkler, attic, storage, rain loads and ponding, design wind speed and exposure category, snow, snow drift, unbalanced snow load, and seismic forces;
- 2.5.2.5 All Structural Element and Truss anchorage designs required to resist uplift, gravity, and lateral loads;
- 2.5.2.6 Allowable vertical and horizontal deflection criteria and any specific criteria per ANSI/TPI 1-2002;
- 2.5.2.7 Proper transfer of design loads affecting the Structural Elements and Trusses;
- 2.5.2.8 Adequate connections between Trusses and between Structural Elements, including Truss to Structural Element connections, but not Truss to Truss girder connections except such connections that are excluded from the scope of the Truss Designer's responsibilities.
- 2.5.2.9 Permanent bracing design for the Building, including bracing to resist wind, seismic, or other lateral forces, and permanent bracing for all Structural Elements and Trusses. The permanent bracing design shall incorporate the continuous lateral chord and web member bracing that is designated on the individual Truss Design Drawings into the overall bracing for the entire Building Structural System.
- 2.5.3 The Building Designer shall be responsible for the adequacy of the design of the Building Structural System or the adequacy of the Structural Design Documents. The Building Designer shall evaluate the effect of the Trusses and the Structural Elements supplied, on the Building Structural System.

Appendix E

Rules of the Board for Professional
Engineers and Land Surveyors
California Code of Regulations
Title 16, Division 5
§§ 400-476
Article 1. General Provisions

411. Seal and Signature.

(a) The seal required by Section 6764 of the Code shall be not less than one and one-half (1½) inches in diameter and shall contain the following information:

- (1) Within the top border of seal: Either "Professional Engineer," "Registered Professional Engineer," or "Licensed Professional Engineer."
- (2) Within the bottom border of seal: "State of California."
- (3) In the center of seal, from top to bottom:
 - (A) Licensee's name as it appears on the certificate issued by the Board or as abbreviated pursuant to subdivision (d);
 - (B) Number of certificate or authority;
 - (C) Expiration date or space within which the expiration date shall be written; and,
 - (D) Branch or authority of engineering in which licensed.

The seal shall be of a design similar to those shown below and shall bear at minimum those elements specified above.

(b) The seal authorized by Section 8750 of the Code shall be not less than one and one-half (1 1/2) inches in diameter and shall contain the following information:

- (1) Within the top border of the seal: Either "Professional Land Surveyor" or "Licensed Land Surveyor."
- (2) Within the bottom border of the seal: "State of California."
- (3) In the center of the seal, from top to bottom:

- (A) Licensee's name as it appears on the certificate issued by the Board or as abbreviated pursuant to subdivision (d);
- (B) Number of certificate;
- (C) Expiration date or space within which the expiration date shall be written. The seal shall be of a design similar to those shown below and shall bear at minimum those elements specified above.

(c) The seal may be obtained by the licensee from any source.

(d) The seal may contain an abbreviated form of the licensee's given name or a combination of initials representing the licensee's given name provided the surname listed with the Board appears on the seal and in the signature.

(e) The seal shall be capable of leaving a permanent ink representation, an opaque and permanent impression, or an electronically-generated representation on the documents. The signature may be applied to the documents electronically.

(f) Preprinting of blank forms with the seal or signature, the use of decals of the seal or signature, or the use of a rubber stamp of the signature is prohibited.

(g) (1) All professional engineering plans, specifications, reports, or documents (hereinafter referred to as "documents") shall be signed and sealed in accordance with the requirements of the Professional Engineers Act and any other laws related to the practice of professional engineering and shall be signed and sealed in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the licensee(s) in responsible charge of the work. (2)

All maps, plats, reports, descriptions, or other professional land surveying documents (hereinafter referred to as "documents") shall be signed and sealed in accordance with the requirements of the Professional Land Surveyors' Act and any other laws related to the practice of professional land surveying and shall be signed and sealed in a manner such that all work can be clearly attributed to the licensee(s) in responsible charge of the work. **(3)** When signing and sealing documents containing work done by or under the responsible charge of two or more licensees, the signature and seal of each licensee in responsible charge shall be placed on the documents with a notation describing the work done under each licensee's responsible charge.

(h) Each licensee shall include the date of signing and sealing immediately below or next to the signature and seal.

Appendix F

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS ACT CHAPTER 7. PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
INCLUDES AMENDMENTS MADE DURING THE 2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
(Effective January 1, 2007, unless otherwise noted)
Article 1. General Provisions

Section 6735. Preparation, signing, and sealing of civil engineering documents

(a) All civil (including structural and geotechnical) engineering plans, calculations, specifications, and reports (hereinafter referred to as "documents") shall be prepared by, or under the responsible charge of, a registered civil engineer and shall include his or her name and license number. Interim documents shall include a notation as to the intended purpose of the document, such as "preliminary," "not for construction," "for plan check only," or "for review only." All civil engineering plans and specifications that are permitted or that are to be released for construction shall bear the signature and seal or stamp of the registrant, the date of signing and sealing or stamping, and the expiration date of the certificate or authority. All final civil engineering calculations and reports shall bear the signature and seal or stamp of the registrant, the date of signing and sealing or stamping, and the expiration date of the certificate or authority. If civil engineering plans are required to be signed and sealed or stamped and have multiple sheets, the signature, seal or stamp, date of signing and sealing or stamping, and expiration date of the certificate or authority shall appear on each sheet of the plans. If civil engineering specifications, calculations, and reports are required to be signed and sealed or stamped and have multiple pages, the signature, seal or stamp, date of signing and sealing or stamping, and expiration date of the certificate or authority shall appear at a minimum on the title sheet, cover sheet, or signature sheet.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a registered civil engineer who signs civil engineering documents shall not be responsible for damage caused by subsequent changes to or uses of those documents, if the subsequent changes or uses, including changes or uses made by state or local governmental agencies, are not authorized or approved by the registered engineer who originally signed the documents, provided that the engineering service rendered by the civil engineer who signed the documents was not also a proximate cause of the damage.

6737.1. Structure exemption

(a) This chapter does not prohibit any person from preparing plans, drawings, or specifications for any of the following:

- (1) Single-family dwellings of woodframe construction not more than two stories and basement in height.
- (2) Multiple dwellings containing no more than four dwelling units of woodframe construction not more than two stories and basement in height. However, this paragraph shall not be construed as allowing an unlicensed person to design multiple clusters of up to four dwelling units each to form apartment or condominium complexes where the total exceeds four units on any lawfully divided lot.
- (3) Garages or other structures appurtenant to buildings described under subdivision (a), of woodframe construction not more than two stories and basement in height.
- (4) Agricultural and ranch buildings of woodframe construction, unless the building official having jurisdiction deems that an undue risk to the public health, safety or welfare is involved.

(b) If any portion of any structure exempted by this section deviates from substantial compliance with conventional framing requirements for woodframe construction found in the most recent edition of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations or tables of limitation for woodframe construction, as defined by the applicable building code duly adopted by the local jurisdiction or the state, the building official having jurisdiction shall require the preparation of plans, drawings, specifications, or calculations for that portion by, or under the responsible charge of, a licensed engineer, or by, or under the responsible control of, an architect licensed pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5500). The documents for that portion shall bear the stamp and signature of the licensee who is responsible for their preparation.



Prepared with assistance from the California Engineered Structural Components Association. – a local chapter of SBCA.
View all SBCA Tech Notes at www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php