

Position Statement on Sealed Truss Placement Diagrams for Commercial Projects in the State of Georgia

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 Georgia 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 *Georgia State Minimum Building Code*.

This information is based on the *Georgia Law*¹, the *Board Rules*², and the *Georgia State Minimum Building Code*³.

Industry Recommendation:

The Georgia professional engineering law and the *Georgia State Minimum 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.

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 *Georgia's Law Governing the Practice of Professional Engineering and Land Surveyors* Section 43 Chapter 15-22 (see **Appendix F**) which states:

¹ TITLE 43. PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES, CHAPTER 15. PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS:

http://sos.georgia.gov/acrobat/PLB/laws/09_Professional_Engineers_and_Land_Surveyors.pdf

² STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

<http://sos.georgia.gov/plb/pels/#>

³ www.dca.state.ga.us/development/constructioncodes/programs/downloads/codespdf/IBC%202007.pdf

The *International Building Code*, 2006 Edition, published by the International Code Council, when used in conjunction with Georgia State Amendments, shall constitute the official *Georgia State Minimum Standard Building Code*.

43-15-22. Registrant required to obtain seal; inscription; purpose; fraudulent use of seal.

(b) ...No plans...shall be stamped with the seal of a registrant unless such registrant has personally performed the engineering...work involved or, when the registrant has not personally performed the engineering or land surveying work reflected in any plan, specification, plat, or report, such registrant has affixed his or her seal thereto only if such document has been prepared by an employee or employees under the registrant's direct supervisory control on a daily basis and after the registrant has thoroughly reviewed the work embodied in such document and has satisfied himself or herself completely that such work is adequate. ...

(c) No registrant shall affix his seal to any plan, specification, plat, or report unless he has assumed the responsibility for the accuracy and adequacy of the work involved.

(d) Any registrant who has affixed his or her seal to any plan, specification, plat, or report prepared by another person not under the registrant's direct supervisory control on a daily basis, and without having thoroughly reviewed such work, shall be deemed to have committed a fraudulent act of misconduct in the practice of professional engineering...

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 Engineer of Record review and approve the TPD to ensure that the intended load paths have not been altered.

If a Truss Designer 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 Designers would only undertake Building Designer responsibilities under a special set of circumstances if capable and when properly compensated.

According to Chapter 180 of the Rules of Professional Conduct from the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (Georgia PE Rules) (*see Appendix E*), the Truss Designer is defined as the "specialty engineer" and the Building Designer is the "engineer of record".

180-6-.03 Rules of Practice.

(3) The professional engineer who develops the design criteria and engineering concept for a project, provides analysis, and is responsible for the preparation of the construction documents shall be responsible for the design of the project within his/her contractual area of engineering services and shall be known as the engineer of record.

(4) In the event that a professional engineer who is not the engineer of record is used for specific portions of the work, that individual shall be a registered engineer in the State of Georgia and shall seal, sign, and date his/her own reports, calculations, and drawings. He/she shall coordinate his/her work with the engineer of record and shall be responsible to the engineer of record for that specific portion of the project design. He/she shall be known as the specialty engineer.

Analysis:

Commercial Construction Documents

The *Georgia State Minimum Building Code* (*see Appendix C for complete text*) provides that the construction documents for a project shall be prepared by a registered design professional where required by the law of the jurisdiction in which the project is being constructed. In particular, the *Georgia State Minimum Building Code* states:

⁴ **106.1 Submittal documents.** ...The construction documents shall be prepared by a registered design professional where required by the statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed. ...

The construction documents should in turn clearly define the scope of the work proposed by the Building Designer or RDP:

⁴ **106.1.1 Information on construction documents.** ...Construction documents 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 relevant laws, ordinances, rules and regulations. ...

In preparing the construction documents, the RDP 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 the *Georgia State Minimum Building Code*

⁴ According to Georgia State Amendments to the International Building Code (2006 Edition), Chapter 1 should be deleted in its entirety without substitution but should remain in Code as a reference and guide for local governments in development of their own Administrative Procedures. (Effective January 1, 2007)

[see Appendix C (102.4), (2303.4), and (Chapter 35 “Reference Standards”)], the following information should be provided:

ANSI/TPI 1 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 TPDs are trained individuals who work as truss technicians, truss take-off specialists or truss salespeople. As TPDs are typically prepared outside the Truss Designer’s scope of work, they may not be reviewed or even seen by the Truss Designer. TPDs are generally not prepared within the typical duties of the Truss Designer and are therefore not prepared under the Truss Designer’s direct supervision.

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.

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

Because TPD are generally neither created by nor created under the immediate personal supervision of a licensed design professional, they cannot be sealed. To require that they be sealed is contrary to the responsible supervision requirements under Georgia’s Law Governing the Practice of Professional

Engineering and Land Surveyors Section 43 Chapter 15-22 (Georgia PE Code) (*see Appendix E*) and the Georgia PE Rules (*see Appendix F*), which state in pertinent part:

43-15-22. Registrant required to obtain seal; inscription; purpose; fraudulent use of seal.

(b) ...No plans...shall be stamped with the seal of a registrant unless such registrant has personally performed the engineering...work involved or, when the registrant has not personally performed the engineering or land surveying work reflected in any plan, specification, plat, or report, such registrant has affixed his or her seal thereto only if such document has been prepared by an employee or employees under the registrant's direct supervisory control on a daily basis and after the registrant has thoroughly reviewed the work embodied in such document and has satisfied himself or herself completely that such work is adequate. ...

(c) No registrant shall affix his seal to any plan, specification, plat, or report unless he has assumed the responsibility for the accuracy and adequacy of the work involved.

(d) Any registrant who has affixed his or her seal to any plan, specification, plat, or report prepared by another person not under the registrant's direct supervisory control on a daily basis, and without having thoroughly reviewed such work, shall be deemed to have committed a fraudulent act of misconduct in the practice of professional engineering...

180-6-.03 Rules of Practice.

(3) The sealing of documents by the registrant shall certify that the work was performed by the registrant or under the direct supervisory control of the registrant on a daily basis.

Going well beyond the TPD, Georgia law recognizes that it would be perfectly appropriate for a truss manufacturer employee to design the trusses without the involvement of an engineer. Georgia PE Code Section 43 Chapter 15-29(c) (*see Appendix F*) sets forth a manufacturer's exemption for engineering:

43-15-29. ...(c) This chapter shall not be construed as requiring registration for the purpose of practicing professional engineering... for the performance of engineering which relates solely to the design or fabrication of manufactured products.

In all cases, when a seal is required, the Truss Designer should clearly define what is meant by the seal (i.e., scope of engineering work). Georgia PE Rules (*see Appendix E*) state:

180-6-.03 Rules of Practice.

(4) In the event that a professional engineer who is not the engineer of record is used for specific portions of the work, that individual shall be a registered engineer in the State of Georgia and shall seal, sign, and date his/her own reports, calculations, and drawings. He/she shall coordinate his/her work with the engineer of record and shall be responsible to the engineer of record for that specific portion of the project design. He/she shall be known as the specialty engineer.

180-12-.02 Sealing of Documents.

(6) ... When a document or drawing is sealed and signed by more than one registrant, the portion of the work for which each registrant is responsible shall be clearly noted.

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

The 2003 edition of the *IBC* did not clearly define a TPD. As such, some incorrectly inferred that they were part of the "Truss Design Drawings". To clear up any confusion on this issue, Section 2303 of the 2006 *IBC* has been revised to include the following regarding "Truss Placement Diagram":

2006 IBC Section 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 design professional, it is required to be signed and sealed.

This language was incorporated into the most recent edition of the *Georgia State Minimum Building Code* (see **Appendix C**).

Appendix B

Key Definitions:

BUILDING DESIGNER:

Owner of the building or the person that contracts with the owner for the design of the framing structural system and/or who is responsible for the preparation of the Construction Documents. When mandated by the legal requirements, the Building Designer shall be a Registered Design Professional.⁵

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS:

Written, graphic and pictorial documents prepared or assembled for describing the design (including the framing structural system), location and physical characteristics of the elements of a building necessary to obtain a building permit and construct a building.

REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL (RDP):

Architect or engineer, who is licensed to practice their respective design profession as defined by the legal requirements of the jurisdiction in which the building is to be constructed.

TRUSS DESIGN DRAWING (TDD):

Written, graphic and pictorial depiction of an individual truss that includes the design information required per *Georgia State Minimum Building Code* Section 2303.4.1.2.

TRUSS DESIGN ENGINEER:

Person who is licensed to practice engineering as defined by the legal requirements of the jurisdiction in which the building is to be constructed and who supervises the preparation of the Truss Design Drawings.⁶

TRUSS PLACEMENT DIAGRAM (TPD):

Illustration identifying the assumed location of each truss.

⁵ Adapted from *2006 IBC* Section 106.1

⁶ Adapted from *2006 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.

2006 International Building Code Chapter 1 ADMINISTRATION SECTION 102: APPLICABILITY

102.4 Referenced codes and standards. The codes and standards referenced in this code shall be considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference. Where differences occur between provisions of this code and referenced codes and standards, the provisions of this code shall apply.

2006 International Building Code Chapter 1 ADMINISTRATION SECTION 106: CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

106.1 Submittal documents. Construction documents, statements of special inspection, and other data shall be submitted in one or more sets with each application for a permit. The construction documents shall be prepared by a registered design professional where required by the statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed. Where special conditions exist, the building official is authorized to require additional construction documents to be prepared by a registered design professional.

IBC 106.1.1 Information on construction documents. Construction documents shall be dimensioned and drawn upon suitable material. Electronic media documents are permitted to be submitted when approved by the building official. Construction documents 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 relevant laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, as determined by the building official.

Georgia State Minimum Building Code Chapter 23 WOOD SECTION 2303: MINIMUM STANDARDS AND QUALITY

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.

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.

Georgia State Minimum Building Code
Chapter 35 REFERENCED 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

CHAPTER 180 STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

180-6-.03 Rules of Practice.

(1) The engineer or land surveyor shall perform services only in areas of his/her competence. The engineer or land surveyor shall undertake to perform engineering or land surveying assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical field of professional engineering or land surveying involved.

(2) The engineer or land surveyor may accept an assignment requiring education or experience outside of his/her own field of competence, but only to the extent that his/her services are restricted to those phases of the project in which he/she is qualified. All other phases of such project shall be performed by qualified associates, consultants or employees who shall sign, seal, and be responsible for such other phases or technical segments.

(3) The professional engineer who develops the design criteria and engineering concept for a project, provides analysis, and is responsible for the preparation of the construction documents shall be responsible for the design of the project within his/her contractual area of engineering services and shall be known as the engineer of record.

(4) In the event that a professional engineer who is not the engineer of record is used for specific portions of the work, that individual shall be a registered engineer in the State of Georgia and shall seal, sign, and date his/her own reports, calculations, and drawings. He/she shall coordinate his/her work with the engineer of record and shall be responsible to the engineer of record for that specific portion of the project design. He/she shall be known as the specialty engineer.

(5) The engineer or land surveyor shall not affix his/her signature and/or seal to any engineering or land surveying plan, document, or plat unless such plan, document, or plat is prepared by the registrant or an individual in the employ of the registrant. All plans, documents, and plats prepared by non-registrants must be prepared under the direct supervisory control of the registrant on a daily basis.

(6) "Direct supervisory control" shall be defined as providing direct input in preparation of engineering or land surveying plans, documents, or plats, consultation, periodic review, and final review of such plans, documents, or plats. "On a daily basis" shall mean supervising activities at the place of employment where the registrant and the employee spend the majority of the working time as dictated by payroll records including but not limited to social security, workman's compensation, unemployment insurance, etc.

(7) In the event a question arises as to the competence of an engineer or land surveyor to perform an assignment, the Board may require him/her to submit to an appropriate examination, as determined by the Board. That action by the Board shall be required only if the question cannot be otherwise resolved to the Board's satisfaction.

(8) Renovation or the retrofitting of a building or structure is considered as the practice of engineering when the work involves the addition or reduction of weight or loading; analysis of structural systems or members; removal or addition of structural elements; analysis of drainage systems on or below the roof surface; changes to the drainage characteristics; or changes required for the building or structure to conform to current jurisdictional building codes. Nothing in this rule is intended to restrict the normal practice by registered architects. Nothing in this rule is intended to restrict the normal practice of roofing contractors insofar as repairing or the replacement of like kind of roofing systems so long as no additional weight is added.

180-12-.02 Sealing of Documents.

(1) The term, "documents," as used herein shall mean engineering and/or land surveying work issued in the form of plans, drawings, maps, surveys, reports, specifications, design information, and calculations, including such work issued in digital form and including work in incomplete or preliminary form. This Rule shall not apply to recordable property plats governed under O.C.G.A. 15-6-67(b)(2)(E).

(2) The terms, "issue" or "issued" as used herein shall include any and all dissemination, publishing, and/or sending out of documents, paper copy or electronic form to any person for any purpose, by a registrant or by others under the registrants' supervision.

(3) The registrant shall seal and sign (with signature across the seal) all original final documents which are issued to a client or any public agency. The sealing of documents by the registrant shall certify that the work was performed by the registrant or under the direct supervisory control of the registrant on a daily basis. The

date of sealing and signature shall be placed immediately under the seal and signature. All signatures, and dates of signatures, shall be handwritten.

(4) The registrant shall not issue an incomplete, preliminary, in-progress, or for-review document or any type unless such document displays the date of issue and a notation in bold lettering, such as "PRELIMINARY," "NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION," "NOT TO BE RECORDED," or "FOR REVIEW ONLY," which clearly identifies the purpose for which the document is issued.

(5) Seals, signatures, dates, and/or other notations required by this Rule shall be placed on original documents such that the seal, signature, date and/or notations, will be reproduced when copies are made.

(6) Each drawing sheet, whether bound or unbound, shall be sealed and signed by each registrant responsible for work on that sheet. When a document or drawing is sealed and signed by more than one registrant, the portion of the work for which each registrant is responsible shall be clearly noted.

(7) Computer generated seals may be used on final original documents provided that a handwritten signature in black ink is placed across the seal and the date is handwritten below the seal. Computer generated signatures and dates of signature are not acceptable.

(8) Documents that are electronically transmitted shall have any computer-generated seal removed from the original file prior to transmission. All electronically transmitted documents shall have displayed, in lieu of the seal, signature and date, the following statements, "The original of this document was sealed and signed by {registrant's printed name and registration number on {date of signature}." And in bold lettering, "THIS REPRODUCTION IS NOT A CERTIFIED DOCUMENT."

Appendix F

Georgia Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Georgia Law Governing the Practice of Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Section 43 - Chapter 15

43-15-22. Registrant required to obtain seal; inscription; purpose; fraudulent use of seal.

(a) Every engineer and land surveyor registered under this chapter shall, upon receipt of a certificate of registration, obtain a seal of the design authorized by the board, bearing the registrant's name, certificate number, and the legend "Registered Professional Engineer," or "Registered Land Surveyor," in accordance with the certificate of registration.

(b) Plans, specifications, plats, and reports issued by a registrant shall be stamped or sealed and countersigned by the registrant; but it shall be unlawful for the registrant or any other person to stamp or seal any document with such seal after the certificate of the registrant named thereon has expired, or has been revoked, or during the period of any suspension imposed by the board. No plans, specifications, plats, or reports shall be stamped with the seal of a registrant unless such registrant has personally performed the engineering or land surveying work involved or, when the registrant has not personally performed the engineering or land surveying work reflected in any plan, specification, plat, or report, such registrant has affixed his or her seal thereto only if such document has been prepared by an employee or employees under the registrant's direct supervisory control on a daily basis and after the registrant has thoroughly reviewed the work embodied in such document and has satisfied himself or herself completely that such work is adequate.

(c) No registrant shall affix his seal to any plan, specification, plat, or report unless he has assumed the responsibility for the accuracy and adequacy of the work involved.

(d) Any registrant who has affixed his or her seal to any plan, specification, plat, or report prepared by another person not under the registrant's direct supervisory control on a daily basis, and without having thoroughly reviewed such work, shall be deemed to have committed a fraudulent act of misconduct in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying.

43-15-29.

(a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as excluding a qualified architect registered in this state from such engineering practice as may be incident to the practice of his profession or as excluding a professional engineer from such architectural practice as may be incident to the practice of professional engineering.

(b) The following persons shall be exempt from this chapter:

(1) A person working as an employee or a subordinate of a person holding a certificate of registration under this chapter or an employee of a person practicing lawfully under Code Section 43-15-21, provided such work does not include final design decisions and is done under the supervision of, and responsibility therefor is assumed by, a person holding a certificate of registration under this chapter or a person practicing lawfully under Code Section 43-15-21;

(2) Officers and employees of the government of the United States while engaged within this state in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying for such government;

(3) All elective officers of the political subdivisions of the state while in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying in the performance of their official duties; and

(4) Officers and employees of the Department of Transportation, except as required by Title 46, while engaged within this state in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying for such department.

(c) This chapter shall not be construed as requiring registration for the purpose of practicing professional engineering or land surveying by an individual, firm, or corporation on property owned or leased by such individual, firm, or corporation unless the same involves the public safety or public health or for the performance of engineering which relates solely to the design or fabrication of manufactured products.

(d) This chapter shall not be construed to prevent or affect the practice of professional engineering and land surveying with respect to utility facilities by any public utility subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Power Commission, or like regulatory agencies, including its parents, affiliates, or subsidiaries; or by the officers and full-time permanent employees of any such public utility, including its parents, affiliates, or subsidiaries, except where such practice involves property lines of adjoining property owners, provided that this exception does not extend to any professional engineer or land surveyor engaged in the practice of professional engineering or land surveying whose compensation is based in whole or in part on a

fee or to any engineering services performed by the above-referenced utility companies not directly connected with work on their facilities.

(e) This chapter shall not be construed to affect the lawful practice of a person acting within the scope of a license granted by the state under any other law.

Prepared with assistance from the Georgia Component Mfrs Assoc. – a local chapter of SBCA.

View all *SBCA Tech Notes* at www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php