

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

Updated November 6, 2006

Issue

Reviewing Truss Placement Diagrams (TPD) (also known as a truss placement plan, truss layout, framing plan or framing layout) is normally the responsibility of the Building Designer or Registered Design Professional (RDP). This information is based on the 2003 Indiana Building Code (IBC) (675-IAC-13 IBC)¹. 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 commercial projects.

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.

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.

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.²

REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL (RDP):

An individual who is registered or licensed to practice their respective design profession as defined by the statutory requirements of the professional registration laws of the state or jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed.³

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

¹ The Indiana Building Code (IBC) is based on the 2000 International Building Code with 2003 Indiana Amendments, Effective May 21, 2003. The Indiana Amendments to all codes are available online at www.state.in.us/legislative/iac/title675.html.

² As defined by the 2003 Indiana Building Code Chapter 2.

³ As defined by the 2003 Indiana Building Code Chapter 2.

⁴ Adapted from Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) 675 IAC 12-6-2.

⁵ Adapted from 2003 Indiana Building Code Section 2303.4.

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

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 Registered Design Professional (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 and into the foundation.

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

Analysis

Commercial Construction Documents

In most jurisdictions, the Building Designer of a non-residential structure must be a RDP, as defined above; pursuant to the General Administrative Rules (*see Appendix B*) (2003 IBC):

675 IAC 12-6-7 Plans and Specifications. ... (e) If a design professional is required by section 9 of this rule: (1) the plans and specifications shall be prepared by a design professional...

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

675 IAC 12-6-7 Plans and Specifications. ... (b) All plans and specifications and any supporting data filed shall be sufficiently clear and complete to show in detail that the proposed work will comply with the rules of the commission. ...

In preparing the construction documents, the Building Designer needs to provide the Truss Designer or Truss Design Engineer with the information necessary to properly design the trusses for the building. According to ANSI/TPI 1-1995 (TPI 1) (*see Appendix A for complete text*), which is adopted by reference in the 2003 IBC through Sections 101.3, 2303.4, and Chapter 35 "Reference Standards" provisions (*see Appendix B*), the following information should be provided:

ANSI/TPI 1-1995 Appendix A

A.3.0 BUILDING DESIGNER RESPONSIBILITIES

A.3.2 (The Building Designer shall) prepare the Construction Design Documents, showing all trussed areas, which must provide as a minimum the following:

A.3.2.1 All truss orientations and locations;

⁶ Adapted from Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) 675 IAC 12-6-2.

⁷ Adapted from 2003 Indiana Building Code Section 2303.4

- A.3.2.2 Information to fully determine all truss profiles;
- A.3.2.3 Adequate support of the Truss and all truss bearing conditions;
- A.3.2.4 Permanent bracing design for the structure including the Trusses,...
- A.3.2.5 The location, direction and magnitude of all dead and live loads applicable to each Truss
- A.3.2.6 All Truss anchorage designs required to resist uplift, gravity, and lateral loads;
- A.3.2.7 Allowable vertical and horizontal deflection criteria;
- A.3.2.8 Proper transfer of design loads affecting the Truss; and
- A.3.2.9 Adequate connections between Truss and non-Truss components,
- A.3.3 Review and approve the Truss Placement Plan and each Truss Design Drawing for conformance with the requirements and intent of the Construction Design Documents, the effect of each Truss Design Drawing and Truss Placement Plan on other parts of the structure, and the effect of the structure on each Truss.
- A.3.4 ...specify how the permanent lateral bracing is to be anchored or restrained to prevent lateral movement if all truss members, so braced, buckle together.

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, TPDs are prepared by component manufacturer personnel who are not typically Truss Design Engineers and many times are the Truss Manufacturer's salespeople or are individuals who work as truss technicians or truss take-off specialists (Truss Designers). All these people are highly trained and skilled in the work they do but are generally non-engineers. Because these TPDs are typically prepared outside the Truss Designer Engineer's scope of work, they may not be reviewed or even seen by the Truss Design Engineer and are therefore not prepared under the Truss Design Engineer's direct supervision.

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

Because TPDs are generally neither created by nor created under the immediate personal supervision of a Registered Design Professional, they cannot be sealed. To require that they be sealed is contrary to Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) Title 864 violating Article 1.1 Rule 7 Sections 3(a) and 4(a) and Rule 11 Section 7 (*see Appendix C*) as well as the Indiana Code (IC) Title 25 violating Article 31 Sections 16 and 27 (*see Appendix D*), which state in pertinent part:

864 IAC 1.1-7-3 Application of seal; signature

(a) The seal shall be affixed to documents and instruments...only on such documents and instruments which have been prepared by the registrant or by the regularly employed and directly supervised subordinates of the registrant. ...

864 IAC 1.1-7-4 Use of seal and signature; acceptance of full responsibility

(a) The seal and signature of a registrant on any drawings, documents, or instruments signifies the registrant's acceptance of full responsibility for the professional work represented thereon...

864 IAC 1.1-11-7 Use of seal restricted

The engineer shall not affix the engineer's signature and/or seal...to any such plan or document not prepared as described in 864 IAC 1.1-7-4.

IC 25-31-1-16 Seal

...(b)...Applying the registrant's seal attests that:

- (1) the work embodies the engineering work of the registrant;
- (2) the registrant or an employed subordinate supervised by the registrant prepared the documents, and in the context of engineered plans "prepared" refers to the registrant's control and direction of the engineering

work and design process;
(3) the registrant assumes full professional responsibility for the documents;...

IC 25-31-1-27 Practicing without license and other specific violations

A person who: ... (6) otherwise violates this chapter; commits a Class B misdemeanor.

In all cases, when a seal is required, the Truss Design Engineer should clearly define what is meant by the seal (i.e., scope of engineering work). IAC Title 864 Article 1.1 Rule 7 Sections 3(e) (*see Appendix C*) states:

864 IAC 1.1-7-3 Application of seal; signature

... (e) When affixing the seal, the registrant shall denote the registrant's part of the work by inserting below the registrant's signature and date, language similar to the following:

COVERING _____ DESIGN.

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.

Going well beyond the TPD, Indiana law (*see Appendix D*) recognizes that it would be perfectly appropriate for a Truss Manufacturer employee to design the trusses without the involvement of an engineer, as follows:

IC 25-31-1-20 Exempt persons

... (b) This chapter does not require registration for the purpose of practicing engineering by an individual or a business: ... (2) for the performance of engineering which relates solely to the design or fabrication of manufactured products; ...

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

The 2003 IBC does not clearly define TPD. As such, some may wrongly infer that they are part of the "Truss Designs" which are referenced as follows [General Administrative Rules (*see Appendix B*) (2003 IBC)]:

675 IAC 12-6-7 Plans and Specifications. ... (e) If a design professional is required by section 9 of this rule: (1) the plans and specifications shall be prepared by a design professional... (h) Plans and specifications... shall include all of the following...: (7) Structural plans and elevations showing size and location of all members, truss designs showing all connection details, and all stress calculations if specifically requested.

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

2006 International Building Code 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 will provide much greater clarity and better communication and will appear in the 2006 Edition of the International Building Code.

Conclusion

The Indiana professional engineering law and the *2003 Indiana 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 the building code regulations and professional engineering law, TPDs do not require a professional engineer's seal.

Appendix A

ANSI/TPI 1-1995

National Design Standard for Metal Plate Connected Wood Truss Construction

Appendix A – Standard Responsibilities in the Design Process Involving Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses

A.1.0 SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

A.1.2.2 “Building Designer” is the individual or organization having responsibility for the overall building or structure design in accordance with the state’s statutes and regulations governing the professional registration and certification of architects or engineers. This responsibility includes but is not limited to foundation design, structural member sizing, load transfer, bearing conditions, and the structure’s compliance with the applicable building codes. Also referred to as a registered architect or engineer, building designer, and registered building designer, but hereinafter will be referred to as Building Designer.

A.1.2.8 “Truss Designer” is the design professional, individual or organization, having responsibility for the design of metal plate connected wood trusses. This responsibility shall be in accordance with the state’s statutes and regulations governing the professional registration and certification of architects or engineers. Also referred to as truss engineer, design engineer, registered engineer, and engineer, but hereinafter will be referred to as Truss Designer.

A.3.0 BUILDING DESIGNER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A.3.1 Design a structure suitable to ensure that the intended function of each Truss is not affected by adverse influences including, but not limited to, moisture, temperature, corrosive chemicals and gases;
- A.3.2 Prepare the Construction Design Documents, showing all trussed areas, which must provide as a minimum the following:
- A.3.2.1 **All truss orientations and locations;**
 - A.3.2.2 **Information to fully determine all truss profiles;**
 - A.3.2.3 **Adequate support of the Truss and all truss bearing conditions;**
 - A.3.2.4 **Permanent bracing design for the structure including the Trusses,** except as provided in A.3.4 (see below) and A.6.2.12 (required permanent Truss member bracing location).
 - A.3.2.5 **The location, direction and magnitude of all dead and live loads applicable to each Truss** including, but not limited to, loads attributable to: roof, floor, partition, mechanical, fire sprinkler, attic, storage, wind, snow drift and seismic;
 - A.3.2.6 **All Truss anchorage designs required to resist uplift, gravity, and lateral loads;**
 - A.3.2.7 **Allowable vertical and horizontal deflection criteria;**
 - A.3.2.8 **Proper transfer of design loads affecting the Truss;** and
 - A.3.2.9 **Adequate connections between Truss and non-Truss components,** except as noted in Section A.6.2.9 (Truss to Truss girder; Truss ply to ply; and Field Splices).
- A.3.3 **Review and approve the Truss Placement Plan and each Truss Design Drawing for conformance with the requirements and intent of the Construction Design Documents, the effect of each Truss Design Drawing and Truss Placement Plan on other parts of the structure, and the effect of the structure on each Truss.**
- A.3.4 Specify permanent lateral bracing where indicated by the Truss Designer on the Truss Design Drawings, to prevent buckling of the individual truss members due to design loads. The Building Designer **shall specify how the permanent lateral bracing is to be anchored or restrained to prevent lateral movement if all truss members, so braced, buckle together.** This shall be accomplished by: (a) anchorage to solid end walls; (b) permanent diagonal bracing in the plane of the web members; or (c) other means when demonstrated by the Building Designer to provide equivalent bracing.

Appendix B

2003 Indiana Building Code

675 IAC 13-2.4-2

Chapter 1; administration

Sec. 2. Delete Chapter 1 and substitute to read as follows:

Section 101 Application

101.1 Title

This rule shall be known as the Indiana Building Code, 2003 edition and shall be published, except incorporated documents, by the fire and building services department, for general distribution and use under that title. Wherever the term "this code" is used throughout this rule, it shall mean the Indiana Building Code, 2003 edition.

101.2 Scope and Purpose

(a) The scope and purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements for the following:

1. Construction, addition, alteration, erection, or assembly of any part of a Class 1 structure at the site where the structure will be used.
 2. Installation of any part of the permanent heating, ventilating, air conditioning, electrical, plumbing, sanitary, emergency detection, emergency communication, or fire or explosion suppression systems for a Class 1 structure at the site where it will be used.
 3. Work undertaken to alter, remodel, rehabilitate, or add to any part of a Class 1 structure.
 4. Safeguarding life or property from the hazards of fire and explosion for Class 1 structures.
 5. Fabrication of any part of a Class 1 industrialized building system for installation, assembly, or use at another site, except mobile structures.
 6. Work undertaken to relocate any part of a Class 1 structure, except a mobile structure.
 7. Assembly of a Class 1 industrialized building system that is not covered by subdivision 5, except mobile structures.
- (b) Detached one (1) and two (2) family dwellings and townhouses not more than three (3) stories high and their accessory structures shall comply with the Indiana Residential Code, 675 IAC 14.

101.3 Appendices and Standards.

Provisions in the appendices are not enforceable unless specifically adopted.

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.

EXCEPTION: Where enforcement of a code provision would violate the conditions of the listing, labeling, or manufacturer's installation instructions

101.4 Appeals and Interpretations

Appeals from orders issued by the fire prevention and building safety commission, the office of the state building commissioner, or the office of the state fire marshal are governed by IC 4-21.5 and IC 22-12-7. Appeals from orders by a local unit of government are governed by IC 22-13-2-7 and local ordinance. Upon the written request of an interested person who has a dispute with a county or municipal government concerning a building rule, the office of the state building commissioner may issue a written interpretation of a building law. The written interpretation as issued under IC 22-13-5 binds the interested person and the county or municipality with whom the interested person has the dispute until overruled in a proceeding under IC 4-21.5. A written interpretation of a building law binds all counties and municipalities if the office of the state building commissioner publishes the written interpretation of the building law in the Indiana Register under IC 4-22-7-7(b).

101.5 Plans

Plans shall be submitted for Class 1 structures as required by the General Administrative Rules (675 IAC 12) and the rules for Industrialized Building Systems (675 IAC 15).

101.6 Existing Construction

For existing Class 1 structures, see the General Administrative Rules (675 IAC 12) and local ordinance.

101.7 Additions and Alterations

Additions and alterations to any Class 1 structure shall conform to that required of a new structure without requiring the existing structure to comply with all the requirements of this code. Additions or alterations shall not cause an existing structure to become unsafe (See the General Administrative Rules (675 IAC 12-4)).

101.8 Alternate Materials, Methods, and Equipment

Alternate materials, methods, equipment, and design shall be as required by the General Administrative Rules (675 IAC 12-6- 11) and the rules for Industrialized Building Systems (675 IAC 15).

2003 Indiana Building Code

Chapter 23 WOOD

SECTION 2302: MINIMUM STANDARDS AND QUALITY

2303.4 Trusses. Metal-plate-connected wood trusses shall be manufactured as required by TPI 1.⁸

2303.4.1 Truss design drawings.⁹

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

675 IAC 12

675 IAC 12-6-7 Plans and Specifications

Sec. 7.

(a) Plans and specifications filed with an application for a design release shall comply with this section.

(b) All plans and specifications and any supporting data filed shall be sufficiently clear and complete to show in detail that the proposed work will comply with the rules of the commission. They shall be in the English language and dimensions shall be in the English units of measurement (yards, feet, or inches).

(c) One (1) complete set of plans and specifications required by this section shall be filed for review and shall not be returned to the applicant.

(d) No additional copies of the plans and specifications filed with the application for design release may be filed, however, additional copies may be made by the applicant and utilized on the construction jobsite as required by section 19 of this rule and to meet requirements of local units of government.

(e) If a design professional is required by section 9 of this rule:

- (1) the plans and specifications shall be prepared by a design professional who is competent to design the construction covered by the application and is registered under IC 25-4 or IC 25-31;
- (2) each page of all drawings (plans) and the title page of all specifications shall include the legible signature and the seal of the design professional described in subdivision (1) or the person's technical or professional staff; and
- (3) the plans and specifications shall be filed by the design professional described in subdivision (1) or the person's technical or professional staff.

⁸ 675 IAC 13-2.4-208 Section 2303.4; trusses

Sec. 208. In International Building Code 2000 Section 2303.4, delete all the text after the first sentence. (Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission; 675 IAC 13-2.4-208; filed Apr 21, 2003, 8:30 a.m.: 26 IR 2946)

⁹ 675 IAC 13-2.4-209 Section 2303.4.1; truss design drawings

Sec. 209. In International Building Code 2000, delete 2303.4.1 Truss design drawings and substitute as follows: See the General Administrative Rules (675 IAC 12-6) (www.in.gov/dhs/osbc/techserv/GAR.html) and Industrialized Building Systems (675 IAC 15). (Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission; 675 IAC 13-2.4-209; filed Apr 21, 2003, 8:30 a.m.: 26 IR 2946)

(f) If a design professional is not required by section 9 of this rule, but the plans and specifications are nonetheless prepared and filed by a design professional, such filing shall not be required to comply with subsection (e) and section 6(c)(10) of this rule.

(g) If a design professional is not required by section 9 of this rule and the plans and specifications are not prepared and filed by a design professional, the owner shall sign and date all documents, on the first page of all drawings (plans) and the title page of all specifications.

(h) **Plans and specifications filed under this section shall include all of the following as applicable:**

(1) A site plan drawn to scale, showing dimensioned location of building property lines, and to all adjacent buildings on the property, as well as width of any street or easements bordering the property.

(2) Foundation and basement plans and details.

(3) Detailed dimensioned floor plans drawn to scale for all floors showing such items as wall configuration and fire rating, exitways, doors, windows, location of plumbing fixtures, chairlifts, elevators, and room designation.

(4) Fire and life safety plans showing graphically or by legend the location and rating of building elements, such as area separation walls, occupancy separation walls, smoke barriers, fire-rated corridor walls, stair enclosures, shaft enclosures, and horizontal exits.

(5) Wall elevations of all exterior walls.

(6) Sections and details of walls, floors, and roofs showing dimensions, materials, and heat transfer ratings.

(7) **Structural plans and elevations showing size and location of all members, truss designs showing all connection details, and all stress calculations if specifically requested.**

(8) Details indicating how required structural and fire-resistive integrity will be maintained where wall, floor, and ceiling penetrations will be made for electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and communication conduit, pipes, and similar systems.

(9) Room finish schedules showing finishes for walls, ceilings, and floors in all rooms, stairways, and corridors.

(10) Door schedules showing material, size, thickness, and fire resistance rating for all doors, frames, and hardware.

(11) Construction specifications, which for small projects may be on the plans.

(12) Electrical plans showing the electrical distribution system, service equipment, grounding methods, emergency and standby power systems, and any power or lighting information required for compliance with the Indiana energy conservation code under 675 IAC 19.

(13) Plumbing plans showing fixture location, risers, drains, and piping isometrics.

(14) Mechanical plans showing location and size of ductwork, equipment, fire dampers, and smoke dampers, and equipment schedules showing capacity.

(15) Energy conservation details to include design criteria, exterior envelope component materials, U values of the envelope system, R values of insulating materials, size and type of equipment, and systems controls.

(16) Accessibility details to include access to buildings, ramps and walks with slope, dimensioned restroom plans and clearances, grab bars, door swing and size, and special seating accommodations.

(17) Plans for automatic fire extinguishing systems showing automatic sprinkler piping size and spacing, standpipes, fire pumps, water supply data, rating of sprinkler heads, and other specific requirements contained in NFPA Standards 11, 12, 13, 13R, 14, 20, and 2001 as adopted in 675 IAC 13.

(18) Plans for fire detection and alarm systems showing location and type of detection activation devices (automatic or manual), control panels, annunciator panels and zones, water flow devices, and other specific requirements contained in NFPA Standard 72 as adopted in 675 IAC 22.

(19) Plans for public swimming pools showing area and volume, enclosure for pool area, turnover rate, filtration and circulation system, swimmer load, materials, shape and depth of pool, deck design, ladders, steps, drainage system, water supply system, and electrical system.

(20) Additional information as may be needed to substantiate claims that the proposed construction will comply with the rules of the commission.

Chapter 35 REFERENCED STANDARDS

TPI

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

Standard reference number	Title	Referenced in code section number
TPI 1—, 1995	National Design Standards for Metal-Plate-Connected Wood Truss Construction	2303.4, 2306.1

Appendix C

Indiana Administrative Code¹⁰

TITLE 864: STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

ARTICLE 1.1. ADMINISTRATION; GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Rule 7. Registrant's Seal

864 IAC 1.1-7-3 Application of seal; signature

Sec. 3.

(a) The seal shall be affixed to documents and instruments only during the time the certificate of registration is current and has not been suspended or revoked and then only on such documents and instruments which have been prepared by the registrant or by the regularly employed and directly supervised subordinates of the registrant. The registrant shall be responsible for seeing that the seal, however affixed, and the signature shall be legible on the document.

(b) Whenever a registrant affixes the seal, it shall have:

- (1) the registrant's signature; and
- (2) the date the seal is being affixed; directly adjacent to the seal, but not across the seal.

(c) When a registrant is in responsible charge of engineering work for which one (1) or more:

- (1) specifications;
- (2) plans; and
- (3) drawings; are required to be submitted for review by the state building commissioner or other governmental body, the registrant shall apply the seal in the full manner required by this section on each page of all drawings or plans and on the title page of all specifications.

(d) A registrant who is not in responsible charge of the entire work, but assumes responsibility for portions of the work included on any page of:

- (1) specifications;
- (2) plans; or
- (3) drawings; shall affix the seal in the manner required by this section on all title pages and on all pages on which the registrant's work appears.

(e) When affixing the seal, the registrant shall denote the registrant's part of the work by inserting below the registrant's signature and date, language similar to the following:

COVERING _____ DESIGN.

864 IAC 1.1-7-4 Use of seal and signature; acceptance of full responsibility

Sec. 4.

(a) The seal and signature of a registrant on any drawings, documents, or instruments signifies the registrant's acceptance of full responsibility for the professional work represented thereon, except as another registrant shall have assumed a limited responsibility for portions of the work in accordance with section 3(d) of this rule.

(b) A registrant may include in the registrant's plans certain predesigned manufactured equipment or products which have become established as acceptable for the proposed use, when such items:

- (1) meet standards established by nonprofit trade organizations;

¹⁰ www.in.gov/legislative/iac

- (2) meet the requirements for the proposed use as indicated by tests performed by a competent, unbiased testing agency;
 - (3) are mechanical, electrical, or other types of machinery or systems guaranteed by a reputable manufacturer; or
 - (4) do not affect the structural safety of the project.
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Rule 11. Rules of Professional Conduct

864 IAC 1.1-11-7 Use of seal restricted

Sec. 7.

The engineer shall not affix the engineer's signature and/or seal to any engineering plan or document dealing with subject matter in which the engineer lacks competence by virtue of insufficient education or experience, or **to any such plan or document not prepared as described in 864 IAC 1.1-7-4.**

Appendix D

Indiana Code¹¹

TITLE 25. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE 31. PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

IC 25-31-1-16 Seal

Sec. 16.

(a) The granting of registration extends to the registrant the authority to use a seal of a design approved by the board bearing the registrant's name, registration number, and the legend "professional engineer".

(b) During the period of time that a registrant's certificate is valid, the registrant is authorized to apply the registrant's seal to plans, specifications, studies, drawings, and reports. Applying the registrant's seal attests that:

- (1) the work embodies the engineering work of the registrant;
- (2) the registrant or an employed subordinate supervised by the registrant prepared the documents, and in the context of engineered plans "prepared" refers to the registrant's control and direction of the engineering work and design process;
- (3) the registrant assumes full professional responsibility for the documents; and
- (4) the work meets standards of acceptable engineering practice.

(c) It is unlawful for any person to stamp or seal any document with a seal after the certificate of the registrant named on the seal has expired or has been revoked.

IC 25-31-1-20 Exempt persons

Sec. 20.

(a) An employee or a subordinate of any person who holds a certificate of registration under the provisions of this chapter is exempt from the provisions of this chapter if the practice of the employee or subordinate does not include responsible charge of design or supervision.

(b) This chapter does not require registration for the purpose of practicing engineering by an individual or a business:

- (1) on property owned or leased by that individual or business unless the engineering practice involves the public health or safety, or the health or safety of the employees of that individual or business;
 - (2) for the performance of engineering which relates solely to the design or fabrication of manufactured products; or
 - (3) that is registered as a landscape architect under IC 25-4-2 and while the individual or business is engaged in the practice of landscape architecture planning the use of land or water.
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IC 25-31-1-27 Practicing without license and other specific violations

Sec. 27.

A person who:

- (1) practices or offers to practice engineering without being registered or exempted under the laws of this state;
- (2) presents as the person's own the certificate of registration or the seal of another;
- (3) gives any false or forged evidence of any kind to the board or to any member of the board in obtaining a certificate of registration;
- (4) impersonates any other registrant;
- (5) uses an expired, suspended, or revoked certificate of registration; or
- (6) otherwise violates this chapter; commits a Class B misdemeanor.

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

¹¹ www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code