TECHNICAL NOTES

WTCA
REPRESENTING THE STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS INDUSTRY

Position Statement on Sealed Truss Placement Diagrams for Residential Projects in the State of Maryland

Released November 1, 2007

Issue

Certain jurisdictions in Maryland 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 residential projects.

This information is based on the *Maryland Professional Engineers Act*[1], *Title 09 Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation– Subtitle 23*[2], and the *Maryland Building Performance Standards Regulations (COMAR 05-02-07)*[3].

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.

---

[1] www.dllr.state.md.us/license/law/proenglaw.htm
[2] www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/subtitle_chapters/09_chapters.htm#Subtitle23
[3] http://mdcodes.umbc.edu/dhcd2/MBPS-July%2031%202007.pdf
The 2006 International Building Code, with modifications found in COMAR, is incorporated by reference under COMAR 05.02.01.02-1B(1). The purpose of COMAR 05-02-07 is to adopt the 2006 International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC) as the *Maryland Building Performance Standards*, which will provide reasonable protection to the public against hazards to life, health, and property, and to establish the policies and procedures associated with the operation of a data base that contains the Standards, the local amendments, and other related information. All local amendments can be viewed online at: http://mdcodes.umbc.edu/dhcd/amendments/bcode/amend04.htm

WTCA Wood Truss Council of the Capital Area

Prepared with assistance from Wood Truss Council of the Capital Area, a local chapter of WTCA.
View all WTCA Technical Notes at www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php

WTCA • 6300 Enterprise Lane • Madison, WI 53719
608/274-4849 • 608/274-3329 (fax) • www.sbcindustry.com

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 the state of Maryland.

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]

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 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 and into the foundation.

Truss Designer 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.

Analysis

Residential Construction Documents

The majority of residential structures are built using the prescriptive code within the *Maryland Building Performance Standards*. Trusses are simply replacements for the prescriptively applied joists and rafters, which are also highly engineered structural elements.

When the Building Designer involved with a residential project is an RDP, it is up to them to evaluate every structural component, (e.g., rafters, joists, I-joists, and trusses) to ensure their structural adequacy and that they are applied so that the structure's protection of life/safety is assured. The placement of trusses is just one of the elements the RDP must consider. Joists, rafters, I-joists, LVL, PSL, and glulam

[4] Adapted from 2006 IBC Section 106.1
[5] Adapted from 2006 IBC Section 2303.4
[6] Adapted from 2006 IBC Section 106.1
[7] Adapted from 2006 IBC Section 2303.4

are other equally important structural elements that must be evaluated and integrated properly. The RDP will seal all his/her engineering work. Commonly the RDP delegates the design of the trusses to a Truss Design Engineer. The RDP will then review and approve all engineering performed by the Truss Design Engineer.

The *Maryland Building Performance Standards (see* **Appendix A***)* provides that the construction documents for a project shall be prepared by a RDP where required by the law of the jurisdiction in which the project is being constructed. In particular, the *Maryland Building Performance Standards* states:

> **R106.1 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:

> **R106.1.1 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...

ANSI/TPI 1-2002 Chapter 2 *(see* **Appendix C***)*, which is adopted by reference in the *Maryland Building Performance Standards* [*see* **Appendix A** (R102.4), (R502.11.1), (R802.10.2), and (Part IX, Referenced Standards, Chapter 43)], sets forth particular information that must also be contained in the construction documents so that the trusses can be properly designed for the residential structure. In preparing the construction documents, the Building Designer shall provide the following:

> **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 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 TPD 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 Maryland 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 Maryland per the *Maryland Professional Engineers Act (see* **Appendix C***)* and *Title 09 Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation– Subtitle 23 (see* **Appendix D***)*, which state in pertinent part:

> **Maryland Professional Engineers Act**
> **§14–103. Signing and Sealing Engineering Documents. (a)** All engineering documents prepared in connection with the alteration, construction, design, or repair of a building, structure, building engineering system and its components, machine, equipment, process, works, subsystem, project, public or private utility, or facility in the built or economic environment where the skills of a professional engineer are required, shall be signed, sealed, and dated by the professional engineer who prepared or approved the documents. ...
>
> **§14–403. Signing and Sealing Documents. (a)** ...the professional engineer who prepared or approved the document shall endorse on the document the professional engineer's: **(1)** original signature and date of signature; and **(2)** seal or a facsimile of the seal.
>
> **Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation**
> **09.23.03.09 Sealing Requirements. A.** A licensee may sign and seal plans, specifications, drawings, reports, or other documents that are required to be signed and sealed ... only if the following requirements are met: ...**(2)** The licensee either: **(a)** Personally prepared the documents, or **(b)** Approved the documents. ...

Also according to the *Maryland Professional Engineers Act (see* **Appendix C***)*, the sealing of work not performed or directly supervised by the professional engineer is cause for revoke of registration.

> **§14–317. Disciplinary Action – Grounds**
> **(a)(1)** ...the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or suspend or revoke a license if: ... **(vi)** the applicant or licensee violates any regulation adopted by the Board; or **(vii)** the applicant or licensee violates any provision of this title.

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.

From this perspective, 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 2000 and 2003 editions of the International Residential Codes did not clearly define a TPD. As such, some incorrectly inferred that they were part of the "Truss Design Drawings" which are defined as follows [R502.11.4 and R802.10.1]:

> **R502.11.4 Truss design drawings.** Truss design drawings, prepared in compliance with Section R502.11.1, shall be provided to the building official and approved prior to installation. ...
>
> **R802.10.1 Truss design drawings.** Truss design drawings, prepared in conformance with Section R802.10.1, 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 International Building Code *(see* **Appendix A***)*, which is the nationally recognized model building code the *Maryland Building Performance Standards* is based upon, has been revised to include the following regarding "Truss Placement Diagram":

> **2006 IBC 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 change will provide much greater clarity and better communication and appears in the 2006 Edition of the International Building Code. Identical language has been proposed and will be included in subsequent versions of the International Residential Code.

Conclusion

The Maryland professional engineering law and the *Maryland Building Performance Standards* 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, unless prepared under the direct supervision of a Registered Design Professional, TPDs do not require a professional engineer's seal.

Appendix A

2006 Residential Code for One-, Two- and Three Family Dwellings
Chapter 1 ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 102: APPLICABILITY
R102.4 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.

Exception: Where enforcement of a code provision would violate the conditions of the listing of the equipment or appliance, the conditions of the listing and manufacturer's instructions shall apply.

SECTION R106: CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS
R106.1 Submittal documents. Construction documents, special inspection and structural observation programs 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.

Exception: The building official is authorized to waive the submission of construction documents and other data not required to be prepared by a registered design professional if it is found that the nature of the work applied for is such that reviewing of construction documents is not necessary to obtain compliance with this code.

R106.1.1 Information on construction documents. Construction documents shall be 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.

Chapter 5 FLOORS
R502.11 Wood trusses.
R502.11.1 Design. Wood trusses shall be designed in accordance with approved engineering practice. **The design and manufacture of metal plate connected wood trusses shall comply with ANSI/TPI 1.** The truss design drawings shall be prepared by a registered professional where required by the statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed in accordance with Section R106.1.

R502.11.4 Truss design drawings. **Truss design drawings, prepared in compliance with Section R502.11.1, shall be provided to the building official and approved prior to installation.** Truss design drawing shall 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 all joints;**
3. **Required bearing widths;**
4. **Design loads as applicable;**
   - 4.1 **Top chord live load (including snow loads);**
   - 4.2 **Top chord dead load;**
   - 4.3 **Bottom chord live load;**
   - 4.4 **Bottom chord dead load;**
   - 4.5 **Concentrated loads and their points of application;**
   - 4.6 **Controlling wind and earthquake loads.**

5. Adjustments to lumber and joint connector design values for conditions of use;
6. Each reaction force and direction;
7. Joint connector type and description (e.g., size, thickness or gauge); and the dimensioned location of each joint connector except where symmetrically located relative to the joint interface;
8. Lumber size, species and grade for each member;
9. Connection requirements for:
    9.1 Truss-to-truss girder;
    9.2 Truss ply-to-ply;
    9.3 Field splices.
10. Calculated deflection ratio and/or maximum description for live and total load;
11. Maximum axial compression forces in the truss members to enable the building designer to design the size, connections and anchorage of the permanent continuous lateral bracing. Forces shall be shown on the truss drawing or on supplemental documents; and,
12. Required permanent truss member bracing location.

Chapter 8 ROOF-CEILING CONSTRUCTION

R802.10 Wood trusses.

R802.10.1 Truss design drawings. Truss design drawings, prepared in conformance with Section R802.10.1, shall be provided to the building official and approved prior to installation. Truss design drawings shall include, at a minimum, the information specified below. Truss design drawing shall be provided with the shipment of trusses delivered to the job site.

1. Slope or depth, span, and spacing;
2. Location of all joints;
3. Required bearing widths;
4. Design loads as applicable;
    4.1 Top chord live load (including snow loads);
    4.2 Top chord dead load;
    4.3 Bottom chord live load;
    4.4 Bottom chord dead load;
    4.5 Concentrated loads and their points of application;
    4.6 Controlling wind and earthquake loads.
5. Adjustments to lumber and joint connector design values for conditions of use;
6. Each reaction force and direction;
7. Joint connector type and description (e.g., size, thickness or gauge); and the dimensioned location of each joint connector except where symmetrically located relative to the joint interface;
8. Lumber size, species and grade for each member;
9. Connection requirements for:
    9.1 Truss-to-truss girder;
    9.2 Truss ply-to-ply;
    9.3 Field splices.
10. Calculated deflection ratio and/or maximum description for live and total load;
11. Maximum axial compression forces in the truss members to enable the building designer to design the size, connections and anchorage of the permanent continuous lateral bracing. Forces shall be shown on the truss drawing or on supplemental documents; and,
12. Required permanent truss member bracing location.

R802.10.2 Design. Wood trusses shall be designed in accordance with accepted engineering practice. The design and manufacture of metal plate connected wood trusses shall comply with ANSI/TPI 1. The truss design drawings shall be prepared by a registered professional where required by the statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed in accordance with Section R106.1.

TPI

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 Standard for Metal-plate-connected Wood Truss Construction	R502.11.1, R502.11.2, R802.10.2, R802.10.3, R802.11.1

Appendix B

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 C

Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing
Board for Professional Engineers
Title 14, Business Occupations and Professions, Annotated Code of Maryland
Maryland Professional Engineers Act

§14–102. Purpose of the Law
The purposes of this title are to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare by regulating persons who practice engineering in the State.

---

§14–103. Signing and Sealing Engineering Documents
(a) **All engineering documents prepared in connection with the alteration, construction, design, or repair of a building, structure, building engineering system and its components, machine, equipment, process, works, subsystem, project, public or private utility, or facility in the built or economic environment where the skills of a professional engineer are required, shall be signed, sealed, and dated by the professional engineer who prepared or approved the documents.**
(b) A professional engineer may perform design coordination for a project or portion of a project provided that the professional engineer:
(1) holds a current license issued by the Board; and
(2) has adequate experience in, and understanding of, achieving the purpose of the project or portion of the project being coordinated.

---

§14–317. Disciplinary Action – Grounds
(a)(1) Subject to the hearing provisions of §14-319 of this subtitle, **the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or suspend or revoke a license if:**
(i) the applicant or licensee fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license for the applicant or licensee or for another;
(ii) the applicant or licensee fraudulently or deceptively uses a license;
(iii) under the laws of the United States or of any state, the applicant or licensee is convicted of:
1. a felony; or
2. a misdemeanor that is directly related to the fitness and qualification of the applicant or licensee to practice engineering;
(iv) the applicant or licensee is guilty of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct while practicing engineering;
(v) the applicant or licensee has had a license to practice engineering in another state revoked or suspended by the other state for a cause that would justify revocation or suspension under this title, except for the failure to pay a license fee;
(vi) **the applicant or licensee violates any regulation adopted by the Board; or**
(vii) **the applicant or licensee violates any provision of this title.**
(2) (i) Instead of or in addition to reprimanding a licensee or suspending or revoking a license under this subsection, the Board may impose a penalty not exceeding $5,000 for each violation.
(ii) To determine the amount of the penalty imposed under this subsection, the Board shall consider:
1. the seriousness of the violation;
2. the harm caused by the violation;
3. the good faith of the licensee; and
4. any history of previous violations by the licensee.
(3) The Board shall pay any penalty collected under this subsection into the General Fund of the State.
(b) The Board shall consider the following facts in the granting, denial, renewal, suspension, or revocation of a license or the reprimand of a licensee when an applicant or licensee is convicted of a felony or misdemeanor described in subsection (a)(1)(iii) of this section:
(1) the nature of the crime;

(2) the relationship of the crime to the activities authorized by the license;
(3) with respect to a felony, the relevance of the conviction to the fitness and qualification of the applicant or licensee to practice engineering;
(4) the length of time since the conviction; and
(5) the behavior and activities of the applicant or licensee before and after the conviction.

---

§14–402. Use and Design of Seals
(a) Each professional engineer may obtain a seal for use as required under §14-403 of this subtitle.
(b) The seal shall:
(1) be of a design determined by the Board; and
(2) include:
(i) the legend "professional engineer"; and
(ii) the name and license number of the professional engineer who holds the seal.

---

§14–403. Signing and Sealing Documents
(a) Before a professional engineer issues to a client or submits to a public authority any plan, specification, or report, **the professional engineer who prepared or approved the document shall endorse on the document the professional engineer's:**
(1) original signature and date of signature; and
(2) seal or a facsimile of the seal.
(b) A public authority may not accept any engineering plan, specification, or report unless the document is endorsed as required under subsection (a) of this section.

---

§14–601. Referencing This Portion of Maryland Law
This title may be cited as the "Maryland Professional Engineers Act".

Appendix D

Title 09, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Subtitle 23: BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Chapter 01 Procedural Regulations

09.23.01.03. 03 Licensee's Seal.
A. A licensee who engages in the practice of engineering in Maryland shall obtain an impression seal or a rubber stamp facsimile.
B. A licensee's seal shall be a seal consisting of the pictorial device of the Great Seal of Maryland as a center, surrounded by the words "State of Maryland" and "Professional Engineer" and the licensee's name and license number.

Chapter 03 Code of Ethics

09.23.03.06 Compliance with Laws.
A. In the conduct of the licensee's engineering practice, the licensee may not knowingly violate any state or federal criminal laws.
B. A licensee shall comply with the licensing laws and regulations governing the licensee's professional practice in this or any other jurisdiction in which the licensee practices engineering.

09.23.03.09 Sealing Requirements.
A. A licensee may sign and seal plans, specifications, drawings, reports, or other documents that are required to be signed and sealed pursuant to the Business Occupations and Professions Article, §14-403, Annotated Code of Maryland, only if the following requirements are met:
(1) The licensee is competent in the subject matter of those documents by virtue of education or experience, or both; and
(2) The licensee either:
(a) Personally prepared the documents, or
(b) Approved the documents.
B. Definition. For purposes of §A(2)(b) of this regulation, the term "approved" means that the licensee satisfied the following criteria:
(1) Had technical knowledge and responsible control over the content of technical submissions during their preparation; and
(2) Performed substantive review and had authority to make revisions with regard to the preparation of submissions described in this regulation.
C. A licensee may complete, correct, revise, or add to the work performed by another licensee when engaged to do so by a client, if the following requirements are met:
(1) The client furnishes the documentation of the work submitted to the client by the first licensee;
(2) The first licensee, if still engaged in a business of providing engineering services, is notified in writing by the second licensee of the engagement referred to in this section immediately upon acceptance of the engagement; and
(3) The second licensee signs, seals, and is responsible for the completions, corrections, revisions, or additions that the second licensee made.
D. Nothing in §C of this regulation is intended to relieve the first licensee from any liability that the first licensee is deemed to assume for work performed by the first licensee pursuant to the requirements set forth in this regulation.

Wood Truss Council of the Capital Area

Prepared with assistance from Wood Truss Council of the Capital Area, a local chapter of WTCA.
View all WTCA Technical Notes at www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php