

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 98-0121

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:

November 24, 2004

Building Code Edition:

BC Building Code 1998

Subject:

Registered Professional

Keywords:

registered professional, architect,
professional engineer

Building Code Reference(s):

2.6.3.1., 4.1.1.2.(2), A-2.6.1.1.(1)(b), Guide
to Letters of Assurance

Question:

1. Does the B.C. Building Code distinguish between the role of an architect and a professional engineer when applying the letters of assurance Schedules B-1, B-2 and C-B as described in Article 2.6.3.1.?
2. Can an architect provide structural design services for Part 9 buildings?
3. Can a person other than a registered professional provide structural design services for Part 9 buildings?

Interpretation:

1. No

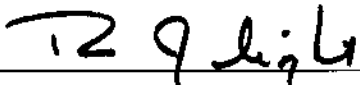
The B.C. Building Code does not venture into the jurisdictional division of responsibilities between architects and professional engineers. The Architects Act is the relevant legislation that defines the role of an architect, and the Engineers and Geoscientists Act is the relevant legislation that defines the role of a professional engineer.

Furthermore there is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the APEGBC and AIBC that clarifies the jurisdictional division of responsibilities between architects and professional engineers.

The general requirements of these Acts are that architects are required by law for the practice of "architecture" and professional engineers are required by law for the practice of "engineering".

The Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct of the AIBC Bylaw 30.3 states that "An architect shall undertake to perform professional services only when qualified, together with those whom the architect may engage as consultants, by education, training and experience in the specific areas involved".

The Code of Ethics of APEGBC states that a Professional Engineer can only "Undertake, and accept responsibility for, professional assignments only when qualified by training or experience".



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Sentence 4.1.1.2.(2) requires that the "designer" of structural components within the scope of Part 4 be a registered professional who is skilled in the work concerned.

Refer also to the article entitled "Appropriate Registered Professional" in the Guide to Letters of Assurance which is available on the Building Policy Branch website at <http://www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/building/guidelo1.html>

2. Yes, with provisions

The structural components of buildings that are within the scope of Part 9 and meet all of the prescriptive requirements for structural components within Part 9 can be designed by a person other than a registered professional.

Clause 2.6.1.1.(1)(b) requires a "registered professional" to design the structural components of Part 9 buildings when the design of such components are beyond the prescriptive requirements of Part 9.

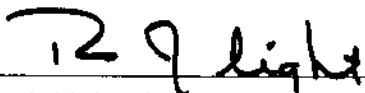
Clause 2.6.1.1.(1)(c) requires "registered professionals" to design all components of Part 9 buildings when such buildings contain firewalls with common egress systems.

Article 6 of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between APEGBC and AIBC permits an architect to provide structural engineering services which is deemed to be incidental and ancillary to the practice of architecture for the following types of buildings:

- a) buildings of business, mercantile, medium & low hazard industrial occupancies up to 2 storeys in building height and up to 600 sq.m. in gross floor area.
- b) buildings of residential occupancy up to 3 storeys in building height and up to 600 sq.m. in gross floor area.

Article 7 (b) of the MOA states that professional engineers are required to provide engineering services other than those that are necessarily incidental and ancillary to the architectural work.

If an architect chooses to undertake the structural design as described in Article 6 of the MOA, Bylaw 30.3 of the AIBC Code of Ethics requires that such an architect be qualified through education, training and experience for such an undertaking. The term "qualified" is not self determined when it comes to the practice of engineering that is within the bounds of the Engineers and Geoscientists Act. An architect must stay within their competency zone when practicing architecture, all within the bounds of the Architects Act and not in contravention of other statutes.



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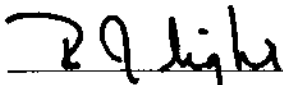
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A professional engineer with training or experience in structural engineering design is required for all structural components in all buildings that are outside of the prescriptive provisions of Part 9, and for all buildings that are outside the scope of Article 6 of the MOA.

3. Yes, with provisions

The structural components of buildings that are within the scope of Part 9 and meet all the prescriptive requirements for structural components within Part 9 can be designed by a person other than a registered professional.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair