



Oregon

**State Board of Examiners for
Engineering & Land Surveying**

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Memorandum

To: Oregon Building Officials and Interested Parties
From: Mari Lopez, OSBEELS Executive Secretary
Date: February 16, 2010
Re: Notice to Oregon Building Officials

The engineers' laws and rules under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 672.060(10) provide for a person who is not registered as a professional engineer to plan, design, and supervise the erection, enlargement, or alteration of a single family residence and for structures less than 4,000 square feet and not more than 20 feet in height. These structures are considered exempt. In the past, if the documents for an exempt structure were prepared by a professional engineer, the professional engineer was not required under ORS 672 to seal and sign those documents.

However, during the 75th Oregon Legislative Assembly, 2009 Regular Session, Senate Bill 143 eliminated this exemption for professional engineers. Therefore, effective January 1, 2010, if the documents for an exempt structure are prepared by a professional engineer, the engineers' laws and rules require the professional engineer to seal and sign those documents.

Prior to passage of Senate Bill 143, a professional engineer who performed inferior engineering work for a single family residence or exempt structure was not subject to discipline by OSBEELS. With the removal of the exemption under Senate Bill 143, the OSBEELS will be able to investigate and sanction professional engineers who are not in conformity with accepted engineering standards.

The OSBEELS are providing Oregon Building Officials with this notice in support of their continued efforts to ensure that only competent and qualified professional engineers are providing engineering services on exempt structures. To support this mission, please submit evidence of any professional engineer who is not in conformity with accepted engineering standards. This would allow the OSBEELS to investigate the engineering work as it relates to the welfare of the public in safeguarding life, health, and property.

Additionally, OSBEELS and the Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners (OBAAE) will be working cooperatively to revise the *Reference Manual for Building Officials: the Architect's Law & the Engineers' Law*.

Feel free to post this notice in a public place. For further information, please contact OSBEELS at 503.362.2666.