

BBS MEMO

What SEAL LAW ?

This memo is the third in a series of memos, following those issued by the BBS on August 30, 1995 and November 17, 1995. As stated in the November memo, a meeting was held to resolve language concerns of rule 4101:2-1-20.

After discussion, the following language was accepted by all parties, and will be refiled:

4101:2-1-20 Construction documents, required evidence of responsibility.

- (A) *Required construction documents, when submitted for inspection as required under rule 4101:2-1-17 of the Administrative Code, shall bear the identification of the person primarily responsible for their preparation and for the provisions for safety and sanitation shown therein.*
- (B) *Construction documents, when submitted for inspection as required under rule 4101:2-1-17 of the Administrative Code, shall bear the seal of a registered design professional pursuant to sections 3791.04, 4703.12, and 4733.14 of the Revised Code.*

Exception: the seal of a registered design professional is not required on construction documents for:

- (1) *Buildings or structures classified in use group R-4.*
- (2) *Energy conservation design for buildings or structures classified as one-, two-, or three-family dwellings; and*
- (3) *Automatic sprinkler system designs submitted under the signature of an individual certified in accordance with paragraph (d) of rule 4101:2-1-22 of the Administrative Code.*
- (4) *INSTALLATION OF REPLACEMENT DEVICES, EQUIPMENT OR SYSTEMS THAT ARE EQUIVALENT IN TYPE AND DESIGN TO THE REPLACED DEVICES, EQUIPMENT OR SYSTEMS.*
- (5) *ALTERATIONS OR REPAIRS TO ANY BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES SUBJECT TO SECTIONS 3781.06 TO 3781.18 AND 3791.04 OF THE REVISED CODE WHERE THE BUILDING OFFICIAL DETERMINES THAT THE PROPOSED WORK DOES NOT INVOLVE THE ANALYSIS OR DESIGN OF WORK AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH OR GENERAL SAFETY IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: MEANS OF EGRESS, STRUCTURAL, MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, OR FIRE PROTECTION.*

This language is intended to provide the building official with the ability to request construction documents for minor work items, when the seal of a registered design professional is not required for the work. The table on the following page, while not comprehensive, contains examples of work that require a seal and work that may not require a seal.

(continued)

SEAL LAW - TABLE OF EXAMPLES

	Examples of work that may not require a seal	Examples of work that would require a seal
Architectural	Minor addition of a pre-engineered, pre-fabricated storage shed, sun porch, etc. to a commercial building. New structures of this type would also be exempt.	New construction. Changing the means of egress in an existing building. Change of occupancy requiring analysis of OBBC provisions for the new use.
Structural	Installation of a new door or window in an exterior wall when the manufacturer provides standard drawings for proper installation.	Any alterations to a structure that would affect live or dead loads, wind, snow or seismic loads, etc. Freestanding signs more than 6 feet in height.
Mechanical	A rooftop unit replacement when the unit is similar to the one being replaced.	Installation of a rooftop unit where none existed. Alterations to ductwork that affects the system's capacity.
Plumbing	A replacement fixture similar to the fixture being replaced.	Installation of fixtures, piping that affect the capacity of the plumbing system.
Electrical	Replacement of a limited amount of electrical wiring in accordance with the NEC, when the electrical load is unchanged.	Installation of a new electric circuit on an existing panel board that increases the electrical load on the system.
Fire Protection	Installation of a pre-engineered UL listed fire suppression system when installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation drawings and specifications (this does not include individually designed systems that may contain UL listed components). A limited area sprinkler system with not more than one sprinkler head within a boiler, furnace or storage room when installed in accordance with the OBBC.	Installation of any sprinkler system requiring a pipe schedule design or hydraulic calculations.
Fire Alarms	Replacement of an existing fire alarm system with UL listed devices or wiring similar those in the existing system in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.	Installation of a new fire alarm system in an existing building.
Other	Painting, decorating, minor repairs exempted by Chapter 34 OBBC.	Replacement of a required means of egress stairway.

NOTE: These examples are not intended to limit the authority of the state boards of registration.

The seal law became effective on November 24, 1995. The BBS will set an effective date for this new language at its Thursday, December 14, 1995 conference meeting. The approximate date is expected to be February 1, 1995.