

Information Bulletin

Engineering Requirements for Housing¹

Permit applicants may be unaware of when their project requires involvement from a professional engineer. This bulletin clarifies when engineering is required and provides some of the requirements for engineered projects.

When is a professional engineer required for housing projects?

Where a particular structural element is not found in Part 9 of the Manitoba Building Code (Code), or the standards or limits of a particular structural element are exceeded, it is necessary to retain a Professional Engineer registered in the Province of Manitoba to undertake a structural analysis/design and provide the City with a sealed drawing that demonstrates compliance with the structural design requirements of the Code. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- wood foundations
- unconventional framing
- use of structural composite lumber
- reinforced concrete basement foundation walls and grade beams supported on piles
- soil stabilization/shoring design for demolition and/or new construction excavation

Professional Designer's Certificate for Housing

Housing permit applications with plans submitted for structural components or designs that are required to be under the seal of an engineer or architect will be required to include a sealed [Professional Designer's Certificate for Housing](#).

The Professional Designer's Certificate for Housing, like its commercial counterpart, serves as a letter of intent from the engineer or architect and an acknowledgment of their responsibilities under their respective professional licensing Acts² as well as an acknowledgement of City of Winnipeg (City) responsibility.

The Professional Designer's Certificate for Housing is required to be submitted for every housing project where sealed drawings are required. In some cases, the City may require the Professional Engineer to carry out inspection(s) and certify to the City that the construction has been carried out in accordance with the design drawings and requirements of the Code. For example, a letter of certification submitted upon completion of construction is required for projects with preserved wood foundations. It should also be noted that the requirements for limit states design still apply.

¹ "Housing," for the purposes of this bulletin, refers to single dwellings, duplexes and row housing.

² "The Engineering and Geoscientific Professions Act" and "The Architects Act."

Issued by:

Housing Plan Examination

Development and Inspections Division

4th Floor, 65 Garry St, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4K4

September 13, 2023

PPD-HPX@winnipeg.ca

winnipeg.ca/ppd/InfoCentre/InformationBulletins.stm