



CITY OF MEDFORD



June 9, 2011

To All Contractors Designing Fire Protection Systems:

In conformance with Oregon law and OSSC 107, the City of Medford is requiring all fire protection systems for non-exempt structures to be designed and stamped/sealed by a registered professional. This means the fire protection plans must bear the appropriate stamp when submitted for non-exempt structures. The requirements are effective July 1, 2011. Modifications to existing systems will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The following information is provided from the Reference Manual for Building Officials (2010):

Non-Exempt Buildings

Except for single family dwellings and farm/agriculture buildings, all buildings exceeding the exempt size limitation—ground area of over 4,000 square feet, or height limit of over 20 feet in height—are considered non-exempt buildings. The services of a registered professional are required if either limitation is exceeded.

The following questions and answers are excerpts from the 2010 Oregon Reference Manual for Building Officials:

25. Can drawings of sprinkler systems be sealed by National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET)-certified people?

Sprinkler systems relate to life safety issues and therefore the construction drawings for sprinkler systems must be designed and sealed by an engineer or architect qualified by experience and knowledge in this area of work.

27. Does a fire protection system for a non-exempt structure need to be designed and stamped/sealed by a registered professional?

Yes, fire protection designs must bear the stamp or seal and be signed by the registered design professional who prepared the documents. However, OAR 918-261-0015 exempts certain electricians from this requirement when designing the electrical portion of these systems.

16. What are the requirements for architects and engineers to stamp construction documents?

Architects and engineers may only stamp the plans and specifications within their area of competence and prepared under their direct supervision. If, during the building official's review, it appears that the design professional may be working outside their area of competence in any portion of the documents, the building official is encouraged to report it to both the OBAE and the OSBEELS.

35. Is a professional engineering license required for the design of mechanical, sprinkler, and plumbing systems? Can an architect do this work too?

The design of mechanical, sprinkler, and plumbing systems is considered engineering. However, an architect may provide these services if they are qualified by experience and knowledge in this area of work.

39. What is the difference between design documents and shop drawings for fire protection system designs?

The design documents must show the basic elements of the system, identify applicable codes used in the design, and ensure conformance with those codes and stamped/sealed by a registered professional. Shop drawings can be produced by technicians, designers, or contractors. However, shop drawings must be reviewed and approved by the design professional in responsible charge prior to submittal to a jurisdiction. This process is described in OSSC 106.1.1.1 "Fire Protection system shop drawings." For further information on the process, please visit the OSBEELS Web site. There you will find a document entitled *The Engineer and the Engineering Technician Designing Fire Protection Systems* produced by a joint committee of the Society of Fire Protection on Engineers (SFPE), the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) dated July 28, 2008. This document is located on the right side of OSBEELS homepage titled, "Resources."


For more information, see the following resources:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OSBEELS/docs/Reference Manual for Building Officials 2010.pdf>

<http://www.oregon.gov/OSBEELS/docs/Resources/DesigningFireProtectionSystems.pdf>



Chris Reising, P.E., S.E.
Building Safety Director
City of Medford
Building Safety Department
200 S. Ivy St. Room 277
Medford, OR 97504-3100
541-774-2350



Greg Kleinberg
Fire Marshal
Medford Fire-Rescue
200 S. Ivy Room 180
Medford, OR 97504-3100
541-774-2317