

# FLORIDA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

An Official FBPE Publication for the Dissemination of Information of Importance to the Professional Engineers Licensed to Practice in Florida

## THE CHAIR'S POINT OF VIEW

### Re-enacting A Bill by Any Other Name ...

John W. Springstead, P.E., P.L.S., Chair, Florida Board of Professional Engineers

To paraphrase the popular Jeopardy game show in which the answer was "Bills that passed the 2000 session of the legislature that will substantially impact the practice of the engineering profession", would be answered

- "a bill to re-enact the Florida Engineers Management Corporation
- a bill setting requirements for mandatory continuing education for PEs;
- a bill moving the Threshold Building Inspector's program to the FBPE;
- a bill to create a Professional Engineer, retired status;
- a bill to now require PEs to seal bid documents;
- a bill to define 'layout' for fire protection systems;"

Yes, all of those answers would be correct as this legislature was very busy and productive on issues involving professional engineers.

The Florida Engineers Management Corporation (FEMC) was re-enacted following an exhaustive "sunset" review by a legislative watch dog agency and will continue to provide administrative services to the Board as it has done during the past two years. Although there was some "tweaking" of the law establishing FEMC the changes should not affect the ability of the company to provide services to the Board.

At the behest of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation the legislature also adopted legislation to mandate a requirement that engineers demonstrate continuing professional competency as a requirement of renewal of licensure. The Board supported a study of the effectiveness of mandatory continuing education; however, the legislature adopted a requirement that every licensee complete eight professional development hours for each two year licensure period and that four of the eight hours must be on the engineer law and rules of the Board. The

remaining four hours must be in the licensee's area of practice and in accordance with the NCEES guidelines. Read strictly, the requirement is effective immediately; however, the Board has not had the opportunity to develop the necessary rules and does not look to implementing this new requirement until the 2002 renewal period.

As part of the creation of the new Florida Building Code bill, the legislature transferred the Threshold Building Inspection Program to the Board of Professional Engineers (for PE inspectors) and to the Board of Architecture and Interior Design (for architect inspectors). This makes a lot of sense as the discipline process resides with the regulatory board and not the Florida Building Commission. In addition to the transfer to the Board the new law requires that the FBPE establish qualifications for the designated representative of the Threshold Building Inspector. The new law became effective July 1st and the FBPE has initiated a new "Responsibility Rule for Professional Engineers Providing Threshold Building Inspection Services," which is printed in full in this newsletter. It is important to note that all existing certified Threshold Building Inspectors will continue to be certified and the new PE license and identification card issued in the upcoming renewal period will indicate the certification of Threshold Building Inspector.

The legislature also adopted a recommendation of the Board to create a new licensure status called "Professional Engineer, Retired". This status is for the licensee who is fully retired and no longer practices engineering. It will allow a registrant to select that licensure status and be reflected in the FBPE registrant

database as "Professional Engineer, Retired". Although the Board has not had the opportunity to adopt rules to implement this new status it will be in effect for those renewing licensure this November. It is anticipated there will be no fee for this status.

The legislature also adopted changes to the engineer sealing / signature requirements and the fire protection statutes that, hopefully, will settle a long standing issue regarding the signing and sealing of fire sprinkler plans. The change to the engineer law will require engineers to sign, seal, and date "all final bid documents provided to the owner or the owner's representative". Although this change was made in response to complaints

raised by fire sprinkler contractors who allege they are routinely forced to submit bids based on incomplete plans, this requirement will apply to all bid documents. The second piece of fire sprinkler puzzle solution was an amendment to Chapter 633, F.S., in which the term "layout" is defined as the layout of risers, cross mains, branch lines, sprinkler heads, sizing of pipe, hanger locations, and hydraulic calculations in accordance with the design concept established through the provisions of s. 553.79(6)(c), F.S.". The Board will be developing amendments to the seal rule to accommodate the change to Chapter 471, F.S., as well as to clarify previous amendments regarding the printing of names, license numbers and addresses. The rule changes under consideration are printed in this newsletter as well.

As you can see the Board will be very busy during the next few months keeping up with the various changes to the engineer law. I urge registrants to monitor the Board's web site, [www.fbpe.org](http://www.fbpe.org), to stay abreast of the numerous rule changes in progress.



# FBPE ACTIONS IN REVIEW

At the June 20- 21, 2000 meeting the Florida Board of Professional Engineers took action on the following issues:

▶ Received a report from DBPR regarding the Department's proposed contract with FEMC for 2000-2001.

▶ Received a presentation from FES President Juan Guerra, P.E.

▶ Received recommendations from the Board Operations Committee.

▶ Appointed Al Coby to Chair the Ad Hoc Committee on Implementation of Mandatory Continuing Education with fellow Board members Mel Anderson, Ph.D., P.E., Robert Matthews, P.E., Gerry Miller, Ph.D., P.E., and Henn Rebane, P.E.

▶ Directed FEMC staff to implement a program in support of the recruitment of engineer interns.

▶ Directed Counsel Bayó to review the Board's existing rules and to explore the possibility of allowing applicants who otherwise meet the Board's licensure requirements to count certain types of construction experience in the four-year experience requirement.

▶ Received a report that at its May 16, 2000 meeting, the Probable Cause Panel reviewed 26 cases and found probable cause in nine cases, dismissed 13 cases with no probable cause, dismissed three cases with a letter of guidance, and dismissed one case without further prosecution.

▶ Directed Board members to review the proposed DBPR contract and to submit comments to Dennis Barton.

▶ Voted to repeal Rule 61G15-18.001, F.A.C., which defines "a registered engineer whose principal practice is civil or structural engineering".

▶ Received recommendations regarding the amendment of Rule 61G15-35, F.A.C., "Responsibility Rules of Professional Engineers Offering Threshold Building Inspection Services".

▶ Noted that Rule 61G15-22, F.A.C., addressing "continuing education requirements for reactivation of inactive license" is now in effect.

▶ Noted that Rule 61G15-24.001, F.A.C., addressing "Schedule of Fees Adopted by the Board" is now in effect.

▶ Added the July 17, 2000 meeting of the Legislative and Rules Committee to the Board's schedule.

▶ Agreed to appoint a consultant to review all applications for Threshold Building Inspectors.

▶ Presented an honorary gavel to Melvin Anderson, Ph.D., P.E. in appreciation for his service to the FBPE as Chair in the previous year.

▶ Received draft language for the contract between the FBPE and NCEES for the purchase of examinations.

▶ Referred one case to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for unlicensed activity.

▶ Received a report that the Board is working with FES on the issue of professional engineering versus professional geology.

▶ Received a report from the prosecuting attorney about unlicensed activity occurring in the South Florida area and directed her to draft an article for the next newsletter warning engineers of possible disciplinary action.

▶ Received a presentation from James O. Power, P.E., consultant to the Board, regarding ambiguities in the sealing rule and regarding engineers sealing only the wind analysis of an engineering plan and not accepting responsibility as engineer of record.

▶ Received a presentation from William Bracken, P.E. regarding the prevalence of unlicensed activity, plan stamping, and fraudulent misrepresentation in the state.

▶ Upheld the denial of four applications for the engineer intern examination.

▶ Denied one request for a waiver from Rule 61G15-19.001(3), F.A.C. based on the potential for public misconception.

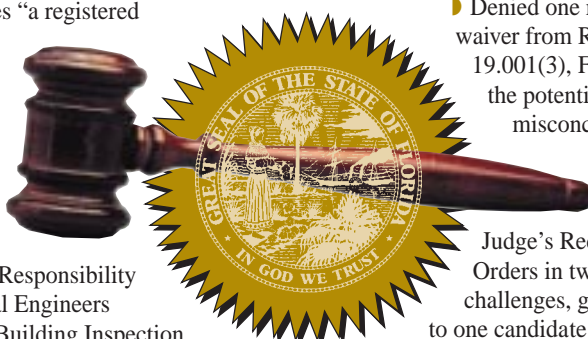
▶ Confirmed the Administrative Law

Judge's Recommended Orders in two examination challenges, granting licensure to one candidate and denying licensure to a second.

▶ Approved two settlement stipulations in disciplinary cases.

▶ Conducted three informal hearings on disciplinary cases.

▶ Appointed David Whitston, P.E. to a four-year term on the FEMC Board, appointed Eugene Bechamps, P.E. and William Palm, P.E. to three-year terms, and appointed Robert Dlouhy, P.E. and Charles Langbein, P.E. to two-year terms.



## Members of the Board of Professional Engineers

**John W. Springstead, P.E., P.L.S., Chair**  
(Civil)  
3/27/97 - 10/31/01

**R. Gerry Miller, Ph.D., P.E., Vice Chair**  
(Mechanical)  
11/1/97 - 10/31/01

**Melvin W. Anderson, Ph.D., P.E.**  
(Educator)  
1/9/96 - 10/31/01

**Murthy V. Bondada, Ph.D., P.E.**  
(Civil)  
11/29/99 - 10/31/03

**Alvin G. Coby**  
(Public)  
2/10/92 - 10/31/99

**Silvia Vilato Lacasa, P.E.**  
(Electrical)  
11/29/99 - 10/31/02

**Robert Matthews, P.E.**  
(Civil)  
11/29/99 - 10/31/02

**Henn Rebane, P.E.**  
(Electrical)  
11/29/99 - 10/31/03

**Gloria M. Velazquez, Esquire**  
(Public)  
11/29/99 - 10/31/02

## Board of Directors Florida Engineers Management Corporation

**Eugene Bechamps, P.E., Chairman**  
**Charles E. Langbein, P.E., Vice Chairman**  
**Jill Collins**  
**Michael Shorstein, Esquire**  
**David A. Whitston, P.E.**

## Officers of Florida Engineers Management Corporation and Staff to the Board of Professional Engineers

Natalie Lowe  
*Acting FEMC President and BPE Prosecutor*

Carrie Flynn  
*BPE Assistant Director of Board Operations*

Phyllis Burkhart  
*FEMC Secretary/Treasurer and BPE Comptroller*

Jerry Ongley  
*BPE Investigator*

Teresa Baker  
*BPE Legal Assistant*

Gloria "Lyn" Barrington  
*BPE Application Technician*

**Jeannie Carlton**  
*Licensure Technician*

**Lisa Barton**  
*Licensure Technician*

**Laura Kennon**  
*Licensure Technician*

Angie Tiller  
*Receptionist/Administrative Assistant*

Mayola Bryant  
*Accounting Assistant*

Spring Sauve  
*Administrative Assistant*

## Board Office Location

1208 Hays Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
850-521-0500 Telephone  
850-521-0521 Fax  
E-Mail address: Board@FBPE.org  
Web page: www.FBPE.org

# DISCIPLINARY ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

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## John R. Bosserman, P.E.

PE 32740

FEMC Case Number 99-00107

The licensee was charged with one count of negligence. He entered into a Stipulation with FEMC for a Reprimand, a \$750.00 administrative fine, two years of probation during which he will submit two lists of projects for peer review, completion of a Board-approved course in Professionalism and Ethics within six months, and completion of the Board's Study Guide.

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## Darrell D. March, P.E.

PE 18054

FEMC Case Number 99-00158

The licensee was charged with one count of negligence. He entered into a Stipulation with FEMC for a \$1,000 fine, a Reprimand, a one-year probation during which he will submit a list of projects for peer review, completion of the Board's Study Guide and completion of a course in Professionalism and Ethics.

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## Robert F. Semmens, P.E.

PE 53604

FEMC Case Number 99-00116

Probable Cause Panel: Coby, Rebane, Springstead

The licensee was charged with one count of having a license to practice engineering disciplined by the licensing authority of another state. He has entered into a Stipulation with FEMC for a Reprimand on his license. Prior to practicing in Florida, he will notify the Board and will provide the Board with a copy of his peer review from Arizona. He will also submit a list of projects for peer review within one year of beginning to practice in Florida.

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## Charles Seifert, P.E.

PE 29090

FEMC Case Numbers 98-A0093, 00-0033

Mr. Seifert was charged with one count of negligence for deficiencies in a set of fire protection plans. A second investigation in case number 00-0033 was pending. The licensee petitioned the Board to accept the relinquishment of his license to practice engineering in Florida. That petition was accepted.

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## Irving E. Abcug, P.E.

PE 28376

As Threshold Inspector, the licensee was charged with negligence for failure to file inspection reports with the appropriate government entity. It was alleged the reports were submitted to the Contractor instead of to the City. The licensee entered into a Settlement Stipulation with FEMC for a \$500.00 administrative fine.

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## Tirlochan S. Chehal, P.E.

PE 40748

The licensee was charged with negligence for deficiencies in a set of structural engineering plans and calculations. He entered into a Settlement Stipulation with FEMC for a Reprimand, a \$2,000 fine, and a two-year probation with completion of the Board's Study Guide, completion of a course in Professionalism and Ethics within one year, and submission of project lists with two projects being reviewed per year.

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## Jose A. Martinez, P.E.

PE 31509

The licensee was Charged with violating a Final Order of the Board issued in a previous disciplinary case. After presenting his case to the Board in an informal hearing, the licensee was Reprimanded and assessed \$200.00 in administrative costs.

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## AlphaGeo Consulting Engineers

EB 3409

This engineering business was charged with violating a Final Order issued by the Board in a previous disciplinary case. After conducting an informal hearing, the Board suspended the business's Certificate of Authorization until they fulfill the terms of the previous Final Order.

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## Posko Associates, Inc.

EB 4272

This engineering business was charged with having a license to practice engineering disciplined by the licensing authority of another state. This engineering business was charged in another state with offering engineering services without proper licensure. It was also charged with failure to have a licensed engineer as a principal officer in that Thomas C. Posko's engineering license in Florida is currently null and void. After conducting an informal hearing, the Board revoked the business's Certificate of Authorization.

# News to Know

## New Faces, New Places

Effective July 1, 2000 **Dennis Barton** will no longer be working with the Florida Engineers Management Corporation. He leaves the corporation following two years of devoted efforts to provide excellent service to registrants in the profession as well as the general public. Mr. Barton was instrumental in establishing such things as quarterly newsletters, an online directory of engineers and firms, and good old-fashioned friendly assistance over the telephone! **Natalie Lowe** is currently serving as the Interim President of the Florida Engineers Management Corporation and Acting Director of Board Operations. The FEMC/FBPE and staff wish Mr. Barton every success in his future endeavors.

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation has named **Allison Deison, Esquire** as the Executive Director/Contractor Administrator for the Florida Board of Professional Engineers.

The FEMC/FBPE is looking forward to continuing to provide outstanding service to the licensees and the general public for the year 2000.

## Meetings in August

The next meeting of the FBPE is **August 24th-25th at The Breakers Hotel** in Palm Beach, Florida. Hearings involving denials of applications and discipline will be held on the morning of August 24th and general business of the Board will be conducted that afternoon and continued on the morning of the 25th. All meetings are open to the public and registrants are encouraged to attend.

## Some FBPE Renewals to Get Discount

**On November 1st, the FBPE will invoice all registrants for renewal of licenses for 2001-2003.** The good news is that for this biennium registrants will enjoy a Governor-Jeb-Bush-recommended one-year fee holiday so **the renewal fee will be only \$62.50** (as opposed to \$125.00). Even more good news is that, for the first time, registrants will be able to renew their licenses and **pay all fees online by Mastercard or VISA.**

## Stay Up-to-Date at fbpe.org

Speaking of online, please check out our website at **www.fbpe.org** to ensure we have your current address. It's also a good place to check out new rules, existing law and rules, recent complaints against registrants and recent actions of the Board.

## For Businesses Offering Engineering Services

If you are the registered principal officer in a firm offering engineering services to the public, and you leave that firm, please notify the Florida Board of Professional Engineers so that the firm's Certificate of Authorization file can be updated.



# Responsibility Rule of Professional Engineers Providing Threshold Building Inspection

DRAFT 61G15-35, F.A.C.

## 61G15-35.001 General Responsibility

Professional Engineers offering Threshold Building Inspection services pursuant to section 553.79 F.S. shall provide inspection in accordance with the structural inspection plan provided by the engineer or architect of record to insure compliance with permitted documents. In addition to inspections in accordance with structural inspection plan, the engineer will inspect the shoring and reshoring for conformance with shoring and reshoring plans submitted to the enforcing agency.

## 61G15-35.002 Definitions

(1) A special inspector of threshold buildings means a registered professional engineer who meets the qualifications and standards established by the Board.

(2) A qualified representative means a person who is authorized by a special inspector to perform inspections on behalf of the special inspector.

(3) A structural inspection plan means a plan filed for public record by the engineer of record to provide specific inspection procedures and schedules.

(4) A threshold building means a structure that meets the criteria set forth in section 553.71(7), F.S.

## 61G15-35.003 Qualification Program for Special Inspectors of Threshold Buildings.

(1) The minimum qualifying criteria for Special Inspectors of Threshold Buildings, also referred to as Threshold Inspectors, established by the Board shall be as follows:

(a) Proof of current registration in good standing as a registered professional engineer whose principal practice is structural engineering in the State of Florida.

(b) Three years of experience in performing structural field inspections on threshold type buildings.

(c) Two years of experience in the structural design of threshold type buildings. For the purpose of these criteria, structural design shall mean the design of all structural components of the building and shall not be limited to specific structural components only, such as foundations, prestressed or post-tensioned concrete, etc.

(d) Experience in the structural inspection and/or design of at least three threshold type buildings. This experience must be within the ten calendar years preceding submission of the application.

(e) Self-certification as to the competency of the applicant to perform structural inspections on threshold buildings.

(2) All registered professional engineers who are certified Special Inspectors and on the Roster of Special Inspectors maintained by the Department of Community Affairs, pursuant to rule 9B-3.043, F.A.C. as of June 30, 2000 shall be

qualified pursuant to this rule and shall continue to be certified Special Inspectors of threshold buildings.

(3) Applications.

(a) The Application for Special Inspector, Form FBPE/TBI/2000-01, is hereby incorporated by reference into this rule. Form FBPE/TBI/2000-01 shall take effect on the date this rule takes effect. Copies of Form FBPE/TBI/2000-01 may be obtained from the Board by writing to the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, c/o Florida Engineers Management Corporation, 1208 Hays Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301, or by downloading it from [www.fbpe.org](http://www.fbpe.org).

(b) All applications for certification as a Special Inspector shall be submitted to the Board on Form FBPE/TBI/2000-01 by mailing to the address above.

(c) Applications shall contain the following basic information pertaining to the applicant:

1. Name;
2. Address;
3. Phone number;
4. Florida registration number;
5. Educational and experience dates and sufficient description of each to clearly demonstrate that the minimum qualification criteria has been met;

6. Name and address of current employer;

7. Letters of recommendation from three registered professional engineers whose principal practice is structural engineering in the State of Florida, one of whom must be certified as a Special Inspector;

8. The signature, date and seal by the applicant attesting to the competency of the applicant to perform structural inspections on

threshold buildings; and

9. Completed form FBPE/TBI/2000-01.

(d) Upon a determination that the application contains all of the information requested by these rules, review of the application shall be scheduled for consideration by the Board. Such applications may be approved, rejected or deferred for further information by the Board. If the Board defers an application for additional information, it shall notify the applicant of the information needed. Applicants shall be notified in writing of the Board's actions as soon as practicable and, in the case of rejected applications, set forth the reasons for such rejection.

(4) Temporary Certification. Professional engineers who have been granted temporary registration in Florida pursuant to the provisions of Section 471.021, F.S., may also be granted temporary certification as a Special Inspector provided the criteria set forth in these rules have been met. Such temporary certification shall be limited to work on one specific project in this state for a period not to exceed one year.

(5) Roster of Special Inspectors. The Board shall maintain a roster of all persons certified as Special Inspectors pursuant to the criteria established in these rules and the law. The roster shall be made available to interested parties upon request. The roster shall be updated on a continuing basis and additions or deletions to the latest published roster may be verified by contacting the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, c/o Florida Engineers Management Corporation, 1208 Hays Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please note the language of the rule published herein is not in effect but just the latest draft of the rule which the Board is considering. Please see our website at [www.fbpe.org](http://www.fbpe.org) for the most recent version of the rule.



## 61G15-35.004

### Common Requirements to all Engineers providing Threshold Building Inspection Services:

(1) Notice to be Filed for Public Record: For each Threshold Building, a notice shall be filed for public record, bearing seal, signature, date, and address of the Special Inspector, certifying that the Special Inspector is competent to provide engineering services for the specific type of structure.

(2) Special inspectors utilizing qualified representatives shall insure the qualified representative is qualified to perform the duties assigned by the special inspector. Such qualifications shall include but not be limited to; licensure as a professional engineer; licensure as an architect or graduation from an architectural education program; graduation from an engineering education program in civil or structural engineering; successful completion of the NCEES Fundamental Examination; registration as building inspector or general contractor.

(3) Special inspectors shall insure adequate performance of the work of the qualified representative by providing supervision of the qualified representative through such means that include but not limited to reviewing reports and field reviews.

(4) Special inspectors shall institute quality assurance procedures to include but not be limited to such procedures requiring unscheduled visits, utilization of relevant check lists, use of appropriate inspection reports and insuring that special inspector or qualified representative is at the project when key concrete placements are made. Upon request, the special inspector shall provide a copy of the quality assurance procedures.

*Specific Authority 471.015(7), Fla. Stat. Law Implemented 471.015(7), Fla. Stat.*

*— TBI Draft Rule 7.10.00*

# Top 10 Reasons

to Have [www.FBPE.org](http://www.FBPE.org) as an Internet “Favorite”



- 10** It's quick to click on and will impress the boss if he slips up on you while you're surfing the net;
- 9** It will impress the jury when your computer files are subpoenaed during a negligence trial;
- 8** It's fun to look up competitors to see if they have let their license lapse;
- 7** The list of "Recent Complaints" is helpful when looking for new associates;
- 6** You can read the actual law or rule and not depend on the recollection of your cubicle mate;
- 5** You can download Board forms and not wait for snail mail;
- 4** It's fun (and easy) to look for typos;
- 3** It's faster than typing "Florida Board of Professional Engineers";
- 2** It contains the names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of Board members should you have an issue you wish to discuss;
- 1** It's the fastest, most efficient way to find important information relative to the licensure of engineers.

*So be sure and add [www.fbpe.org](http://www.fbpe.org) to your list of favorite Internet sites!*



# The Art of The Seal

DRAFT 61G15-35, F.A.C.

**61G15-23.002  
Seal, Signature and Date  
Shall Be Affixed.**

(1) A professional engineer shall sign his name and affix his seal to all plans, specifications, reports, a single set of final bid documents provided to an owner or his representative or other documents prepared or issued by said registrant and being filed for public record. The date that the signature and seal is affixed as provided herein shall be entered on said plans, specifications, reports, or other documents immediately under the signature of the professional engineer. In addition to signing, sealing and dating each page of the plans, the engineer in responsible charge must legibly indicate in a title block their name, address and license number on each plan sheet. If practicing through an engineering business that has a Certificate of Authorization issued by the Board a title block containing the name, address, and Certificate of Authorization

number will satisfy the requirement of the engineers address title block. Any registered professional engineer who is employed by a government entity and sealing, signing and dating plans in the course of that employment may use the address of the government entity.

(2) Each sheet of plans and prints which must be sealed under the provisions of Chapter 471 shall be sealed, signed and dated by the professional engineer in responsible charge. Engineers shall legibly indicate their name, address, and number on each sheet. If practicing through a duly authorized engineering business, the name, address, and engineering business number shall be legibly indicated on each sheet. A title block on each sheet containing the printed name, address, and number of the engineer or engineering business will satisfy this requirement. A cover or index sheet for engineering specifications may be used and that sheet must be signed, sealed and dated by those professional engineers in responsible charge of the production and preparation of

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

*Please note the language of the rule published herein is not in effect but just the latest draft of the rule which the Board is considering. Please see our website at [www.fbpe.org](http://www.fbpe.org) for the most recent version of the rule.*

## A Few Words Regarding the Use of the Engineer's Seal...

It has come to the Board's attention that in South Florida, in projects where engineering calculations are required by the building officials and the building code in order to obtain a permit, licensed engineers are providing vendors with signed and sealed generic charts which are then filled in by another person, usually an unlicensed person.

This unlicensed person, who is usually a salesperson employed by the vendor, makes decisions and performs calculations required to determine engineering parameters that are site specific for the particular installation for which the vendor is trying to obtain a permit. The salesperson then marks or highlights the chart, which has been previously signed and sealed by the engineer, much like providing a blank check, with the result of the site specific engineering parameters.

To a third party reviewing the document, the impression conveyed is that the engineer who signed and sealed the chart was also the individual who exercised engineering judgment, reached a decision, and marked or highlighted the chart.

This is happening in the hurricane shutter industry, garage doors, sliding glass doors, windows, and product approvals. Unlicensed personnel are making engineering decisions by entering information into and obtaining information from the tables and graphs presented in drawings that are sealed by the engineer.

The drawings are then used in lieu of the engineer doing whatever is necessary to perform the calculations himself or herself. Broward, Palm Beach, Dade, and Monroe Counties see this practice on a daily basis. This activity could subject the licensed engineer who sealed the unmarked chart to disciplinary action by the Board.

# Rule Reminder

Natalie Lowe, Esquire,  
Prosecuting Attorney

**P**rofessional Engineers and Building Officials are reminded that FBPE Rule 61G15-19.001(4), F.A.C., requires that professional engineers sign, date, and seal only those documents that conform to acceptable engineering standards and safeguard the life, health, property and welfare of the public. While the Board is sympathetic to the pressure placed on design professionals to start the permit review process as early as possible, pressure from a client is not justification for submittal of signed, dated and sealed plans or documents that are incomplete.

Please be further reminded that Board Rule 61G15-30.004, F.A.C., allows for engineers to submit preliminary plans; however, these plans must clearly indicate they are not in final form and are being submitted for the purpose of receiving agency review, comments, or interpretations. Although not specifically prohibited in 30.004, it is the position of the Board that such preliminary plans not be signed, dated or sealed.

each section of the engineering specification or other engineering document with sufficient information on the cover sheet or index so that the user will be aware of each portion of the specifications for which each professional engineer is responsible. Engineering reports must be signed, sealed and dated on a signature page or cover letter by each professional engineer who is in responsible

charge of any portion of the report. A professional engineer may only seal an engineering report, plan, print or specification if that professional engineer was in responsible charge of the preparation and production of the engineering document and the professional engineer has the expertise in the engineering discipline used in producing the engineering document in question.

(3) A professional engineer should not seal original documents made of mylar, linen, sepia or other materials which can be changed by the entity with whom such document(s) are filed unless the professional engineer accompanies such document(s) with a signed and sealed letter making the receiver aware that copies of the original document as designed by the professional engineer have been retained by

the professional engineer and that the professional engineer will not be responsible for any subsequent changes to the reproducible original documents.

(4) Engineers who wish to sign and seal electronically transmitted plans, specifications, reports, or other documents shall follow the procedures set forth in Rule 61G15-23.003, F.A.C.

— July 10, 2000

