



STATE OF NEBRASKA BOARD OF
ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS

Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects

MARCH 26, 2025

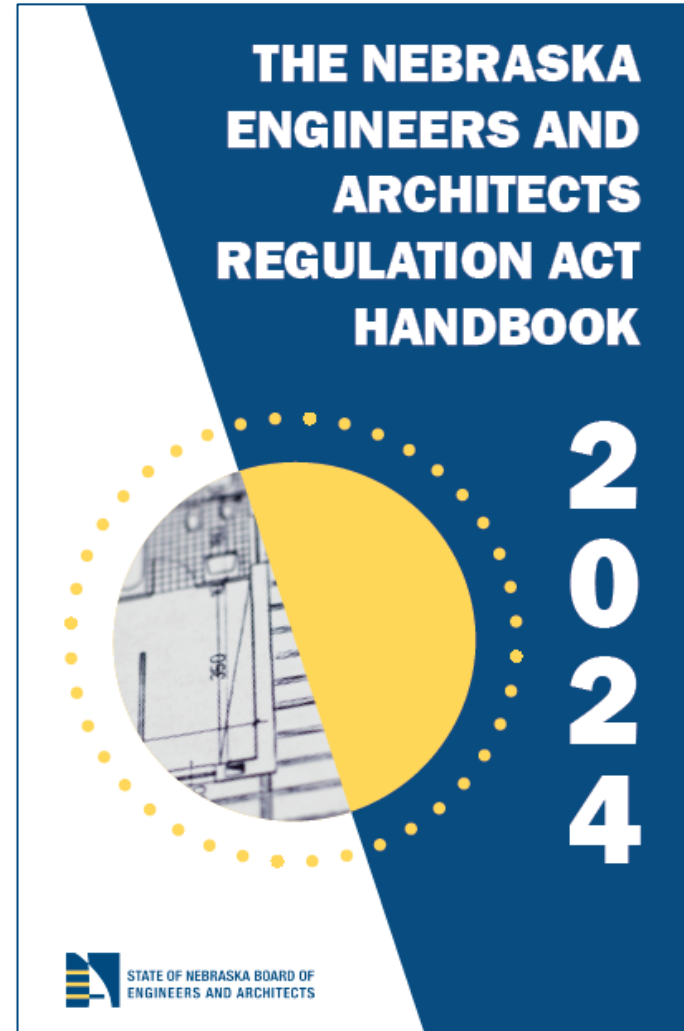
PRESENTED BY ALLYSON BENNETT

Who We Are

The Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects has served the citizens of Nebraska since 1937 by overseeing the laws and rules governing the practice of engineering and architecture in the state in order to safeguard life, health, property and promote the public welfare.

The Nebraska Engineers and Architects Regulation Act

The Nebraska Engineers and Architects Regulation Act contains the statutes and regulations that must be adhered to by the public and licensees.



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Professional Engineer



Brian Kelly, Vice Chair,
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Professional Engineer



Jan Bostelman, P.E.,
Professional Engineer



James Brisnehan,
Architect



Brett Foley, Ph.D.,
Public Member



Lenora Nelson,
Architect



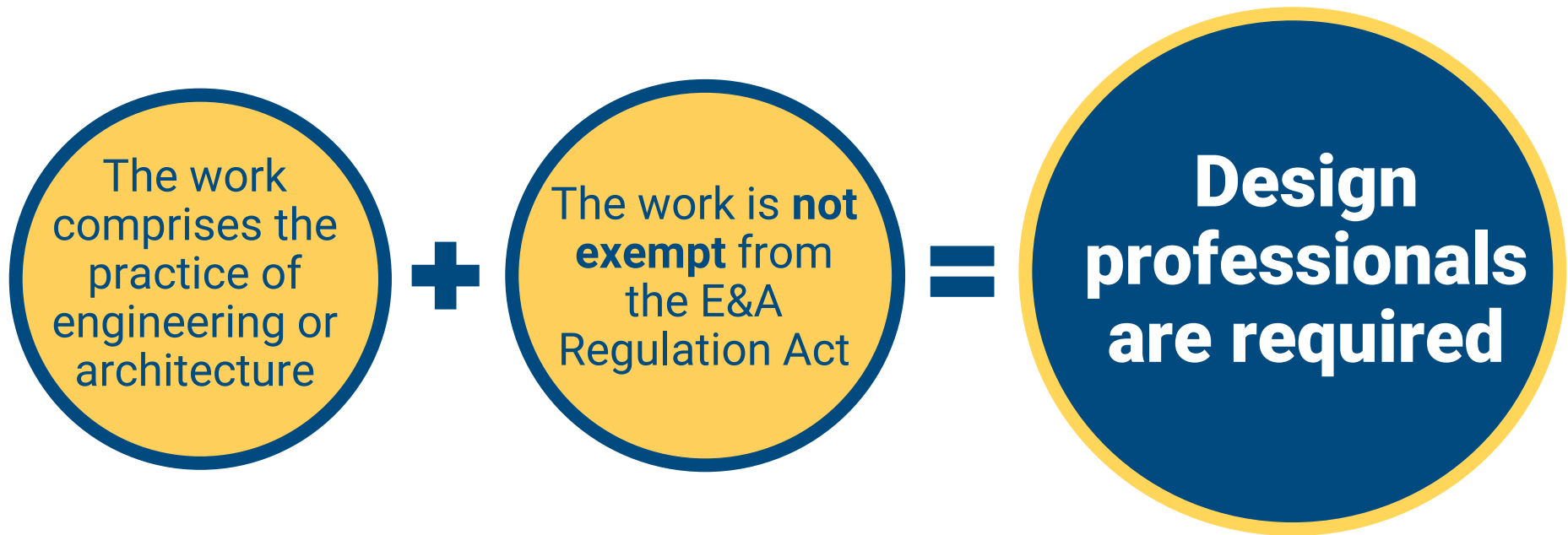
Dan Thiele, P.E.,
Professional Engineer

Two Primary Missions

1. Ensuring that architects and professional engineers are qualified to practice
2. Enforcing the Act, particularly those provisions that require architects and/or professional engineers to be involved in a project.

**When are architects or
professional engineers
required on a project?**

When is a Design Professional required on a project?



Practice of Architecture

Providing or offering to provide design services in connection with the construction, enlargement, or alteration of a building or group of buildings and the space within and surrounding the buildings.
(*Neb. Rev. Stat. §§81-3420(1)*)

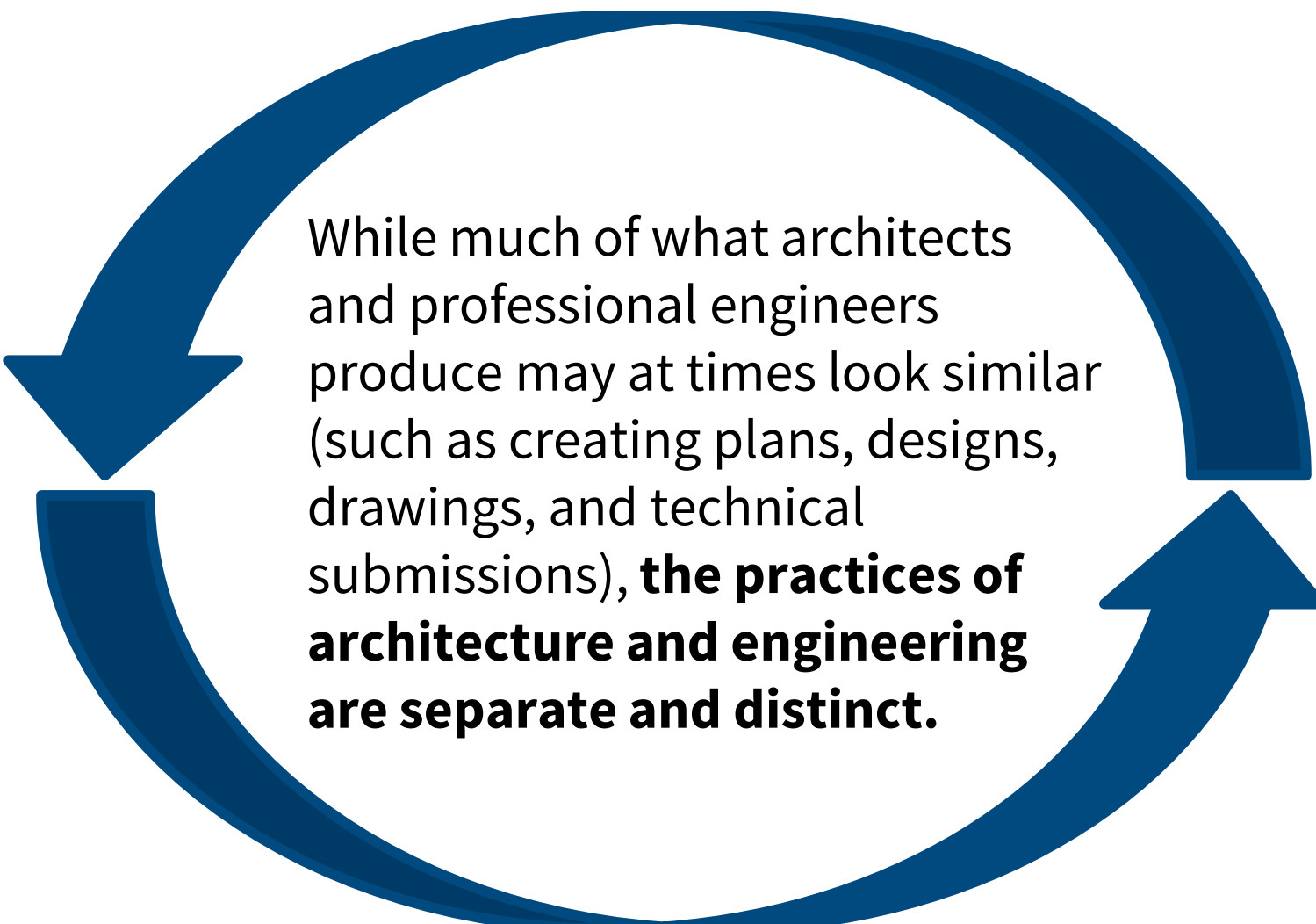


Practice of Engineering

Any service or creative work that requires engineering education, training, and experience in the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical, and engineering sciences. (*Neb. Rev. Stat. §§81-3421(1)*)

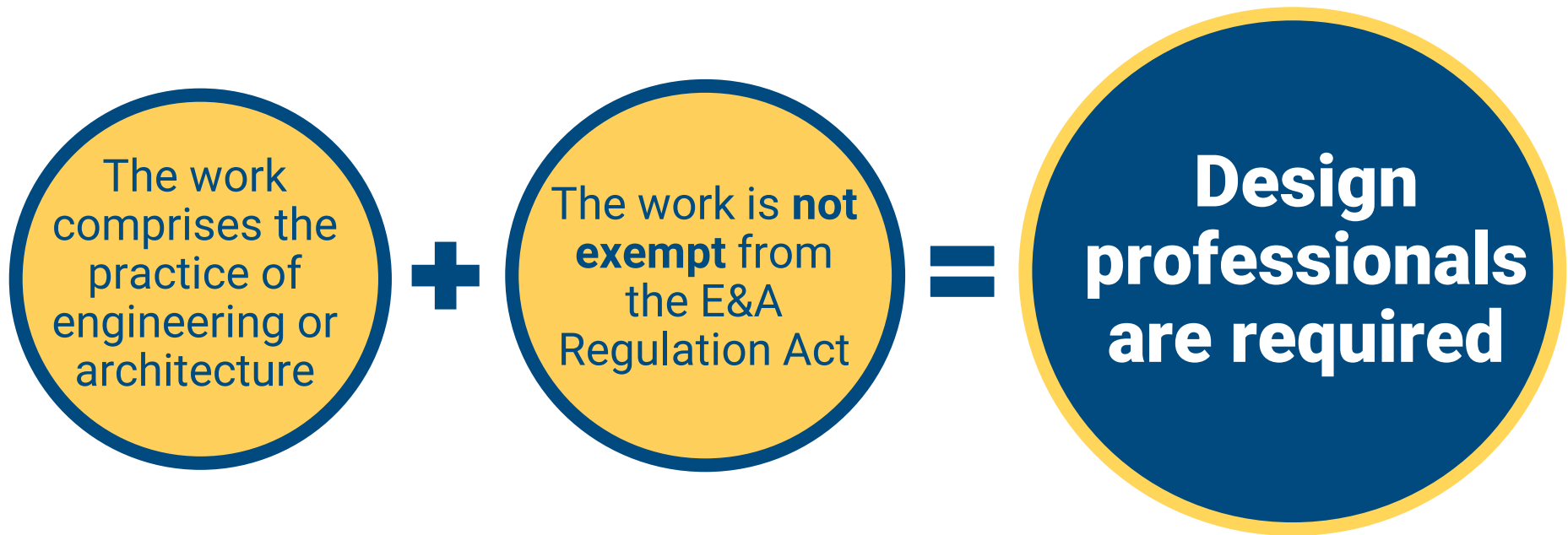


Are architects and engineers interchangeable?



While much of what architects and professional engineers produce may at times look similar (such as creating plans, designs, drawings, and technical submissions), **the practices of architecture and engineering are separate and distinct.**

When is a Design Professional required on a project?



Exemptions and Occupancy Classification

Occupancy Classification

- Occupancy Classification categorizes structures based on their primary usage, such as a home's main purpose is residential, or a hospital's main purpose is healthcare.
- Knowing a project's Occupancy Classification is a vital first step toward determining if an architect or professional engineer is required.

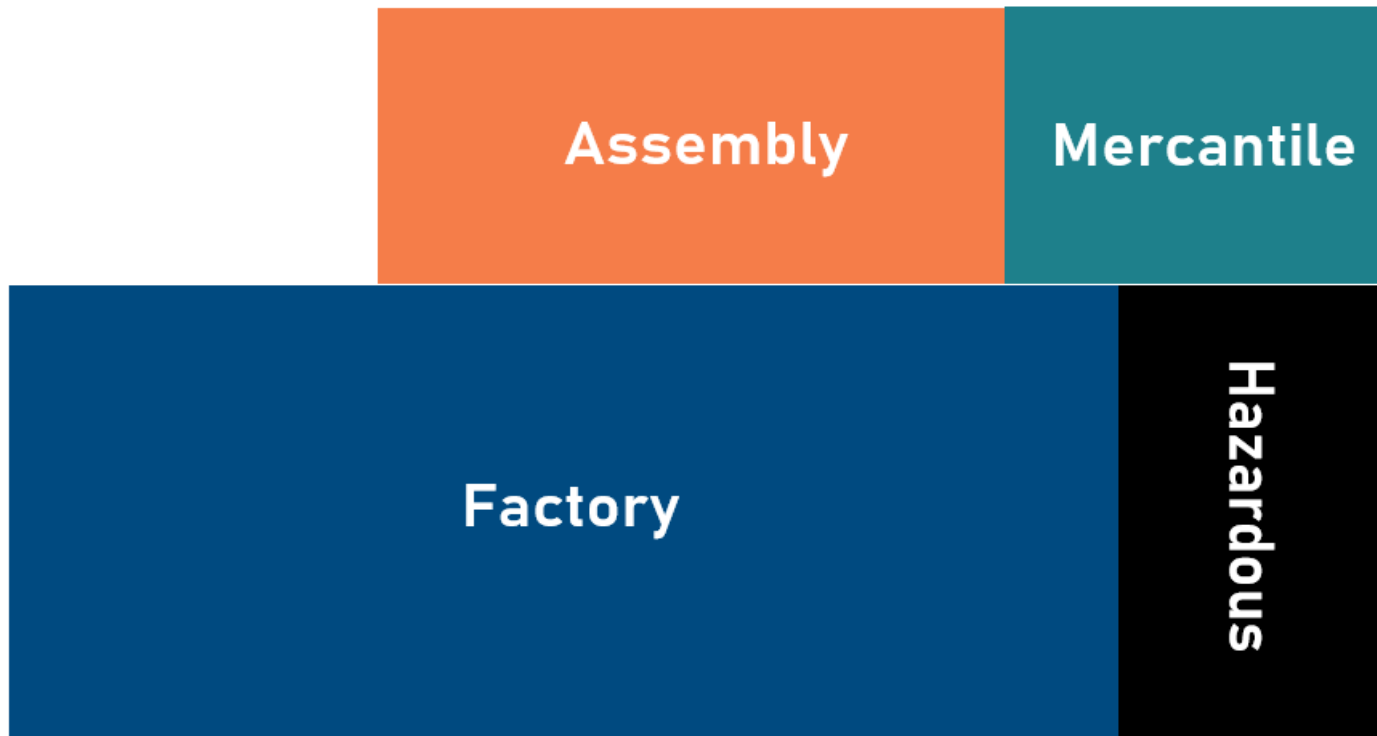
Exemptions – Occupancy Classification

Occupancy Classification	Maximum Building Area (square feet)
Assembly (A)	Less than 1,000
Business (B)	Less than 3,000
Educational (E)	Less than 1,000
Factory (F)	Less than 5,000
Hazardous (H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4)	Less than 2,000
Hazardous (H-5)	Less than 4,000
Institutional, Personal Care (I-1)	Less than 3,000
Institutional, Healthcare (I-2)	Less than 5,000
Institutional, Detention (I-3)	Less than 3,000
Institutional, Day Care	Less than 2,000
Mercantile (M)	Less than 3,000
Residential (R-1, R-2, R-4)	Less than 4,000
Residential (R-3 single family through four-plex)	Less than 10,000
Storage (S)	Less than 5,000
Utility (U)	Less than 5,000

Multiple Occupancies

Board Rule 10.3.11

- Any structure which contains two or more occupancies is governed by the most restrictive occupancy for the purpose of utilizing Rule 10.3.

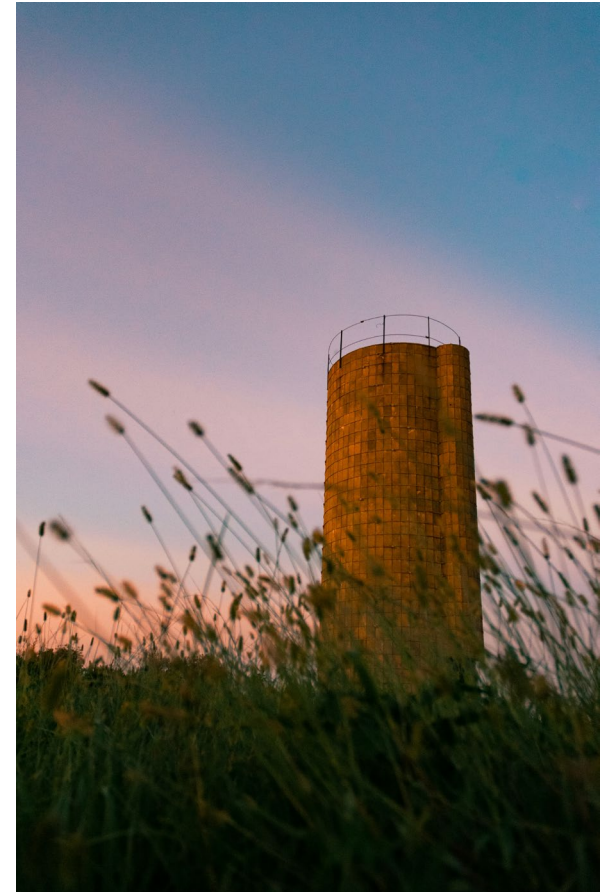


OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION		MAXIMUM BUILDING AREA
10.3.1	A - Assembly	Less than 1,000 square feet
10.3.2	B - Business	Less than 3,000 square feet
10.3.3	E - Educational	Less than 1,000 square feet
10.3.4	F - Factory.....	Less than 5,000 square feet
10.3.5	H - Hazardous	
	H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4	Less than 2,000 square feet
	H-5	Less than 4,000 square feet
10.3.6	I - Institutional	
	I-1 Personal care.....	Less than 3,000 square feet
	I-2 Healthcare	Less than 5,000 square feet
	I-3 Detention	Less than 3,000 square feet
	I-4 Day care	Less than 2,000 square feet
10.3.7	M - Mercantile	Less than 3,000 square feet
10.3.8	R - Residential	
	R-1, R-2, R-4.....	Less than 4,000 square feet
	R-3 single family through four-plex.....	Less than 10,000 square feet
10.3.9	S - Storage	Less than 5,000 square feet
10.3.10	U - Utility	Less than 5,000 square feet

Exemption – Farm Buildings

Neb. Rev. Stat. §§81-3449(3), 81-3453(3)

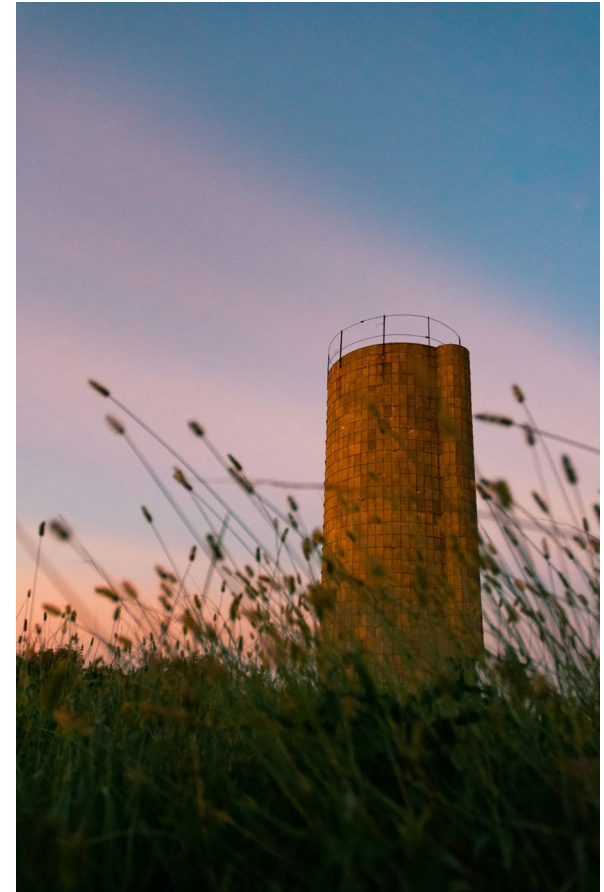
- The provisions of the E&A Act regulating the practice of engineering and architecture do not apply to the construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of farm buildings



Exemption – Farm Buildings

Board Rule 10.2.5

- Farm buildings shall be defined as an agricultural building is defined in the state building code:
*“A structure designed and constructed to house farm implements, hay, grain, poultry, livestock or other horticultural products. **This structure shall not be a place of human habitation or a place of employment where agricultural products are processed, treated or packaged, nor shall it be a place used by the public.**”*



Exemption – Trades

Neb. Rev. Stat. §§81-3449(11), 81-3453(8)

- The practice by a qualified member of another legally recognized profession who is otherwise licensed or certified by this state or any political subdivision to perform services consistent with the laws of this state, the training, and the code of ethics of such profession, if such qualified member does not represent himself or herself to be practicing architecture/engineering and does not represent himself or herself to be an architect/professional engineer.

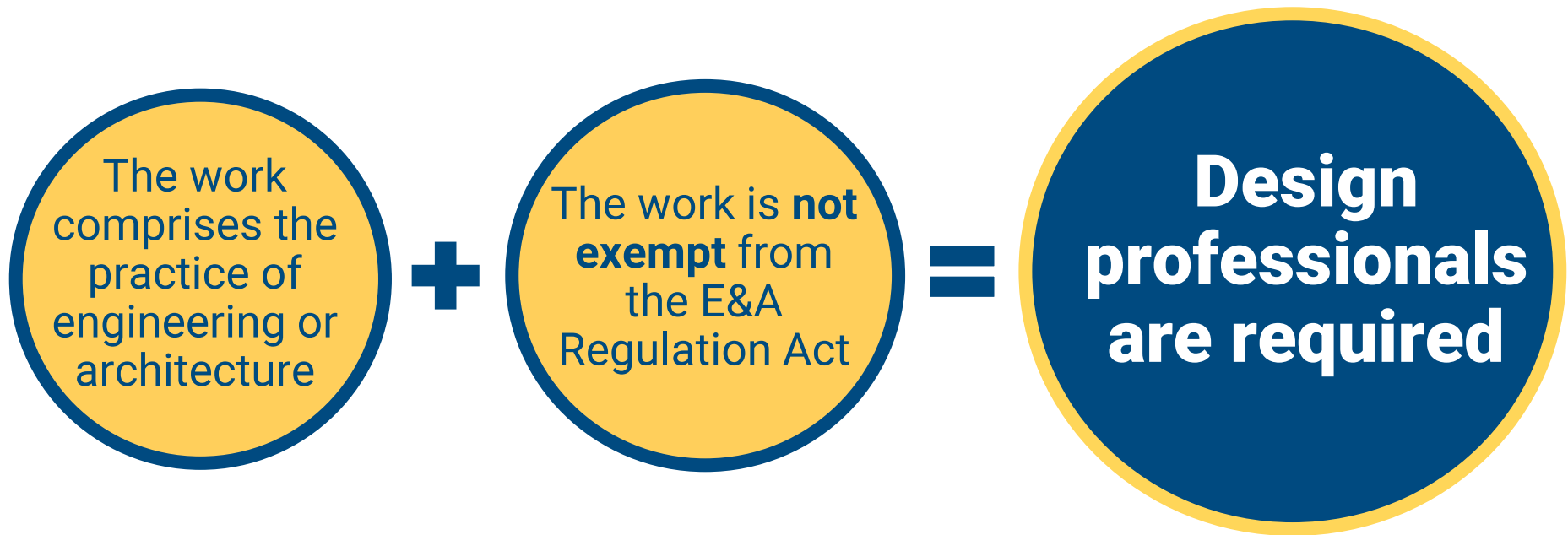


Board Rule 10.6

- Notwithstanding these exemptions, responsible building officials may require plans and specifications to be designed and prepared by a licensee.
- Local jurisdictions can be stricter than the E&A Act.



When is a Design Professional required on a project?



Renovations and Additions

Renovations and Additions

Renovations and one-level additions to an existing building, structure, or work are exempt from the E&A Act if:

1. Total impacted area is less than the occupancy classification; **and**
2. The area of renovation or addition does not adversely impact the mechanical system; the electrical system; the structural integrity; the means of egress; and does not change or come into conflict with the occupancy classification of the existing or adjacent tenant space, building, structure or work.



Example - Renovation

- 5,000 square foot business occupancy
- Owner wants to renovate half of the building, adding two offices and one restroom.
- Is the renovation over the occupancy square footage maximum?
 - Exemption level for Business occupancy is 3,000 square feet.
- Are the mechanical, electrical, or structural systems adversely impacted? Is the egress changing?
 - Exterior doors and windows are staying the same
 - Structural beam within the 2,500 square feet that supports the entire 5,000 square foot building is being moved.

Existing Space
2,500 sq. ft.

Renovation Space
2,500 sq. ft.

Example - Addition

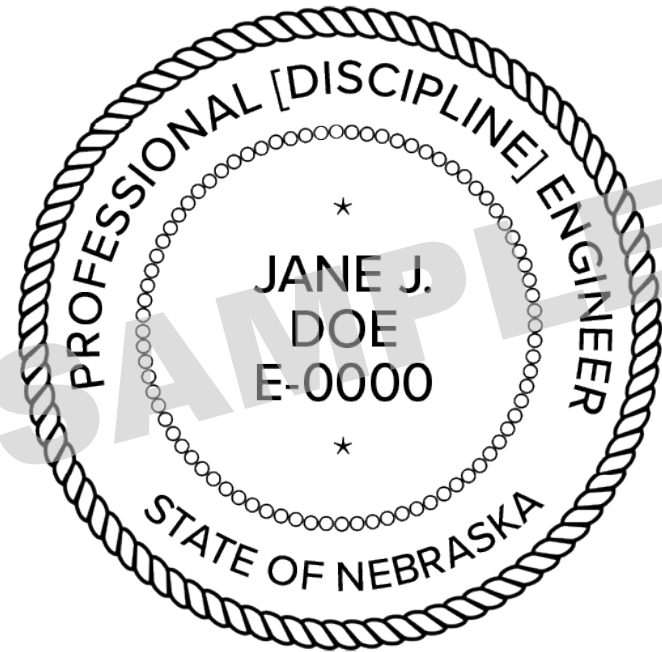
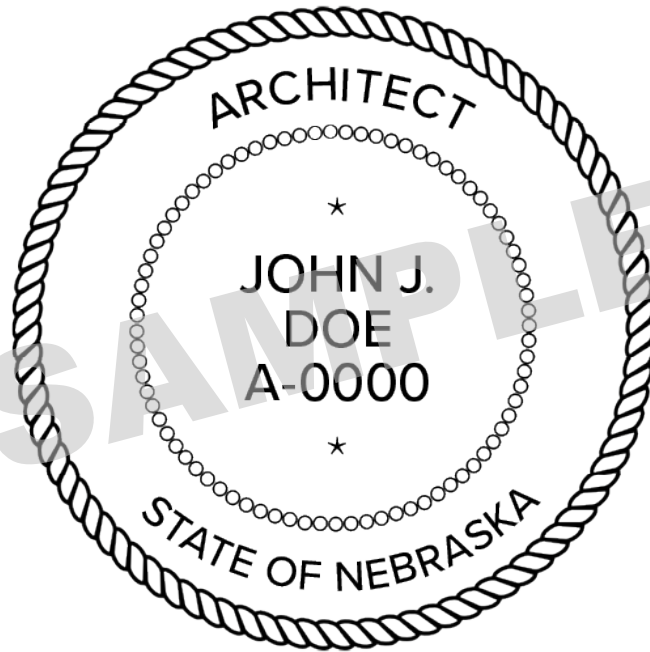
- Is the renovation over the occupancy square footage maximum?
 - Maximum square footage for business occupancy is less than 3,000 square feet.
- Are the mechanical, electrical, or structural systems adversely impacted?
Is the egress changing?
 - This is being built with its own structural supports in mind, has separate mechanical and electrical, and no changes to egress.



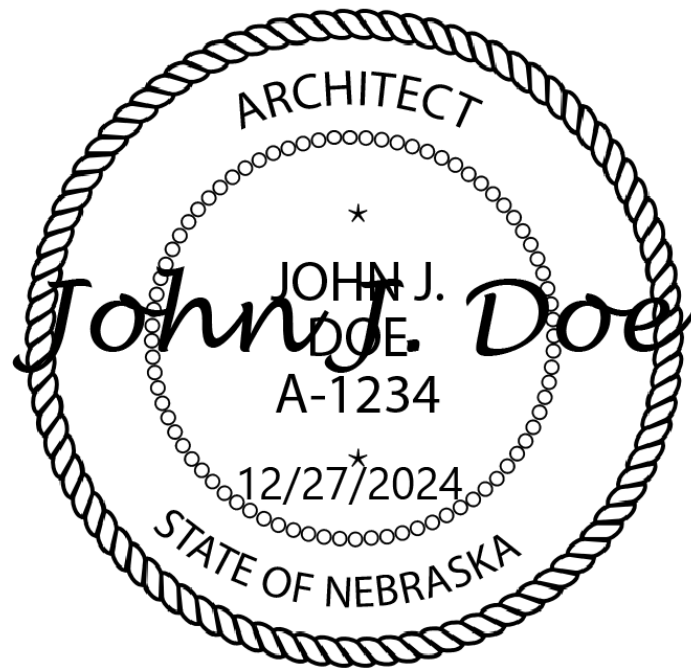
Design Professional Seals

Design Professional Seals

- Must be legible, with signature and date across the seal

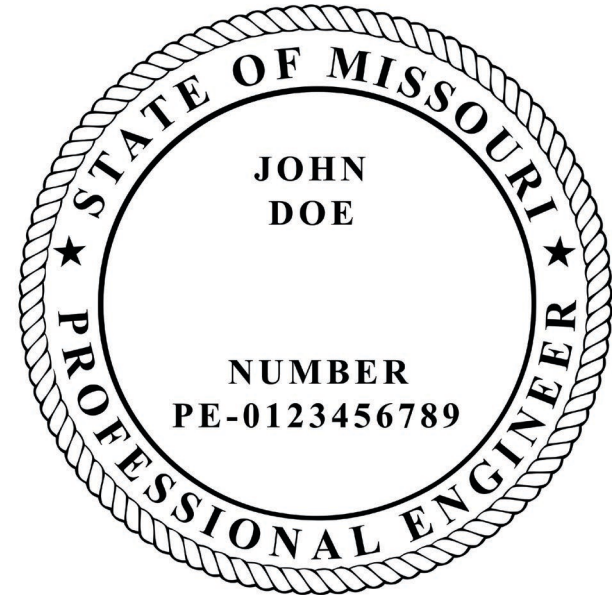


Design Professional Seals



Seals – Temporary Permits

- Allows out-of-state design professionals to work on **one project (not to exceed two years)** in Nebraska
- Must obtain a Nebraska license if the project lasts longer than two years
- Permit holders use their out-of-state seal
- Must also provide permit information below the seal wherever the seal appears



Name: John Doe
Permit Number: T-2019
Expiration Date: October 26, 2019
Project Name: 123 Office Park
Project Location: 123 Colorado Ave, Minden, NE

Seals – Coordinating Professional

- Required for projects with more than one design professional involved.
- Must be a licensed professional engineer, architect, or landscape architect.
- Must use the following language in conjunction with their individual seal for identification as the Coordinating Professional:

“I, (name of licensee), am the Coordinating Professional on the (name of project) project.”

- Signifies the main point of contact for code officials or other professionals.
- Seal, signature, and language must be on the cover sheet of all technical documents.



I, Jane Doe, am the Coordinating Professional on the *(name of project)* project.

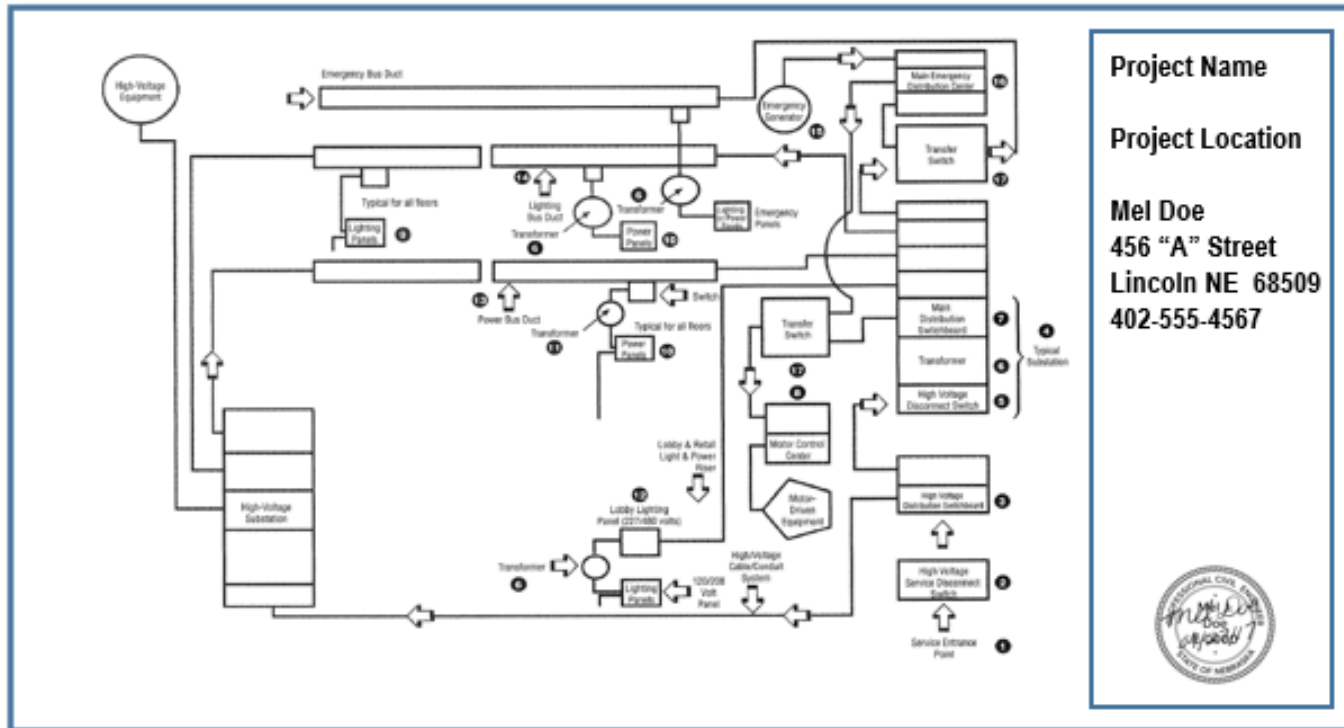
Seals – Professional Engineers

- Nebraska is one of few states that license engineers in specific disciplines
- However, they can practice in any area of engineering in which they have
 - Training,
 - Education, and
 - Expertise
- Commons overlaps are civil/structural, civil/environmental and architectural/mechanical/electrical



When should plans be sealed?

- When presented to a client, the public or governmental agency, including when submitting for a permit
- On all originals, copies, tracings, or reproducible drawings
- First and last page of specifications, reports, and studies



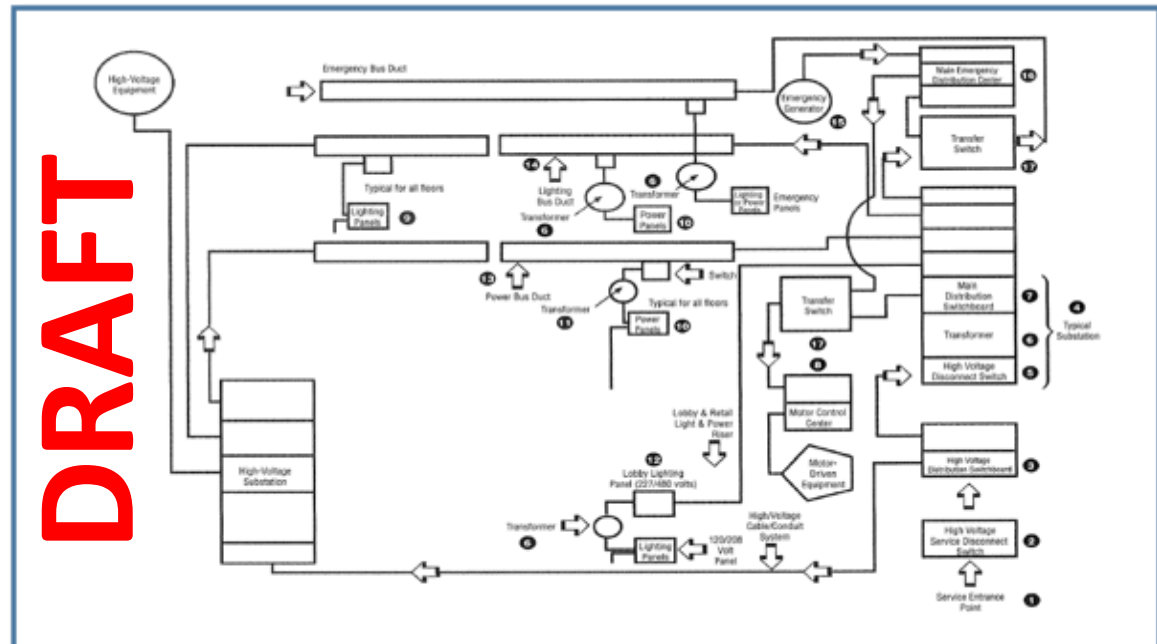
Sealing Specifications Involving Several Licensees

The Board recently added Policy 24.03 regarding sealing specifications involving several licensees. The Policy states:

“When sealing large specifications involving the work of multiple licensees where it may be cumbersome to coordinate sealing the first and last page of each specification section, the licensee may affix their seal on separate sheets placed at both the front and back of the specifications, listing each section that the licensee prepared in accordance with the E&A Act.”

Plans marked “Draft”

Per Board Rule 6.1.7, documents clearly marked “Draft” prepared for preliminary submission and review do not require the professional’s seal, signature, and date, including documents prepared for a client or governmental agency, unless otherwise required by that entity.



Enforcement

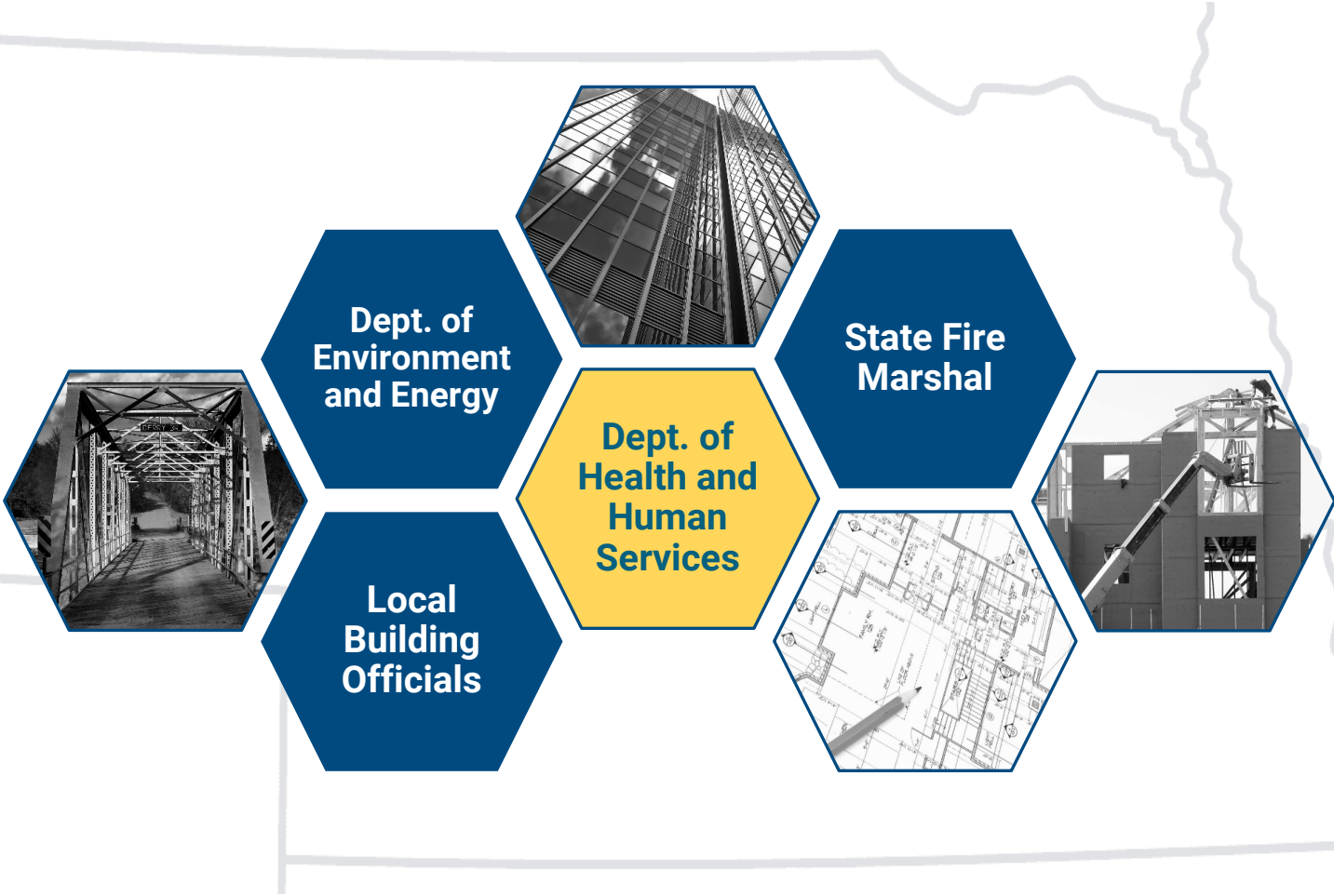
Complaints

Anyone can file a complaint with the Board about projects built or renovated in Nebraska if there is suspected a violation of the E&A Act and/or Board rules.

The Board has received complaints from:

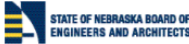
- Members of the public
- Professionals in the building industry
- Other state agencies
- Professional societies
- Organizations

Board Partner Agencies



Complaints

- Complaints can be filed with the Board by completing a Complaint Form
- Information is not public.
- Detail the alleged violation, who was involved, and the project address (if applicable).
- Include as much information as possible, including contracts and technical documents if available.

 Mail to: PO Box 95165
Phone: 402-471-2021 Lincoln, NE 68509
Fax: 402-471-0787 Delivery: 215 Centennial Mall S, Suite 400
Lincoln, NE 68508

Questions? Contact us at nbea.office@nebraska.gov or ea.nebraska.gov

COMPLAINT FORM

1. RESPONDENT (The person against whom the complaint is being made):

Name _____ License Number (if known) _____
Company _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
Email _____ Other Information _____

2. COMPLAINANT (The person making the complaint):

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
Email _____ Best time to contact you _____

3. Project Address (if applicable):

Street _____
City _____ Parcel No. (if known) _____

4. Do you have design plans prepared by the Respondent? Yes No

5. Did you and the Respondent sign a written contract or letter or agreement? Yes No

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Enforcement Process

- Reach out to complainant
- Reach out to owner/contactor
- Gather more information about the project
- Visit the site
- Present information to the Board
- Initiate a case and remediation
- Close the complaint

Remediation

- The remediation process involves the project owner engaging an architect and/or professional engineer to review the project and identify concerns to public safety, health, and welfare.
- If deficiencies are identified, the remediation professional must recommend design solutions to remedy the issue(s).
- The project owner **MUST** remove the deficiencies identified by the remediation professional.
- Once the project has been remediated, the remediation professional will complete a final letter to the Board stating so.
- If no deficiencies are found, the remediation professional will inform the Board, and the complaint is typically closed.

Failure to Comply and Penalties

- Issuance of censure or reprimand
- Suspension of judgment
- Placement of the offender on probation
- Civil penalties not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each offense
- Cease and desist order
- Imposition of costs as in an ordinary civil action in the district court

Cost of Non-Compliance

- Following the E&A Act can help you:
 - Protect your property
 - Protect persons on your property, and
 - Prevent damage or liability from improperly constructed buildings.
- When the E&A Act is not followed:
 - Property owners and developers may be liable if a structure was built in violation of the Act and
 - May be subject to fines and civil penalties authorized by state statute.

Proposed Rules Changes

Proposed Rules Changes

- Proposed definition of public works (Rule 1.1.17)
 - “Structures such as roads or dams built by the government for public use and paid for by public funds.”
 - Taken from Black’s Law Dictionary

Proposed Rules Changes

- Comity Licensure for Model Law Engineers and Model Law Structural Engineers (Rule 4.1.2.4)
 - Comity applicants who meet or exceed the criteria of a MLE or MLSE as designated by NCEES, but who hold only a degree accredited by the Engineering Technology Accrediting Commission of ABET, do not qualify for licensure in Nebraska.

Proposed Rules Changes

- Non-United States Jurisdictional Comity (Rule 4.1.5)
 - An applicant for licensure on the basis of a) current listing on the International Professional Engineers Register **and** b) current licensure in any foreign country that is an Authorized Member of either the International Professional Engineer's Agreement or the APEC Engineer Agreement, as developed and published by the International Engineering Alliance, may be licensed after the applicant:
 - Files an application with required fee;
 - Submits an NCEES Record;
 - Submits three references from professional engineers indicating good reputation and ethical character. In the event three professional engineers are not available to make such references, the applicant shall submit an explanation for the Board's review; and
 - Passes the Nebraska E&A Act Examination in accordance with Rule 2.4.5.

Proposed Rules Changes

- Licensees who have knowledge or reason to believe that any person or organization has violated any rules or laws applying to the practice of architecture or engineering shall report it to the board **within 90 days**, may report it to appropriate legal authorities, and shall cooperate with the board and those authorities as requested. **(Rule 5.3.3)**
- When sealing large specifications involving the work of multiple licensees where it may be cumbersome to coordinate sealing the first and last page of each specification section, the licensee may affix their seal on separate sheets, placed at both the front and back of the specification, listing each section that the licensee prepared in accordance with the E&A Act. **(New Rule 6.1.5.1)**
- Web-based offerings provided by the American Institute of Architects may constitute all of the biennial education requirement. **(Rule 9.3.1)**
- The Board will grant a maximum of 10 hours of continuing education in any calendar day. **(New Rule 9.3.6)**

Interior Design Registry

Interior Design Registry

- Interior Design Voluntary Registration Act enacted via LB16 (2024)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-6101 to 71-6108
- Created interior design registry, overseen by the State Treasurer
- Allows interior designers to perform work defined as the practice of registered interior design as described in Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-6103(6)(a)
- The Board of Engineers and Architects does not regulate registered interior designers

Resources and Materials



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Licensee Lookup

Search by

- Name
- License/License Number
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- Organizations







Search for a Licensed Person, Authorized Organization or Temporary Permit

Data contained in this search may be considered original source for accreditation purposes and was last updated: March 5, 2025. Records are updated weekly.

Begin by entering search criteria in the fields below. **For best results, limit criteria to one or two fields.** If you believe the information provided here to be in error, please contact the [board office](#).

For a list of all final disciplinary actions taken by the Board since 2015, please click [here](#). All orders are public record and not subject to withholding from the public under Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-712.05. For disciplinary actions taken by the Board prior to 2015, please contact nbea.compliance@nebraska.gov.

Type	Profession/Discipline	Temporary Permit Project 	Status 
<input type="text" value="All"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
License/Assigned Number	First Name	Last Name	Organization Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
City 	State	County 	Zip Code
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



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FAQ

- Do I need an architect or professional engineer on my project?
- For the public
- For licensees
- For students



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Resources



- The Nebraska Professional
- NBEA Lunch and Learn Webinar Series
- Publications
- Latest News
- Links of Interest



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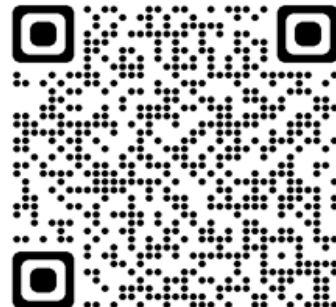
- ea.nebraska.gov
- 402-471-2021
- 215 Centennial Mall S, Suite 400
Lincoln, Nebraska

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To stay up to date on the Board's information and updates, please follow us on social media.



Facebook



YouTube



LinkedIn



Instagram

Questions?

- Allyson Bennett, Public Information Officer
 - nbea.marketing@nebraska.gov
 - (402) 471-3044
- Reminders
 - It is **anticipated** the Board will give continuing education credit for the webinar, but as a reminder, the Board **DOES NOT** pre-approve continuing education offerings.
 - Certificates **WILL NOT** be issued as attendance verification. If you participate in the entire presentation, you will receive an email within the next week confirming your attendance.



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