



Elmore County, Idaho

Architectural and Engineering Requirements

Design Professional Requirements

The Project Owner must designate the licensed Architect or Engineer who is the project's Registered Design Professional in Responsible Charge. The designated Architect/Engineer must be a licensed professional in the State of Idaho, and is responsible for reviewing and coordinating of all submittal documents prepared by consultants for compatibility with the building design. Documents may include deferred submittals, special instructions, and structural observations.

Idaho Code § 54-305, requires that every person practicing or offering to practice architecture and not otherwise exempt shall have a separate license under their own name.

Exempt Buildings

The local and state architecture rules provide for exemptions to the design professional requirements. These exemptions provide for specified circumstances where a person who is not registered as a state licensed Architect may plan, and design, the erection, enlargement, or alteration of a building.

The following are exempt from the Idaho Architecture Practice Act, Idaho Code 54-306(3):

1. The rendering of any architectural service required in the erection, enlargement, alteration or repair of any building, where the building is to be or is used as a single or multiple family residence not exceeding three (3) units or three (3) stories in height; or as a farm building; or for the purpose of outbuildings or auxiliary buildings in connection with the residential or farm premises.
2. The rendering of any architectural service required in the erection, enlargement, alteration or repair of any building that does not involve the public health or safety.

Non-Exempt Buildings

Except for detached single-family dwellings and farm/agriculture buildings, and the other exceptions listed above, all buildings are considered non-exempt buildings and the services of a registered design professional are required. When a building of otherwise conventional construction contains structural elements exceeding the limits for deadloads, live loads, flood loads, snow loads, wind loads, and seismic loads, as prescribed in the 2018 International Residential Code, these elements shall be designed in accordance with accepted engineering practice.

Engineering and Surveying

Idaho Code 54-1201 requires that every person practicing or offering to practice professional engineering or professional land surveying, shall be licensed and it shall be unlawful for any

person to practice or offer to practice professional engineering or professional land surveying unless such person has been duly licensed. Except as exempted by Idaho Code § 54-1223, an engineer and land surveyor shall only be allowed to practice professional engineering and land surveying once they have become a duly licensed professional in engineering and land surveying, respectively.

Significant Structures

Registered Structural Engineers licensed in the State of Idaho are the only professionals allowed to prepare drawings, specifications, computations, or other structural engineering services involving the primary frame and lateral force resisting system or load resisting system of a structure, including its elements or parts, on projects defined as significant structures.

The following items are defined as significant structures:

1. *Hazardous facilities* and special occupancy structures;
2. *Essential facilities* that have a ground area of more than 4,000 square feet or are more than 20 feet in height;
3. Buildings that are customarily occupied by human beings and are more than four stories or 45 feet above average ground level.

The following definitions and guidance are provided to clarify the statements above:

“Structural Engineering” means that branch of professional engineering that provides analysis, design, evaluation or review of structures or their elements, parts, or systems for support of external forces such as gravity, lateral loading, temperature, seismic influence, etc.

Structural engineering services for significant structures shall mean structural engineering for the primary structural frame or load resisting system and its elements or parts. The primary frame shall be that portion of the structure, which provides the overall stability of the structure. Elements, components, or parts of the structure, which are not part of the primary frame do not require the services of a professional structural engineer.

A “Structural Engineer” is a registered professional engineer who passes a structural engineering examination recognized by the Idaho Board of Licensure of Professional Engineers and meets the other necessary qualifications for registration. This includes a Licensure’s ability to place an Official Seal of the Board, consisting of the seal of the State of Idaho, surrounded with the words, “Board of Professional Engineering and Professional Land Surveyors” and “State of Idaho” as defined in IDAPA 24.32.01, “Rules of the Idaho Board of Licensure of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors”.

The Elmore County Building Official may require additional construction documents to be prepared by a registered design professional pursuant to the following authority of the 2018 International Residential Code.

R106.1 Submittal documents. Submittal documents consisting of construction documents, and other data shall be submitted in two or more sets with each application for a permit. The construction documents shall be prepared by a registered design professional where required by the statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed. Where special conditions exist, the building official is authorized to require additional construction documents to be prepared by a registered design professional.