

Engineers' Responsibilities Regarding Alberta Building Code Schedules

Although the APEGGA office responds to calls from engineers and their clients on the use of the "A", "B" and "C" Schedules required by the Alberta Building Code, Alberta Municipal Affairs is the authority with respect to interpreting the requirements of the Code. The Department has provided the following information to help clarify some of those requirements. - Ray Chopiuk, P.Eng., Director of Professional Practice.

Some concerns have been expressed to Alberta Municipal Affairs in regard to a lack of understanding of the responsibilities of the Coordinating Registered Professional and the Registered Professionals of Record. The extent of the use of Schedules required by the Alberta Building Code 1997 (ABC 1997) has also been questioned, especially in regard to strip malls and what is referred to as only being involved in the "base" building design and construction. In addition there is some concern that the expectations of the Schedules required by the ABC 1997 may not fit well with the existing contracts being used by owners/developers and some professionals.

The ABC 1997 assumes that the building is **complete and ready for occupancy** prior to the "C" Schedules being completed. The Schedules demonstrate the professionals have completed their responsibilities with respect to the ABC 1997 and the building is safe to occupy. Contracts as well as base building concepts need to be modified to comply with the requirements of the ABC 1997.

The ABC 1997 requires full professional involvement be provided on the construction of buildings that exceed specific building areas and building heights. These requirements are in line with the *Architects Act* and the *Engineering, Geological and Geophysical Professions Act*. The ABC 1997 has also incorporated a series of Schedules that must be provided on these projects. These Schedules confirm the commitment of the owner and the professionals to follow through on the expectations of their involvement. This includes coordination of the professional activities of the various disciplines, as well as a general layout of areas of responsibility for each discipline. Where full professional involvement is required, all aspects of the Schedules must be completed. If for one discipline there is no Registered Professional of Record it would be expected that the Coordinating Registered Professional would sign off on those Schedules.

In order for the safety system to be effective, as far as professional involvement is concerned on building construction projects, all parties must understand what is expected of them. There are some great guidelines on the following web sites:

Responsibilities for Engineering Services for Building Projects

Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA)

<http://www.apegga.com/pdf/pp/responsibilities.pdf>

Recommended Conditions of Engagement and Schedule of Professional Fees for Building Projects

Developed by both APEGGA and the Alberta Architects Association

<http://www.apegga.com/pdf/guidelines/EngagementandScheduleProfFees.pdf>

Professional Involvement in Projects and Seals/Stamps on Construction Projects, STANDATA 97-DI-002R1

Alberta Municipal Affairs

<http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/mahome/ss/pdf/DI/97DI002R1.PDF>

Responsibilities, Professional Involvement and the Schedules, STANDATA 97-DI-028

Alberta Municipal Affairs

<http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/mahome/ss/pdf/DI/97DI028.PDF>

For further information please contact Alberta Municipal Affairs at:

Telephone: 1-866-421-6929

Fax: 1-780-427-8686

Email: safetyservices@gov.ab.ca