



REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL

WHEN IS AN RDP REQUIRED?

All plans submitted for permit are required to be signed by either a California Professional Engineer or California Registered Architect, **except as follows:**

1. Sections 5537 and 6737 of the California Business & Professions Code:
 - a. These sections of the Business & Professions Codes provide the following exceptions for building plans that have been designed in accordance with the Building Code requirements of Division IV of Chapter 23 for conventional light wood-frame construction and tables of limitation for wood frame construction as adopted by the local jurisdiction.
 - b. An unlicensed person may prepare plans, drawings, or specifications for the following:
 - i. Single family dwelling not more than two stories and basement in height.
 - ii. Multiple dwellings containing no more than four dwelling units and not more than two stories and basement in height. Also, maximum of four dwelling units on any lot.
 - iii. Garages or other structures appurtenant to single-family dwelling or multiple dwellings not more than two stories and basement in height.
 - iv. Agricultural and ranch buildings unless the building official deems that an undue risk to the public health, safety or welfare is involved.
 1. However, if any portion of any structure exempted by these sections, deviates from the requirements for conventional light wood-frame construction or tables of limitation for wood frame construction found in Division IV of Chapter 23 of the Building Code as adopted by local jurisdiction, then the building official may require the preparation of plans, drawings, specifications or calculations for that portion by, or under the direct supervision of, a professional engineer or registered architect. The documents for that portion shall bear the stamp and signature of the licensee who is responsible for their preparation.
2. Sections 5538 and 6745 of the California Business & Professions Code:
 - a. These sections of the California Business & Professions Code do not prohibit any person from furnishing plans for any of the following:
 - i. Nonstructural store fronts, interior alterations or additions, fixtures, cabinet work, furniture, or other appliances or equipment.
 - ii. Any nonstructural work necessary to provide for their installation.
 1. However, an unlicensed person may not prepare plans for those alterations that will change or affect any components of the structural system or safety of the building or its occupants.

Examples for when an RDP is required:

Except as specifically noted above, here are some examples of projects that require plans to be prepared, signed, and stamped by a California Professional Engineer or California Registered Architect:

- a. New buildings, additions to existing buildings
- b. Projects with interior or exterior structural alterations
- c. Interior alteration with change of use and occupancy classification
- d. Interior alteration with walls and partitions over 6' in height or ceiling work which cover a floor area greater than 2,500 square feet in "B" or 3,000 square feet in "M" occupancies
- e. Nonfixed and movable fixtures, cases, racks, counters, and partitions not over 5'- 9"
- f. Remodeling projects with changes to 1-hr rated corridors, fire barriers, fire partitions or fire walls
- g. Alteration with changes to exiting requirements.
- h. Hazardous occupancies: H1, H2, H3, H4 and H5
- i. Assembly occupancies: A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, and A-5
- j. Alterations or additions to restaurants, grocery stores and other food facilities
- k. Alterations or additions that require upgrading or modifications to accessibility design and construction such as path-of-travel, accessible toilet rooms, etc....
- l. Tanks and vessels
- m. Machinery and equipment requiring design per the 2022 CBC and ASCE 7-16 Chapters 13 and 15
- n. Roof mounted mechanical equipment exceeding the weight of existing units to be replaced or new units
- o. School and day care occupancies E and I-4
- p. Hospital occupancies: I-1, I-2, and I-3
- q. Projects with S-1, S-2, F-1, and F-2 occupancies
- r. Hotel, motel, condominium, and apartment occupancies classified as R-1 and R-2 occupancies
- s. Projects with mixed occupancies
- t. Remodeling projects in a high-rise (having floors over 75' in height) building
- u. Lateral force resisting systems utilizing poles embedded in the ground
- v. Cripple walls exceeding 4' in height or adjacent to garage door openings
- w. Any project deemed by Building Official to require professional design by a California Registered Engineer or Licensed Architect

What requires a "WET STAMP" or a Verified Digital Signature?

Title sheet of the calculations, specifications, reports, and every sheet of the plans prepared by a licensed architect or engineer shall bear the seal or stamp (with the expiration date of the license) and signature of the architect or engineer at each (including initial) submittal. Wet signature and stamp are required on the title sheet of the plan, and on the first page or cover sheet of the calculations, specifications, and reports. The remaining sheets of the plans may bear the copy of the seal or stamp and signature of the architect or engineer if the stamp and signature are on the originals of the plans.

Registered Design Professional in Responsible Charge

In addition to the above, where project include new buildings, additions and major alteration including projects involving several trades, a Registered Design Professional in Responsible Charge shall be hired by the owner or owner's agent per CBC 107.3.4

The registered design professional in responsible charge shall be responsible for reviewing and coordinating submittal documents prepared by others, including phased and deferred submittal items, for compatibility with the design of the building.