

Functional Relationships for the Building Envelope Portion of Projects

Joint Practice Bulletin

Jointly developed by
the Alberta Association of Architects
&
the Association of Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of Alberta

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Preface

A professional practice standard describes the level of performance required of licensed professionals. The Alberta Association of Architects (AAA) and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) are authorized to publish practice standards that define the expectations and professional obligations of permit holders and licensed professionals.

The differences between a professional practice standard, a practice guideline, practice bulletin, and a joint publication are as follows.

- A professional practice standard sets the minimum standard of practice permit holders and licensed professionals must meet. It is the standard against which a permit holder's or licensed professional's practice and conduct will be assessed.
- A professional practice guideline provides professional practice advice and best practice recommendations to help permit holders and licensed professionals meet their professional obligations. A permit holder's or licensed professional's practice and conduct may be assessed against practice guidelines.
- A professional practice bulletin provides clarity on a specific subject related to professional practice. Bulletins remain in force until a practice standard or guideline on the subject is developed, revised, or until the practice bulletin is repealed.
- A joint publication is a standard, guideline, bulletin, user guide, list of frequently asked questions, or other appropriate publication type that is created jointly in the interest of the public.

Practice standards, guidelines, bulletins, and joint publications should be read in conjunction with any applicable legislation, regulations, bylaws, codes, and standards.

Overview

Both the AAA and APEGA recognize there are similarities and subtle differences between the definitions of the practice of engineering and the practice of architecture under the *Engineering and Geoscience Professions (EGP) Act* and the *Architects Act (AA)*. Both acts have scope-of-practice exclusivity clauses that, depending on interpretation, can overlap.

This potential overlap has caused and continues to cause confusion for authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) and architects and professional engineers on building projects, specifically regarding who can authenticate [National Building Code – 2019 Alberta Edition](#) (NBC[AE]) Schedules for a given building project. This issue was further highlighted in the development of the updated NBC(AE) Schedules by AAA and APEGA used to track the legislated responsibilities of registered architects, licensed interior designers, and professional engineers involved in building projects in Alberta.

The legislated responsibilities are defined in the NBC(AE), the AA, the *EGP Act*, and the *Safety Codes Act*. The NBC(AE) and NBC(AE) Schedules define **what** needs to be done by each role but not **who** can perform those roles. **Who** can practise the professions of architecture and engineering is defined by the AA and the *EGP Act*.

Purpose

To provide clarity to licensed professionals and permit holders licensed by the AAA and APEGA regarding *building envelope* practice rights.

Abbreviations and Definitions

The following definitions are specific to this joint bulletin. If the definition is based on the NBC(AE), then this is indicated within the definition. Explanatory notes regarding the specific application of the definition for the purpose of this joint bulletin may also be provided.

AAA – Alberta Association of Architects

APEGA – Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta

RP – registered professional (specifically, registered with AAA or APEGA)

CRP – coordinating registered professional

RPR – registered professional of record

SDP – secondary registered professional

DDP – delegated design professional

Building envelope	The <i>building envelope</i> includes the materials, components, and assemblies as defined in Div. B, Article 5.1.2.1, of the NBC(AE).
Coordinating registered professional (CRP)	As defined in the NBC(AE), a <i>coordinating registered professional</i> is a <i>registered professional</i> retained to coordinate all design work and field reviews of the <i>registered professionals of record</i> required for the project.
Delegated design professional (DDP)	A <i>registered professional</i> to whom the responsibility is delegated, through the design documents, for the design and field reviews of specific building components, resulting in a professional work product that is submitted to the <i>registered professional of record</i> .
Registered professional	<p>A <i>registered professional</i>, as defined by the NBC(AE), is an individual who qualifies as one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>registered architectural professional</i> • <i>registered engineering professional</i> • licensed interior designer <p>A <i>registered architectural professional</i> is an individual who is authorized to engage in the practice of architecture under the <i>Architects Act</i> and its regulations.</p>

Registered professional (continued)	A <i>registered engineering professional</i> is an individual who is authorized to engage in the practice of engineering under the <i>Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act</i> and its regulations.
Registered professional of record	As defined in the NBC(AE), a <i>registered professional of record</i> is a <i>registered professional</i> retained to be responsible for the integrity and completeness of the design and field reviews of one or more of the following elements of a project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • architectural • structural • mechanical • electrical • geotechnical
Rehabilitation	The process of undertaking a program of comprehensive and systemic reconstruction of the <i>building envelope</i> assemblies and details, so that it can fulfil its originally intended functions. <i>Rehabilitation</i> projects are most often initiated because of premature failure.
Renewal	The process of undertaking a program of systemic reconstruction or replacement of aged elements of the <i>building envelope</i> . <i>Renewal</i> projects are very similar in scope to <i>rehabilitation</i> projects but are not associated with premature failure. Instead, the work is needed due to the normal wear and aging associated with an element reaching the end of its service life.
Renovation	The process of undertaking improvements or changes to the <i>building envelope</i> as a part of a more general program for the building related to changes in functional, performance, or occupancy requirements, rather than premature failure or the need for <i>renewal</i> .
Repair	The process of undertaking the reconstruction or replacement of specific elements of the <i>building envelope</i> so that it can fulfil its originally intended functions. Unlike <i>rehabilitation</i> , a <i>repair</i> is undertaken because of a premature failure, but it is non-systemic. Therefore, it is focused on one specific aspect of the construction, or it is localized to one area of a building.
Secondary design professional (SDP)	A specialist <i>registered professional</i> collaborating with the <i>registered professional of record</i> , resulting in a professional work product that is submitted to the <i>registered professional of record</i> .

Summary of Functional Relationships for the Building Envelope Portion of Typical Types of Projects

Role	Project Type				
	New Building Construction or Renovation	Building Envelope Rehabilitation or Renewal	Building Envelope Rehabilitation or Renewal	Building Envelope Repairs	Non-Construction Services
		Architect as CRP	Engineer as CRP		
Coordinating registered professional (CRP)	Either a <i>registered architectural professional</i> or a <i>registered engineering professional</i> may fulfil the CRP role.	Under this scenario, a <i>registered architectural professional</i> is the CRP.	Under this scenario, a <i>registered engineering professional</i> is the CRP.	NBC(AE) Schedules and a CRP are not required for projects that do not require a building permit. The <i>registered professional</i> must confirm that a building permit is not required for each project before proceeding on that basis. If a permit is required, then the roles for new building construction, renovation, building envelope rehabilitation, or building envelope renewal apply.	NBC(AE) Schedules and a CRP are not required for projects that do not require a building permit. Any <i>registered professional</i> can act as the professional on these items.
Registered professional of record (RPR)	A <i>registered architectural professional</i> must act as the RPR for the building envelope. Other SDPs or DDPs may be required, depending on the scope of services.	The <i>registered architectural professional</i> is the RPR for the building envelope and will complete and submit the architectural components section of the NBC(AE) Schedules.	The <i>registered engineering professional</i> is the RPR for the building envelope and will complete and submit the architectural components section of the NBC(AE) Schedules.	Not required. See above.	Not required. See above.

Registered professional of record (RPR) (continued)	DDPs must submit Schedule C-3 to the RPR.	Other SDPs or DDPs may be required, depending on the scope of services. DDPs must submit Schedule C-3 to the RPR.	Other SDPs or DDPs may be required, depending on the scope of services. DDPs must submit Schedule C-3 to the RPR.	Not required. See above.	Not required. See above.
Construction documents	Refer to the NBC(AE) Schedules and practice standards from AAA and APEGA.	Refer to the NBC(AE) Schedules and practice standards from AAA and APEGA.	Refer to the NBC(AE) Schedules and practice standards from AAA and APEGA.	Refer to the NBC(AE) Schedules and practice standards from AAA and APEGA.	Refer to the NBC(AE) Schedules and practice standards from AAA and APEGA.

In addition to the services listed above, a *registered professional* may also provide services for other types of projects. These services may include the following:

- *building envelope* condition assessments
- building asset management planning
- targeted investigations of *building envelope* performance issues
- second opinions
- warranty reviews
- litigation support
- risk assessments
- testing elements of the *building envelope*
- product or system development or evaluations
- *building envelope* commissioning

For these and other types of projects, the scope of services may vary greatly. The roles and responsibilities of the *registered professional* may be stipulated by agreement with clients, legislation, regulations, or industry practices. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the *registered professional* on any such project to provide an informed professional opinion and apply their knowledge to their work on the project.