

Clarification of Areas of Practice for Alberta Architects and Engineers

February 2, 2021

In mid-January of this year, there were several inquiries to the Alberta Association of Architects (AAA) and Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) regarding the statutory involvement of architects and engineers who provide various design and facility management advisory services as they relate to the development, renovations, upgrades and maintenance of building envelopes.

What raised the issue now?

The catalyst for these inquiries was a STANDATA ([19-BCB-006](#)) published in late December 2020 that unintentionally created uncertainty over the jurisdictional authority of building envelope work. The purpose of the STANDATA is to clarify that currently there are only three engineers licensed to practice within a limited scope of architecture under the AAA membership category of "Restricted Practitioner."

Currently, there are no architects licensed to practice a limited scope of engineering under the APEGA category of "Restricted Practitioner." This membership category within AAA and APEGA was closed in 1982 and will disappear through attrition over time. However, the references to respective scope in the STANDATA have raised questions for other professionals.

How have we replied?

The AAA and APEGA have been approached for clarification around scope questions arising out of this STANDATA. Each regulatory body has responded with perspective from their respective legislation. Unfortunately, taken in isolation, these responses may not have provided as much clarity as desired. In reality, three Acts apply: the *Safety Codes Act*, the *Architects Act* and the *Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act*. The regulators have learned there is a need to provide clarification to the industry as a result of considering all three Acts together.

Both AAA and APEGA recognize that there are practice similarities and subtle differences between the definitions of the practice of engineering and the practice of architecture under their respective Acts. Unfortunately, in some scenarios this has resulted in a lack of clarity regarding permissible work covered under all three Acts.

What comes next?

The AAA and APEGA are committed to working together in the coming months to address the areas where additional clarity is required. We aim to develop a framework to better guide future building design and management activities. Ultimately, we want members of APEGA, AAA, Safety Codes Authorities and building owners to be able to more clearly understand the respective roles and responsibilities of architects and engineers.

As regulatory bodies legislatively charged with regulating in the public interest, public protection remains the overarching goal.

The AAA and APEGA commit to providing updates to our respective memberships and stakeholder groups.



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