



## MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE

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### MEMORANDUM

Date: December 14, 2011

To: Mississippi Mayors and Building Officials

From: The Mississippi State Board of Architecture

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During a meeting with the Building Officials Association of Mississippi this summer and since, the Mississippi State Board of Architecture (Board) has received requests to provide more clarity as to when an architect is required on a project.

The following guidelines will assist you in determining whether documents/drawings should be stamped by a licensed architect. These guidelines apply to all building construction, including new construction and the enlargement, alteration, renovation, and/or build-outs of or within existing buildings (i.e., malls, strip centers, etc.).

1. Are the documents/drawings for the construction of a single or two-family detached residence? If yes, an architect is not required regardless of size.
2. Are the documents/drawings for the construction of a building on agricultural property where the primary business of the property is farming and the building use is for the commerce of farming? If yes, an architect is not required regardless of size.
3. Are the documents/drawings for the construction of the building project private or public?
  - a. Private project: Is the project, or the building in which the project is located, in excess of 5,000 square feet (per 2006 IBC paragraph 502.1 definition of area)? If not, the documents/drawings are not required to be stamped by a licensed architect. If yes, see no. 4.
  - b. Public project: Is the project, or the building in which the project is located, in excess of 10,000 square feet (per 2006 IBC paragraph 502.1 definition of area)? Does the project exceed two stories in height? If the answer is no to both of these questions, the documents/drawings are not required to be stamped by a licensed architect. If yes to either, see no. 4.

4. Does the building have a use and occupancy classification as defined by Chapter 3 of the 2006 (or more recent) International Building Code (IBC)? If not, the documents/drawings are not required to be stamped by a licensed architect. If yes the documents/drawings are required to be stamped by a licensed architect, unless no. 5 applies.
5. Do the documents/drawings depict only the construction of engineering systems or works that are components of building systems (such as plumbing or HVAC renovations and repairs, lighting or electrical upgrades or repairs, fire alarm system installations and or low voltage data cable systems)? If yes, then those documents/drawings are not required to be stamped by a licensed architect, but are required to be stamped by a professional engineer.

These guidelines are in keeping with the conclusion of the Attorney General's Opinion issued on February 18, 2011 which states, "The definition of the practice of engineering includes design which embraces engineering services or work, in connection with any building." Per this opinion, the definition of the practice of engineering does not include comprehensive building design.

The Board hopes these guidelines are a benefit to you in carrying out your duties, and we ask that you share this information with other officials within your community as needed. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board. You may direct phone calls or correspondence to Jenny Wilkinson, Executive Director, at 601-856-6760 or [jwilkinson@archbd.state.ms.us](mailto:jwilkinson@archbd.state.ms.us).