

**SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF REGISTRATION  
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS**

**Statement of Policy**

**Use of Seals via Computer-Aided Drafting Techniques**

**Section 40-22-270(6).** Where individual seals are affixed to plans, specification, plats and reports, the licensee shall affix his signature and date under or across the face and beyond the circumference of the seal. The signature and date must not be applied in a manner that obliterates or renders illegible the licensee's license number or name.

**Regulation 49-207(C)(2).** When sealing of documents is required by statute, other authority or contract, each sheet of design or construction plans and drawings for engineering practice and of maps, plats and charts for land surveying practice shall be sealed and signed by the licensee or permit holder preparing them, or in responsible charge of their preparation. Where the engineering or surveying practice is provided through a firm such documents shall also carry Certificate of Authorization seal.

**Board Interpretation:**

**Engineering Documents:**

Regardless of the means by which seals are applied to drawings and other engineering documents, there is a requirement that the seal be signed and dated by the registrant whose seal is applied. Original documents may be sealed, signed and dated. Copies reproduced from these original documents meet the requirements of the statutes. All documents required by statute to be sealed must be sealed, signed and dated by the registrant. These documents may be reproduced copies from originals that have been sealed, signed and dated or they may be originals or copies that have an original seal, signature and date. **Computer-generated seals may be used on final original drawings. SC Section 26-6-80, effective July 2004, allows electronic signatures in place of "personal signatures" in many instances. Therefore, computer generated signatures and dates are acceptable.**

**Land Surveying Documents:**

Each document or copy shall bear an original embossed seal, signature and date.

**General Information:**

The Board is aware that duplication of seals and signatures is not a difficult undertaking if one is intent on doing that. Electronic documents increasingly are being utilized by engineers and firms, and some permitting authorities are requiring electronic documents. Regardless of the manner in which documents are signed and sealed, the signature and date must not be applied in a manner that obliterates or rends illegible the registrant's license number or name. **In the final analysis, however, the security of one's seal and the distribution of sealed reproducible documents must be controlled principally through in-house management practices.**

**COA Seal Adopted by Board 5/24/94**

**Updated by Board 10/14/2008**

**CADSeals**