

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
210 Walnut Street, Room 693  
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

February 11, 2008

210 - ENG – CERTIFICATION OF ENGINEERING PRACTICES

Some questions have come up concerning the requirements for certification of engineering designs/drawings and for the construction of engineering practices for projects that are designed by a third party. This could be a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) or any other Professional Engineer (PE) licensed in the state of Iowa.

Certification of Designs

Most questions have revolved around the issue of practices that include some type of component structure such as a hoop building or mono-slope building as part of an animal waste management system. In those cases, it will be very common to have two designers working on the project. The first one designs the structure and the second one designs the rest of the system including the site plan, other appurtenances or components, foundations, supports, etc.

In this case, the engineer who designs the structure must certify the following:

"To the best of my professional knowledge, judgment, and belief, this design, construction drawings, and specifications meet applicable NRCS standards and specifications."

This certification must be accompanied by his/her Iowa license stamp or seal. With this statement, the engineer is automatically certifying that his/her work meets the applicable criteria from other standards which are referenced in the NRCS standards.

It is important to note that certification of the structure design itself is not a sealed set of plans for the entire site. The overall site design must be certified and stamped/sealed also. The engineer who does the overall site design and drawings must use the same certification statement as shown above.

If one engineer does the entire design and drawings, including all structures and components, then that engineer must certify the design and drawings using the above statement accompanied by his/her Iowa license stamp or seal.

Certification of Construction

After construction is completed, the licensed engineer must certify the following:

"To the best of my professional knowledge, judgment, and belief, this practice is installed in accordance with the plans and specifications and meets NRCS standards."

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This certification must be stamped/sealed and must be accompanied with the final "as-built" drawings and other deliverables as shown in the practice Statement(s) of Work.

As with the design, it is possible to have two certifications for construction also. For example, one engineer may certify the structure and another engineer may certify the rest of the project. In this case, each engineer would be required to use the above statement with their stamp/seal and provide the appropriate deliverables for their portion of the work.

Please direct any questions concerning this to Mark Jensen, State Conservation Engineer; Allen Gehring, Assistant State Conservation Engineer; or Mark Garrison, Environmental Engineer; at 515-284-4357.

/s/ Martin Adkins, Acting  
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Acting State Conservationist