

IMPORTANT: Read instructions on back of last page (Certification Page) before completing this form. Failure to comply with instructions may cause disapproval of proposed Regulations

State of Connecticut
REGULATION
of

NAME OF AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

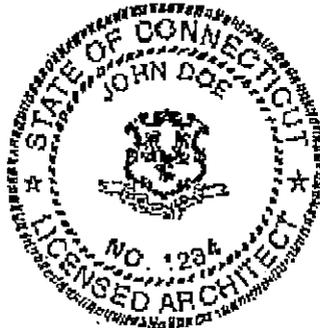
Concerning

SUBJECT MATTER OF REGULATION

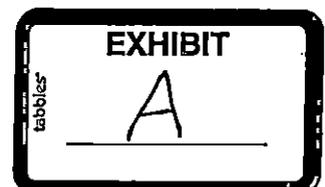
Electronic Seals in the Practice of Architecture

Section 1. Section 20-289-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended as follows:

(a) Each person granted a license shall [purchase and] use a seal, the design, arrangement, size and wording of which shall conform to that indicated in the figure below. Each licensee shall file with the board [an imprint of all seal types used by the licensee] an image of the seal used by the licensee.



(b) Each corporation or limited liability company granted a certificate of authorization for the practice of architecture, or joint practice, shall [purchase and] use [an embossing] a seal, the design, arrangement, size and wording of which shall conform to that indicated in the figure below. [The use of a rubber stamp of the same size, design and content as that of the embossing seal is permissible. An imprint of the embossing seal and rubber stamp shall be filed with the board.] Each corporation or limited liability company shall file with the board an image of the seal used by the registrant.





(c) [A] An embossing seal, [and] rubber stamp [facsimile] or electronic seal conforming to the above figures as applicable [is approved] may be used by the licensee or registrant. Any other seal or rubber stamp, or any variation of the above, is disapproved and shall not be used. [Seals may be purchased by the licensee as directed upon receipt of a letter of authorization therefor from the board.]

(d) An electronic seal shall be permitted on electronic documents if all the following criteria are met:

(1) It is unique to the architect;

(2) It is verifiable;

(3) It is under the architect's direct and exclusive control;

(4) It is linked to the electronic document in such a manner that causes changes to be easily determined and visually displayed if any data in the electronic document file is changed subsequent to the electronic seal having been affixed to the electronic document;

(5) Any attempt to change the electronic document after the electronic seal is affixed shall cause the electronic seal to be removed or altered significantly enough to invalidate the electronic seal; and

(6) Any time the electronic document is to be electronically transmitted, the electronic document is converted to a read-only format.

Statement of Purpose

Pursuant to CGS Section 4-170(b)(3), "Each proposed regulation shall have a statement of its purpose following the final section of the regulation."

(A) Purpose: This regulation permits the use of an electronic seal by architects. Existing regulations were adopted at a time when seals were placed only on hardcopy documents by stamping or embossing. With the development of electronic documents, there is now a need for regulations permitting an electronic seal.

(B) Summary: This regulation permits and regulates the use of electronic seals. The regulation requires that electronic seals have certain protections to prevent the alteration of the document after it has been sealed.

(C) Legal Effects: Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-293 requires an architect to place his or her seal on working drawings that are required to be completed by a licensed architect. These amendments permit architects to apply electronic seals to drawings that are prepared in electronic form.
