

Architecture and Engineering Requirements

Minnesota State Building Code 1300.0130

Subp. 1. Submittal documents. Construction documents, special inspection and structural observation programs and other pertinent data shall be submitted in one or more sets with each application for a permit.

Exception: The building official may waive the submission of construction documents and other data not if the nature of the work applied for is such that reviewing the construction documents is not necessary to obtain compliance with the code.

The building official may require plans or other data be prepared according to the rules of the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design, chapter 1800, and Minnesota Statutes sections 326.02 to 326.15, and other state laws relating to plan and specification preparation by occupational licenses. If special conditions exist, the building official may require additional construction documents to be prepared by a licensed design professional.

The following pages are excerpts from the Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design publication, Minnesota Rules 1800.

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Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design

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Building Officials' Quick Reference to Professional Licensing Statutes and Rules

This overview does not address all details or circumstances.
Refer to the statutes and rules, or contact the Board office, for additional information.

1. Professional Practice Requirements

- a. Drawings, specifications, plats, reports, and other documents for construction (new or remodel) shall be prepared by, or under the direct supervision of, licensed professionals, unless specifically exempted by statute or rule.
- b. Such documents shall be certified by the responsible licensed professional, including required "I hereby certify..." language, printed name, license number, signature and date.
- c. Minimum expected documentation contents for code official submission: definition of scope of work, building code compliance, life safety, architectural barriers, structural integrity, mechanical and electrical systems.
- d. Incidental practice is not authorized. For example, architects cannot practice professional engineering, and engineers cannot practice architecture.
- e. Minnesota does not license engineers by discipline. Adequate engineering documents may not be rejected merely because the responsible engineer tested in a discipline other than that embodied in the documents.

2. Statutory Exceptions (Minnesota Statutes §§ 326.02, Subd. 5 and 326.03, Subd. 2)

- a. Projects for exclusive occupancy or use by preparer
- b. Shop Drawings
- c. Planning for work of licensed electrical contractor or master plumber, where such work is within the scope of such licensed activity and not within the practice of professional engineering or architecture
- d. Dwellings for single families, and associated outbuildings such as barns and private garages
- e. Two family dwellings
- f. Any farm building or accessory thereto
- g. Temporary buildings or sheds used exclusively for construction purposes, not exceeding two stories in height, and not used for living quarters

3. Remodeling Exceptions (Minnesota Rule 1800.5200 Subp. 3)

- a. Remodeling or renovation of an existing building, structure, or work which does not change any of the following:
 - i. The load on its mechanical or electrical systems, or the live or dead load on its structural systems, such that a violation of the MSBC might occur
 - ii. A building's access or exit pattern such that a violation of the MSBC might occur
 - iii. The MSBC occupancy classification of the building
- b. Remodeling or renovation in an exempt class of building (see item 4 below) which does not disqualify it from its exemption.

4. Building Class Exceptions (Minnesota Rule 1800.5200 Subp. 4)

- a. See exemption table inside.
- b. Exceptions in table do not apply to:
 - i. A second new building to be constructed by the same person on the same parcel or a contiguous parcel to a new building previously exempted
 - ii. An addition to an existing building where the existing building exceeds the exemption size thresholds if the addition results in changes as indicated in 3a above.
 - iii. New construction within a larger building (e.g., individual shops within a shopping center) where the larger building exceeds the exemption size thresholds if the new construction results in changes as indicated in 3a above.
- c. Notwithstanding these exceptions, the responsible building official may require plans and specifications to be designed and prepared by a licensed architect or engineer if the official finds a hazard to life, health, safety, or welfare due to the unusual circumstances of the building or structure or an unusually large number of potential occupants in relation to square footage for a particular use. (Minnesota Rule 1800.5400)

5. Submittal of Plans and Specifications (Minnesota Rule 1800.5300)

Exercise of the exceptions in items 3 and 4 above requires that the building permit applicant provide the responsible building official with two sets of plans and specifications for the building or remodeling, containing the name and address of the preparer of the plans and specifications, and the preparer's certification that reasonable care has been given to compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, and building codes relating to design.

Contact the Board office to:

- Obtain additional information as to licensing or certification requirements.
- Verify the status of a professional license.
- File a compliant.

Contact Information:

MINNESOTA BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING,
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE, AND INTERIOR DESIGN
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This publication is intended for general information only. The language in Minnesota Statutes and Rules controls, and is subject to periodic change. Please refer to the current statutes and rules, which are available at the Board's Web site.

1800.5900 CLASSES OF BUILDINGS.

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, sections 326.02, subdivision 5, and 326.03, subdivision 2, the following classes of buildings are exempt subject to the limitations of the elements listed below:

Classifications	Elements that must be met to be exempt*
Assembly (as defined by the MSBC under occupancy group A2: Dining and drinking less than 50 persons)	Not greater than 1-story with no basement; and Seating for not more than 20 persons; and Not greater than 1,000 Gross Square Footage (GSF)
Business (as defined by the MSBC under occupancy group B)	Not greater than 2-story with a basement; and Not greater than 2250 GSF
Factory (as defined by the MSBC under occupancy group F2)	Not greater than 1-story with no basement; and Not greater than 3,000 GSF
Mercantile (as defined by the MSBC under occupancy group M)	Not greater than 2-story with a basement; and Not greater than 1,500 GSF
Residential (as defined by the MSBC under occupancy group, R)	Apartment houses/condominiums (3 units or less), dwellings, lodging houses, attached single family dwellings/townhomes, and congregate residences (each accommodating 10 persons or less)
Storage (as defined by the MSBC under occupancy group S1: Aircraft hangars and helistops)	Not greater than 1-story with no basement; and Not greater than 3,000 GSF
Storage (as defined by the MSBC under occupancy group S2 except for parking garages, open or enclosed)	Not greater than 1-story with no basement; and Not greater than 5,000 GSF
Utility (as defined by the MSBC under occupancy group U except for fences higher than 8 feet, tanks and towers, and retaining walls with over 4 feet of vertical exposed face)	Not greater than 1-story with no basement; and Not greater than 1,000 GSF

* All terms used in this table shall be as defined by the Minnesota State Building Code.

INSTRUCTION TO REVISOR. The revisor of statutes shall change references in Minnesota Rules from parts “1800.5700” and “1800.5800” to part “1800.5900.

REPEALER: Minnesota Rules, part 1800.5800, is repealed.