



SEAONews

Structural Engineers Association of Nebraska

January 2009

President's Message

It is 2009. The beginning of a New Year and SEAON is proud to represent the talented structural engineers in the state of Nebraska. In these tough economic times we are all working hard to get our projects done on time and keeping our clients happy. I know how valuable your time is, but I would to take this time to encourage SEAON's members to think about participating more in the organization. We have several committees that are always looking for new blood that will help generate new ideas. The standing committees are programs, codes and standards, licensing, and membership. There are also opportunities to become a SEAON board member. If any of these are of interest to you please contact either myself or any of the SEAON board members. SEAON is here to serve our members, outside of dealing with architectural changes and collection of fees, please contact any of the board members if we can help with any professional problems. I want to thank you all for your support and look forward to SEAON continuing to represent you in the years to come.

Mike Kuhse
SEAON President

IBC Special Inspection Requirements for Engineers practicing Structural Engineering

Licensed professionals, code officials, contractors, and building owners should have a basic background in the special inspection requirements relating to the International Building Code (IBC). Since there have been changes in the IBC in Structural Tests and Special Inspections in Chapter 17, professionals are encouraged to review the specific requirements. In this article we will be referring to the 2006 IBC.

According to section 1704.1.1 of the IBC, for a building permit to be issued a Statement of Special Inspections is required to be prepared by the design professional in responsible charge. This statement should include the following as a minimum:

1. The materials, systems, components and work required to have special inspection or testing by the building official or by the registered design professional responsible for each portion of the work.
2. The type and extent of each special inspection.
3. The type and extent of each test.
4. Any additional requirements for special inspection or testing for seismic or wind resistance.

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5. For each type of special inspection, the professional needs to identify if it will be continuous special inspection or periodic special inspection.

Examples of items that may require structural special inspections are steel, concrete, masonry, or wood construction; soils; pile and pier foundations; fire-resistant coatings and mastic material. Under each of these items the design professional is required to list specific requirements for inspection. The IBC has prepared several tables to help guide the design professional in preparing this document: 1704.3 (Steel), 1704.4 (Concrete), 1704.5.1/1704.5.3 (Masonry), 1704.7 (Soils), 1704.8 (Piles), and 1704.9 (Piers). Design professionals are encouraged to review these tables while preparing the Statement of Special Inspections. Furthermore, professionals should be aware that these special inspections are in addition to the building code official's typical inspections required by section 109 of the IBC.

Section 1704.1 states the owner or registered design professional in responsible charge, acting as the owner's agent shall employ one or more special inspectors to provide inspections during construction. While it is true the registered design professional shall prepare the statement of special inspections, only the building official may confer "Approved Agency" status. Section 1703 of the IBC covers the approval process for which the building code official determines if the agency meets the applicable qualifications.

The IBC requires that the special inspector and agency provide the necessary information for the building official to determine if the special

inspector is qualified. Since special inspectors must be trained in the material they are inspecting, a registered design professional does not necessarily meet the qualifications as a special inspector unless they have been certified as such for a specific type of construction. If qualified, the design professional should be allowed to perform special inspections on projects they designed. However, on design-build projects where the design professional may be hired by the contractor, the design professional may have a financial conflict of interest.

Special inspections provide some quality assurance for projects by monitoring construction materials and ensuring finished structures perform in accordance with the construction documents. Special inspections are a shared responsibility between licensed engineers practicing structural engineering, owners, code officials, contractors, and other licensed design professionals.

*By Peter Vaccaro, PE
Board Member - Structural Engineers Association of
Nebraska (SEAON)*

SEAON November Dinner Meeting

Date:

January 22, 2009

Presentation Title:

Status of Structural Engineering Licensing Nationally and Locally

Speaker:

Pete Vaccaro P.E.
Structural Project Engineer
HDR

Schedule:

5:30 – 6:30 Social Hour
6:30 – 7:30 Dinner
7:30 – Presentation and Q&A

Location:

McKenna's Blues Hall
7425 Pacific St.
Omaha, NE

Price:

\$20 per person (SEAON Members)
\$25 per person (Non-Members)
\$10 per person (Students)
All money (cash or check) will be collected at the door

Menu Choices:

Smoked Brisket
Roasted Chicken
Smoked Pork Loin

Reservations:

Please contact Gary L. Krause
(gkrause@mail.unomaha.edu) to make a reservation and a dinner selection no later than Tuesday January 20th.

0.1 CEU/ 1.0 PDH will be awarded for attending the meeting

SEAON Meetings for 2009

January 22, 2009

Topic: Status of Structural Engineering
Licensing Nationally and Locally
Location: McKenna's Blues Hall, Omaha

March 12, 2009

Topic: Cold Formed Steel Truss Design
Location: Misty's Steakhouse, Lincoln

April 2, 2009 Spring Seminar

Topic: ACI 318 -08 Full day seminar (SEAON
Members get ACI member pricing)
Location: Omaha Marriott Hotel, Omaha

May 21, 2009 (tentative) 6th Annual Banquet

Topic: Midtown Crossing Design and
Construction
Location: Champions Club, Omaha

SEAON Website

www.SEAON.org

Please be sure to check the website regularly. Announcements and upcoming events are posted on the Home page. You can find the current newsletter along with an archive of all past newsletters on the Newsletter page. Encourage potential members to visit the Membership page for information about SEAON as well as a membership application.

Membership

Want to renew your annual membership or interested in a new membership? Go to www.seaon.org and learn about the benefits and fun opportunities available to SEAON members. Benefits include reduced fees for SEAON sponsored seminars and meetings, and support of the promotion of our profession and issues affecting the practice of structural engineering. Any questions please contact:
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