

Regulation of the
Department of Consumer Protection

Concerning
Electronic Seals in the Practice of Architecture

Regulations adopted after July 1, 2013, become effective upon posting to the website of the Secretary of the State, or at a later date specified within the regulation.

Website posted on
June 18, 2015

Effective Date
June 18, 2015

Approved by the Attorney General on
March 4, 2015

Approved by the Legislative Regulation Review
Committee on
May 26, 2015

Received and filed in the Office of the
Secretary of the State on
June 12, 2015

Electronic copy with agency head certification statement
submitted to the Office of the
Secretary of the State on
June 12, 2015

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Form ERS_ECC (NEW 9/2014)
State of Connecticut
Office of the Secretary of the State
Legislation and Elections Administration Division

Purpose and Legal Disclaimer: This form was designed to facilitate submission of the "statement from the department head" required by CGS 4-172(a) as amended by PA 12-92, Section 6. This form does not constitute legal advice. The Office of the Secretary of the State (SOTS) is not authorized to provide legal advice to state agencies. Consult with your agency's legal counsel before completing and submitting this form for filing

Instructions: (1) Save a copy of this document to your computer; (2) To enter data, use the Tab key to move between fields, or click-and-highlight an entire <text field>; (3) When complete, submit to your agency's legal counsel for review and approval; (4) After approval by counsel, PRINT and submit to your agency head for his/her original signature; (5) Scan the originally-signed form and submit it with the electronic copy of the regulation the statement certifies to the eRegulations System for processing and public website posting by the Office of the Secretary of the State; (6) retain the originally-signed copy for your agency's regulation-making record.

Electronic Copy Certification Statement

I, **Jonathan A. Harris**, Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection, in accordance with the provisions of Section 4-172 of the *General Statutes of the State of Connecticut*, do hereby certify:

That the electronic copy of a regulation concerning **Electronic Seals in the Practice of Architecture**, which was approved by the Legislative Regulation Review Committee on **May 26, 2015**, and which shall be submitted electronically for filing to the Secretary of the State by **Tanya Washington** of this agency on **June 12, 2015**, is a true and accurate copy of the original regulation approved in accordance with Sections 4-169 and 4-170 of the *General Statutes of the State of Connecticut*.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand on **June 12, 2015**.



(Signature of agency head)

R-39 Rev. 03/2012
(Title page)

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

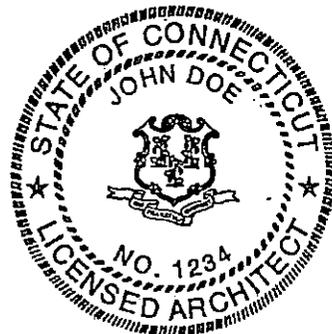
Concerning

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 granted a certificate of authorization for the practice of architecture, or limited liability company granted a license for the joint practice of architecture, 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 such corporation or limited liability company shall file with the board an image of the seal used by the corporation or limited liability company.



(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. 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 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 shall be 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.

REGS-1 Rev. 09/2013

(Certification page—see Instructions on back)

CERTIFICATION

This certification statement must be completed in full.

I hereby certify that the above Regulation(s)

1) is/are (check all that apply) adopted amended repealed by this agency pursuant to the following authority(ies): (complete all that apply)

a. Connecticut General Statutes section(s) 4-168, 20-293 and 20-289.

b. Public Act Number(s) _____.

(Provide public act number(s) if the authorizing act has not yet been codified in the Connecticut General Statutes.)

And I further certify

2) that Notice of Intent to adopt, amend or repeal said regulation(s) was electronically submitted to the Secretary of the State on 7/22/14, and posted to the Secretary's regulations website on 7/30/14; (Insert dates notice was (a) emailed to the Secretary of the State and (b) posted on the Secretary's website, if notice and posting were required by CGS 4-168, as amended by PA 13-247 and PA 13-274.)

3) and that a public hearing regarding the proposed regulation(s) was held on 8/29/14 or that no public hearing was held; (Insert date(s) of mandatory public hearing(s) held pursuant to CGS 4-168(a), as amended, or other applicable statute, and/or voluntary hearing, or if no hearing was held, check the box for that statement.)

4) and that notice of Decision to Take Action on said regulations was electronically submitted to the Secretary of the State on 10/24/14, and posted to the Secretary's regulations website on 10/24/14; (Insert dates notice was (a) emailed to the Secretary of the State and (b) posted on the Secretary's website, if notice and posting were required by CGS 4-168, as amended by PA 13-247 and PA 13-274.)

5) and that said regulation(s) is/are EFFECTIVE (check one, and complete as applicable)

When posted online by the Secretary of the State.

OR on (insert date) _____.

6) SIGNED (Head of Board, Agency or Commission)	OFFICIAL TITLE, DULY AUTHORIZED	DATE
<i>[Signature]</i>	Commissioner	2/18/15

APPROVED by the Attorney General as to legal sufficiency in accordance with CGS Section 4-169, as amended.

DATE	SIGNED (Attorney General or AG's designated representative)	OFFICIAL TITLE, DULY AUTHORIZED
3/4/15	Joseph Rubin	ASSOC. ATTY. GENERAL

Proposed regulations are DEEMED APPROVED by the Attorney General in accordance with CGS Section 4-169, as amended, if the Attorney General fails to give notice to the agency of any legal insufficiency within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the proposed regulation.

(For Regulation Review Committee Use ONLY)

APPROVED in WHOLE or WITH technical corrections deletions substitute pages

DEEMED APPROVED, pursuant CGS 4-170(c), as amended.

Rejected without Prejudice Disapproved, pursuant to CGS 4-170(c), as amended.

By the Legislative Regulation Review Committee in accordance with CGS Section 4-170, as amended	DATE	SIGNED (Administrator, Legislative Regulation Review Committee)
	5-26-15	<i>[Signature]</i>

In accordance with CGS Section 4-172, as amended by PA 13-247 and PA 13-274, one certified paper copy and one electronic copy with agency head certification statement received on the date(s) specified below.

DATE	SIGNED (Secretary of the State)	BY

(For Secretary of the State Use ONLY)

Date Posted to SOTS Regulations Website:
[]

Date Electronic Copy Forwarded to the Commission on Official Legal Publications:
[]

SOTS file stamp:

