

# Laws and Rules for Texas Engineers (Revised for 2026)

An Online Continuing Education Course for Engineers

**Course Number: L-1054**

**Credit: 1 Hour / 1 PDH / 1 CPD**

# **Laws and Rules for Texas Engineers (Revised for 2026)**

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## **Introduction**

In this course, we will review portions of Chapters 137 and 139 of TEXAS ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING PRACTICE ACTS AND RULES CONCERNING PRACTICE AND LICENSURE.

To focus on information most relevant to practicing engineers, some rules have been omitted from this course document.

## **TEXAS ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING PRACTICE ACTS AND RULES CONCERNING PRACTICE AND LICENSURE**

### **RULES CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, TITLE 22, PART 6**

## **TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS**

### **CHAPTER 137: COMPLIANCE AND PROFESSIONALISM FOR ENGINEERS**

#### **Subchapter B – Sealing Requirements**

This section governs the proper use of the professional engineer seal and signature. It defines seal specifications, required information, and when sealing is mandatory. Engineers are responsible for ensuring that documents are sealed only when they are prepared by, or under the direct supervision and control of, the engineer. The subchapter emphasizes that sealing signifies professional responsibility for the work's technical accuracy and compliance with applicable standards.

Electronic seals and electronic signatures are expressly permitted, provided they meet Board requirements for security, traceability, and authenticity. Improper sealing—such as sealing work outside one's area of competence, sealing work not under responsible charge, or allowing others to misuse a seal—is classified as professional misconduct and subject to disciplinary action.

### §137.31 SEAL SPECIFICATIONS

- (a) Upon issuance of a license, each license holder is required to obtain a seal under the requirements of §133.97 of this title (relating to Issuance of License).
- (b) In accordance with §1001.401(a) of the Engineering Act, physical and electronic seals shall be of the Board-authorized design illustrated in this section and shall be no larger than two inches in diameter. Regardless of seal size, the engineer's name and number must be clearly legible.
- (c) All physical seals obtained and used by license holders shall be capable of leaving a permanent ink image or permanent impression of the seal attached to the engineering work.

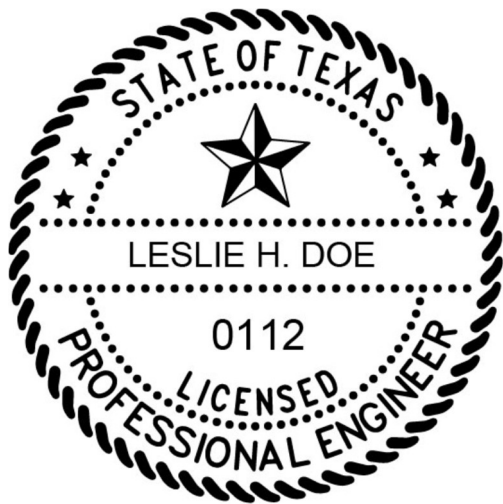


Figure: 22 TAC §137.31(c)

- (d) All seals obtained and used by license holders shall contain any given name, commonly accepted variation of the given name, or initial combination with the surname as currently listed with the board and in the usual written signature. Nicknames shall not be permitted on a seal in lieu of a given name or initial combination. The name can be displayed on the seal using all uppercase letters, such as "LESLIE H. DOE" or using the standard combination of upper and lowercase letters, such as "Leslie H. Doe". If, after licensure, a license holder legally changes his/her name, the license holder must have a new seal or seals made showing the new legal name.
- (e) Preprinting of blank forms with an engineer's seal, or the use of decal or other seal replicas, is prohibited.
- (f) When signing an engineering work, the engineer may utilize the designation "P.E" or other terms as described in §137.1 of this chapter (relating to License Holder Designations).
- (g) This section does not prevent the reproduction of sealed and signed, original works for distribution.

### **§137.33 SEALING PROCEDURES**

(a) The purpose of the engineer's seal is to assure the user of the engineering product that the work has been performed or directly supervised by the professional engineer named and to delineate the scope of the engineer's work.

(b) License holders shall only seal work done by them, performed under their direct supervision as defined in §131.2 of this title, relating to Definitions, or shall be standards or general guideline specifications that they have reviewed and selected. Upon sealing, engineers take full professional responsibility for that work.

(c) When a license holder reviews and elects to use standards or general guideline specifications, those items shall be clearly labeled as such, shall bear the identity of the publishing entity, and shall be:

- (1) individually sealed by the license holder; or
- (2) specified on an integral design/title/contents sheet that bears the engineer's seal, signature, and date with a statement authorizing its use.

(d) License holders shall take reasonable steps to ensure the security of their physical or electronic seals and electronic signatures. For electronic seals and electronic signatures, the engineer must have reasonable security measures in place to protect these files. In the event of loss of a seal or electronic signature, the engineer will, as soon as possible, but within 30 days of discovery, give written notification of the facts concerning the loss to board.

(e) Preliminary documents released from a license holder's control shall identify the purpose of the document, the engineer(s) of record and the engineer license number(s), and the release date by placing the following text or similar wording on the title sheet of bound engineering reports, specifications, details, calculations or estimates, and each sheet of plans or drawings regardless of size or binding, instead of a seal: "This document is released for the purpose of (Examples: interim review, mark-up, drafting) under the authority of (Example: Leslie H. Doe, P.E. 0112) on (date). It is not to be used for (Examples: construction, bidding, permit) purposes."

(f) License holders shall affix their seal and original signature or electronic seal and signature with the date on the final version of their engineering work before such work is released from their control.

- (1) The signature and date shall not obscure the engineer's name or license number in the seal.
- (2) Engineering work required to bear a seal and signature includes the original title sheet of bound engineering reports, specifications, details, calculations or estimates, and each original sheet of plans or drawings regardless of size or binding.
- (3) All other engineering work, including but not limited to research reports, opinions, recommendations, evaluations, addenda, documents produced for litigation, and engineering software shall bear the engineer's printed name, date, signature and the designation "P.E." or other terms as described in §137.1 of this chapter (relating to

License Holder Designations). A seal may be added on such work if required or at the engineer's discretion.

(g) Work performed by more than one license holder shall be sealed in a manner such that all engineering can be clearly attributed to the responsible license holder or license holders. When sealing plans or documents on which two or more license holders have worked, the seal and signature of each license holder shall be placed on the plan or document with a notation describing the work done under each license holder's responsible charge.

(h) Licensed employees of the state, its political subdivisions, or other public entities are responsible for sealing their original engineering work; however, such licensed employees engaged in review and evaluation for compliance with applicable law or regulation of engineering work submitted by others, or in the preparation of general planning documents, a proposal for decision in a contested case or any similar position statement resulting from a compliance review, need not seal the review reports, planning documents, proposals for decision, or position statements.

(i) A license holder, as a third party, may alter, complete, correct, revise, or add to the work of another license holder when engaged to do so by a client, provided:

- (1) the first license holder is notified in writing by the second license holder of the engagement immediately upon acceptance of the engagement; and
- (2) any work altered, completed, corrected, revised, or added to shall have a seal affixed by the second license holder. The second license holder then becomes responsible for any alterations, additions or deletions to the original design including any effect or impact of those changes on the original license holder's design.

(j) A local authority may require an original seal and/or signature on reproduced documents.

(k) A plan, specification, plat, or report issued by a license holder for a project to be constructed or used in this state must include the license holder's seal placed on the document. A license holder is not required to use a seal if the project is to be constructed or used in another state or country.

(l) An engineer may securely transmit his or her final version of engineering work electronically provided that work bears the engineer's seal and uses one of the techniques described in §137.35(a) of this chapter (relating to Electronic Seals and Electronic Signatures) and must employ reasonable security measures to make the documents unalterable. Electronic correspondence of this type may be followed by a hard copy containing the engineer's printed name, date, signature and the designation "P.E." or other terms described in §137.1 of this chapter (relating to License Holder Designations).

(m) A license holder is not required to use a seal for a project for which the license holder is not required to hold a license under an exemption set forth under the Act, Texas Occupation Code §§1001.051 - 1001.066.

(n) All engineering documents released, issued, or submitted by a licensee, including preliminary documents, shall clearly indicate the firm name and registration number of the engineering firm by which the engineer is employed.

(1) If the engineer is employed by a local, State, or Federal Government agency, then only the name of the agency shall be required.

(2) If the engineer is exempt from sealing a document under subsection (m) of this section, but elects to seal a document, then only the name of the employer shall be required.

(o) Use of a seal that is not in compliance with the requirements of §137.31 of this title (relating to Seal Specifications) by a license holder is subject to sanctions.

### §137.35 E

(a) Licensee shall use original seals and electronic seals.

(1) Licensee shall use original seals that are hard copy work and a secure electronic seal.

(2) An original seal shall be used in the work unless the work was originally sealed.

(b) As an alternative to original seals and electronic seals, a licensee may use the work as described in §137.33(f) of this title.

### §137.37 SEALING

(a) A license holder shall be subject to disciplinary action if the license holder:

(1) knowingly signs or seals any engineering document or product if its use or implementation may endanger the health, safety, property or welfare of the public.

(2) signs or affixes a seal on any document or product when the license is inactive or has been revoked, suspended, or has expired.

(3) alters a sealed document without proper notification to the responsible license holder.

(4) allows others access to his or her electronic files containing his or her seal and/or electronic signature, unless access is explicitly authorized for particular engineering work.

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