



STRUCTURAL DOCUMENTS – PRACTICE BULLETIN

The Safety Committee is concerned with a growing practice of issuing structural drawings with insufficient information. APEGM has been notified of complaints ranging from an absence of building dimensions to incomplete information on design loads, member and connection forces. This design information is necessary for the project to be constructed in accordance with the design drawings.

The Safety Committee has reviewed these concerns and is of the opinion that the lack of adequate information on structural drawings can present a danger to public safety. The Committee has been made aware of structural drawings which do not have building dimensions, and make reference to architectural drawings for dimensioning. Designers attempt to justify this approach as a means to avoid conflicting dimensions and repeating information.

The Safety Committee is of the opinion that this practice has the potential problem of structural drawings becoming in conflict with architectural drawings. A series of changes made to architectural drawings may not be addressed or updated in the structural drawings.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, designers are reminded that the Manitoba Building Code 2006 stipulates the following:

MBC 2006 (NBCC 2005) Division C

2.2.4.3 Information Required on Structural Drawings

- 1)
 - c) the dimensions, location and size of all structural members in sufficient detail to enable the design to be checked.
 - d) sufficient detail to enable the dead loads to be determined, and
 - e) all effects and loads, other than dead loads, used for the design of the structural members and exterior cladding.

Similar provisions are found in the specific design standards, for example, **CAN/CSA S16-01 'Limit States Design of Steel Structures'**:

4.2.1 Structural Design Documents

...The structural design documents shall show a complete design of the structure with members suitably designed and located, including such dimensions and details as necessary to permit the preparation of fabrication and erection documents. Floor levels, column centres, and offsets shall be dimensioned...

Members are advised that structural drawings must comply with Code requirements and provide all of the required design information.