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M E M O

TO: All Building Officials in Miami-Dade County

**FROM: Herminio F. Gonzalez, P.E., Secretary
Board of Rules and Appeals**

DATE: November 20, 2003

**SUBJECT: BORA Interpretation Chapter 8 Article II
Structural Plan Examiner Requirements**

At their November 13, 2003 meeting, the Board of Rules and Appeals rendered an interpretation regarding the qualifications necessary for certification for the category of "Structural Plans Examiner".

The requirements for certification as a structural plans examiner are contained in Chapter 8 Article II of the Code of Miami-Dade County, as adopted by Ordinance 01-225, and shown below:

CERTIFICATION OF STRUCTURAL PLANS EXAMINER: To be eligible for appointment as a structural plans examiner, an individual shall be certified by the Board of Rules and Appeals and shall be a Florida licensed professional engineer who has obtained such license by examination under the structural discipline and who has practiced as a structural engineer within the jurisdiction of this Code for a period of 5 years.

The interpretation rendered by the Board addressed the issue of the discipline under which the professional engineering license was obtained. The Board ruled that those individuals who obtained their professional engineering license through examination under the structural, civil/structural or civil/structural/sanitary discipline would be eligible for certification. However, this provision would apply only to those professional engineers licensed on or before March 1, 1993. The five years of experience "...within the jurisdiction of this code..." must be structural in scope. The Board arrived at their decision based on evidence that was presented by interested parties, indicating that prior to March 1, 1993 there was no distinction between the professional engineering examinations in the categories noted above.

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Professional engineers licensed after March 1, 1993 and wishing to be certified as structural plans examiners must demonstrate that they obtained their professional engineering license through testing under an examination consisting of all structural questions. Currently, the “Structural I” or “Structural II” examination would meet this requirement. Additionally, five years of structural experience within the jurisdiction of this code must be demonstrated.

Please refer any questions regarding this issue to Mr. Michael Goolsby of my staff at (305) 375-4496.

HG:MG

