



City of Richmond
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Bulletin
Building Approvals Department

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**Need for Manual Signing & Sealing
of Plans and Letters of Assurance**

No.: BUILDING-18
Date: 2005-11-01

In administration of the British Columbia *Building Code* and the City's *Building Regulation Bylaw No. 7230* (as amended), the City will not be accepting electronically sealed plans or electronically sealed *Building Code* letters of assurance. Such documents will be accepted only with a manually applied signature and manual affixation of the required professional seal.

The organizations governing the practice of architecture and engineering in British Columbia have not yet created and publicly adopted a formal protocol for use and acceptance of electronic sealing and electronic signing. Until this has occurred, the City cannot and will not accept electronically sealed or electronically signed plans or *Code* letters of assurance.

Receipt of electronically sealed or electronically signed plans and letters of assurance would compromise the City's ability to rely on the legal immunity provided in Section 290 of the *Local Government Act*.

The situation will be revisited when both professional organizations have moved from the present status quo.