



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY
GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
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DESIGN LIMITATIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS

ARCHITECTS

May design any building of any type except:
The structural portion of a hospital.

APPLICABLE STATUTES

Section 129805 of Health & Safety Code
Sections 5500.1, 6737 of Business & Professions Code

CIVIL ENGINEERS

May design any building except:
Hospitals and Public Schools.

APPLICABLE STATUTES

Section 129805 of Health & Safety Code
Section 17302 of Education Code
Sections 5537.5, 6731, 6735 of Business & Professions Code

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

No limitations;
may design any building of any type.

APPLICABLE STATUTES

Sections 6731, 6736, 5537.1 of Business & Professions Code

UNLICENSED PERSONS

Limited to design of:

- ⇒ Single-family dwellings of woodframe construction not more than two stories and a basement in height.
- ⇒ Multiple dwellings containing no more than four dwelling units of woodframe construction not more than two stories and a basement in height. Not more than four dwelling units per lot.
- ⇒ Garages or other structures appurtenant to other exempt buildings, of woodframe construction not more than two stories and a basement in height.
- ⇒ Agricultural and ranch buildings of woodframe construction.*
- ⇒ Nonstructural or nonsiesmic store fronts, interior alterations or additions, fixtures, cabinetwork, furniture, or other appliances or equipment including nonstructural or nonseismic work necessary to provide for their installation.
- ⇒ May not design any component that changes or affects the safety of any building, including but not limited to structural or seismic components.

* Unless the building official having jurisdiction deems that an undue risk to the public health, safety, or welfare is involved.

APPLICABLE STATUTES

Sections 5537, 5538, 6737.1 of Business & Professions Code

