## PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS Engineering documents that should not be overlooked!

Performance specifications are engineering documents that serve as references for designing engineers and other stakeholders. They specify the standards that a structure will need to meet, the performance that it will need to deliver and all other criteria applicable to it, such as surface area, weight, mobility, service life, scalability, etc.

G iven their very specific purpose, performance specifications that are not explicit enough may not only have serious consequences on the lives and health of people, but also on the property and the environment. In fact, engineers who accept a mandate to prepare performance specifications must be sure that they have the knowledge they need to produce high-quality, complete and clear specifications.

## WELL-INFORMED CLIENTS

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For more information, watch for the next issue of PLAN, which will discuss the consequences for engineers who prepare or use unclear, ambiguous or incomplete performance specifications, or fail to properly inform their clients.



## THE MAIN PROVISIONS THAT PERTAIN TO PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS CODE OF ETHICS OF ENGINEERS

**2.01.** In all aspects of his work, the engineer must respect his obligations towards man and take into account the consequences of the performance of his work on the environment and on the life, health and property of every person.

**3.01.01.** Before accepting a mandate, an engineer must bear in mind the extent of his proficiency and aptitudes and also the means at his disposal to carry out the mandate. **3.02.04.** An engineer must refrain from expressing or giving contradictory or incomplete opinions or advice, and from presenting or using plans, specifications and other documents which he knows to be ambiguous or which are not sufficiently explicit.

**3.03.02.** In addition to opinion and counsel, the engineer must furnish his client with any explanations necessary to the understanding and appreciation of the services he is providing him.

**3.02.07.** Where an engineer is responsible for the technical quality of engineering work, and his opinion is ignored, the engineer must clearly indicate to his client, in writing, the consequences which may result therefrom.

## ENGINEERS ACT

**2.** Works of the kind hereinafter described constitute the field of practice of the engineer:

- *a*) railways, public roads, airports, bridges, viaducts, tunnels and the installations connected with a transport system the cost of which exceeds \$3,000;
- *b*) dams, canals, harbours, lighthouses and all works relating to the improvement, control or utilization of waters;
- c) works of an electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, aeronautical, electronic, thermic, nuclear, metallurgical, geological or mining character and those intended for the utilization of the processes of applied chemistry or physics;
- *d*) waterworks, sewer, filtration, purification works to dispose of refuse and other works in the field of municipal engineering the cost of which exceeds \$1,000;
- e) the foundations, framework and electrical and mechanical systems of buildings the cost of which exceeds \$100,000 and of public buildings within the meaning of the Public Buildings Safety Act (chapter S-3);
- f) structures accessory to engineering works and intended to house them;
- *g*) temporary framework and other temporary works used during the carrying out of works of civil engineering;
- h) soil engineering necessary to elaborate engineering works;
- *i*) industrial work or equipment involving public or employee safety.

**3.** The practice of the engineering profession consists in performing for another any of the following acts, when they relate to the works mentioned in section 2:

- a) the giving of consultations and opinions;
- *b*) the making of measurements and layouts, the preparation of reports, computations, designs, drawings, plans, specifications;
- c) the inspection or supervision of the works.  $\blacktriangleleft$