



Building Services
808 West Spokane Falls Blvd
Spokane WA 99201-3343
(509) 625-6300

SFR-20
Engineering
Required in SFR

Reference: IBC Sections 106.1

“Engineering” is a generic term used by Building Services staff to describe a requirement for design drawings, details, and calculations that are prepared by an engineer licensed to practice in the State of Washington. Chapter 23 of the International Building Code (IBC) gives prescriptive requirements for Conventional Light Wood Frame construction. “Prescriptive” means that if you follow the listed requirements for construction, you are not required to provide drawings and calculations designed and stamped by a licensed engineer. When construction methods are not described in the prescriptive sections of the Code, then engineering is required. Following are some examples of when engineering is required:

- Post and Beam Construction
- Steel Stud and Joist Construction
- Steel Frame Construction (welded or bolted connections)
- Foam Form Walls
- Foam Wall and Roof Panels
- Cast-in-place Concrete Retaining Walls
- Earth Retaining Structures
- Pile or Pier Foundation Systems
- Alternate Methods or Materials as required by Evaluation Report
- Alternate Methods or Materials as required by the Building Official
- Other cases as deemed necessary by the Building Official per IBC Section 106.1.

If engineering is required, please submit the following with your permit application:

- Drawings (plan and detail) stamped by the engineer - 2 copies
- Calculations stamped by the engineer - 1 copy