

REQUIREMENTS FOR DAY CARE PROJECTS

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The Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects was created in 1937 to protect life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare. The board ensures architects and professional engineers are competent to practice, and assists the public in determining if new buildings or renovations require the involvement of a licensed architect or professional engineer.

The Nebraska Engineers and Architects Regulation Act as it relates to day care facilities

The Nebraska Engineers and Architects Regulation Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-3401 to 81-3455) and Title 110, Neb. Admin. Code contains the statutes and rules that determine when licensees are required on projects classified as I-4 (Day Care) occupancies under the state building code.

New Day Care Projects

Architects and professional engineers do not need to be involved in the design and construction of new, stand-alone day care facilities if the project is under 2,000 square feet in size. Licensed architects and professional engineers may need to be involved if the project involves the practices of architecture or engineering, and is 2,000 square feet or more in size.

Renovations or Additions to an Existing Structure

Architects and professional engineers do not need to be involved in the design and construction of renovations or one-level additions that modify or alter an existing structure to contain a day care occupancy if:

- The total impacted area is less than 2,000 square feet, and
- The area of renovation or addition does not adversely impact the mechanical system; the electrical system; the structural integrity; the means of egress; and does not change or come into conflict with the occupancy classification of the existing or adjacent tenant space, building, structure or work.

If the renovation or addition does not meet this definition, architects and professional engineers may be required if the work involves the practices of architecture or engineering.

The total area “adversely impacted” is usually not limited to the area of the structure being renovated or the size of the addition. In many cases, the work can adversely impact other areas of the existing structure.

Are architects and engineers interchangeable?

No. While much of what architects and professional engineers produce may at times look similar, such as creating plans, designs, drawings, and technical submissions, the practices of architecture and engineering are separate and distinct. Please refer to the definitions of each practice as contained in N.R.S. § 81-3420 and § 81-3421.

Contact Us

A handbook containing the text of the E&A Act and Title 110 may be found at ea.nebraska.gov; navigate to *Regulations > The Nebraska Engineers and Architects Regulation Act*. Printed handbooks are also available upon request.

If portions of this document conflict with the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act and Board Rules, the Act and Rules take precedence.