

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION
NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND REGULATIONS

In accordance with the authority granted in Sections 4-168 and 20-300 of the Connecticut General Statutes, it is the intention of the State of Connecticut, Department of Consumer Protection to amend the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies by amending Section 20-300-10, concerning electronic signatures by professional engineers and land surveyors.

All interested persons who wish to express their views orally may do so at a public hearing to be held at the Department of Consumer Protection, Room 119, State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106 at 10:00 a.m. on May 8, 2012.

All interested parties who wish to submit data, views or arguments may do so in writing within thirty (30) days following the publication of this notice. Such written materials should be directed to William M. Rubenstein, Commissioner, Department of Consumer Protection, Room 103, State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, 06106.

A copy of the proposed regulation, the Fiscal Note, and the Small Business Impact Statement applicable to the proposed regulation (as required by Public Act 09-19) are available for inspection at the address cited above, by requesting a copy of the same by telephoning the Department at 860-713-6086, or by viewing the same by clicking on the "Laws and Regulations" link on the Internet homepage of the Department: www.CT.gov/DCP.

The proposed changes are summarized as follows:

(A) Purpose: These proposed regulations update existing requirements for seals used by professional engineers and land surveyors on engineering plans and land surveys. The changes permit the use of an electronic signature in lieu of the handwritten signature and raised seal on hardcopy plans and surveys. This is an effort to modernize the law to permit the use of digital media files.

(B) Summary: These amendments establish standards for digital signatures on electronic documents. An electronic signature is permitted if it is in compliance with the Digital Signature Standard (“DSS”) established by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (“NIST”). The regulations also establish standards for the electronic transmission of plans and surveys.

(C) Legal Effects: Existing regulations establish standards for the signing and sealing of paper, Mylar or other hardcopy engineering and land surveying documents. These proposed regulations establish similar standards for electronic documents. There are no major changes to the legal effects for compliance with the regulations. Failure to comply with these new regulations may result in action against the license of the engineer or land surveyor, including revocation, suspension, probation or a letter of reprimand.