

**Circular No. (13-1-1) of 2021**

**Dated 23/08/2021**

**On/ The Practice of Engineering Professions**

**Messrs. Engineering consulting offices and construction contracting companies,  
Greetings,**

**First: Sophisticated Specialized Work**

- All engineering consulting offices shall not assign any unspecialized precise work to branches of foreign engineering offices and the participating engineering offices or allow such offices to add their names to the plans, or place a sign containing their names at the work site that the main local consulting office supervises.
- Initial approvals shall be obtained from the Committee for Registration and Licensing of Practicing the Engineering Consulting Profession before starting any connections of any other precise specializations that are not mentioned in the Executive Regulations of the said Local Order.
- You can refer to Article (21) of the Executive Regulations of Local Order No. 89 of 1994 to review the type of precise specialized work.
- The offices that violate the above shall be subject to one of the penalties stipulated in Article (46) of Local Order No. 89 of 1994.

**Second: Carrying out the Activity of Engineering Management Services for Projects**

Engineering offices shall carry out [the activity of engineering management services for projects]-742138, - an engineering office that practices the aforementioned activity is defined as an office assigned by the owner to manage the project on its behalf. There shall be a relationship between the engineering office, the owner, and the consulting office that designs the works and bears responsibility for supervising the implementation of the same. Employees of such offices shall not have the right to deal directly with contracting companies that implement works, nor issue instructions to them without the knowledge of the consultant that designs the project, in whose name the plans were licensed and that bears responsibility for the implementation of works, and upon carrying out this activity - they shall take into account the notes contained in [Appendix \(13-1-1-1\) - Requirements for Practicing the Activity and Testing Technical Personnel](#).

### Third: Principles of Practicing the Profession

All engineering consulting offices and contracting companies shall adhere to the principles of practicing the engineering work profession, exercise fair competition, give priority to the interest of project owners over any other considerations, and adhere to all local orders, administrative decisions, executive regulations, and legislation in force in the Emirate, most notably Local Order No. 89 of 1994 regarding practicing the engineering consulting profession and its executive regulations, along with laws and regulations governing the real estate development sector. It is emphasized here that they shall adhere to the following instructions:

1. Abstaining from carrying out activities of commercial promotion and marketing for designs and projects of residential buildings and villas for the purpose of commercial competition.
2. Concluding engineering contracts that comply with approved regulations and laws and principles of practicing the profession directly with owners, and not allowing the names of their offices and companies or their designs to be used for the purposes of commercial competitions and speculations against their colleagues who work in the same sector.
3. Maintaining the proper progress of engineering projects till successful completion through concluding effective contracts which are based on the distribution of tasks and responsibilities between (engineering offices, contractors, and real estate developers licensed to work in the Emirate) after obtaining the necessary approvals from all competent authorities.

### Fourth: Third-Party Structural Inspection:

- **Standards required for entities that carry out third-party structural inspection activities:**
  1. Local inspection offices shall be listed in class 1 (unlimited floors), and shall have at least 3 structural engineers accredited by Dubai Municipality for the class of unlimited floors, with no less than 10 years of experience.
  2. They shall have previous experience in implementing projects similar to the projects for which they apply to carry out inspection activities (i.e., they should have

completed with Dubai Municipality a project similar and equivalent to the project to be inspected in terms of area, height, or structural system).

3. Foreign offices shall be specialized in structural inspection, and shall have at least 3 engineers accredited by Dubai Municipality for the class of unlimited floors, with no less than 10 years of experience. (They shall submit evidence that they have inspected projects in their countries of origin that are similar and equivalent to the projects to be inspected in terms of area, height, or structural system).
  4. The quality of works being inspected or submitted to Dubai Municipality shall be of good quality. In the event that an office submits a work that is technically of poor quality, such office shall be banned from carrying out the activity.
- **Building projects that are required to be inspected by a third party:**
- Type 1:** High-rise buildings, with a height of one hundred and twenty (120) meters or more
- Type 2:** Buildings in which an unconventional structural system, that requires distinct specialized expertise, is used
- Type 3:** Buildings with a continuous building area of fifty thousand (50,000) square meters or more.
- **In addition to meeting the conditions and requirements stipulated in Local Order No. (3) of (1999) regarding the regulation of construction work in the Emirate of Dubai, and the decisions issued pursuant thereto, the following requirements shall be met in order to obtain permits for the above-mentioned buildings:**
- The structural design and plans of such buildings shall be pre-inspected by a third-party engineering consulting office, qualified and licensed to work in the field of structural inspection in the Emirate of Dubai. (According to the list available on Dubai Municipality website), such office shall be assigned by the main engineering consulting office.
  - When applying to the Municipality, the main engineering consulting office shall attach to the plans submitted for obtaining a permit ,a letter issued by a (third-party) auditing engineering consulting office in which it acknowledges that it has inspected the project's structural design and related plans based on all the requirements of the approved international codes and that they conform to the

local specifications, standards, and conditions approved by Dubai Municipality, and meet structural security and safety requirements.

- The consultant that carries out inspection activities and the project consultant shall be jointly responsible for all work that they inspect.
- The consultant that carries out inspection activities shall carry out the structural inspection work completely independently of the main consultant of the project. It shall do so by qualified engineers approved by the Municipality. The design model shall be made using design programs different from the programs used by the main consultant of the project to verify the structural design and ensure its safety by comparing the design-related results in a sound technical manner.
- The results of the Wind Tunnel test shall be attached to the submitted structural plans and calculations for high-rise buildings with a height of one hundred and twenty (120) meters and more.
- The main engineering consulting office may obtain approval for the design idea for the projects subject of this circular by making an initial submission of the same.
- The consultant that carries out inspection activities shall be assigned directly by the owner and not by the main consultant of the project.
- The provisions contained in this circular shall apply as of September 12, 2019G to all new projects that have not been previously submitted to the Municipality before such date.

#### **Fifth: Evaluation of Engineering Offices (Engineering Excellence)**

The engineering excellence system aims to motivate engineering consulting offices to sustain excellence and win first places, by assessing the extent of compliance with the regulations, laws, and standards in force in the Emirate. Engineering offices are evaluated through (3) main axes that include (11) standards, as follows:

##### **Axis 1: Registration, Qualification, and Practice Requirements:**

1. The extent of compliance with meeting annual renewal requirements
2. The extent of compliance with the continuous application of standards of practice
3. Maintaining a record free of violations related to the practice of engineering professions

## Axis 2: Requirements for Design and Plan Submissions and Obtaining Permits:

1. The extent of compliance with regulations, laws, and circulars
2. Completeness, clarity, and accuracy of plans and information
3. The extent of knowledge and commitment to the electronic permit system
4. Number of applications for a single transaction (repeated transactions)

## Axis 3: Requirements for Implementation and Supervision of Projects:

1. The extent of compliance with security and safety requirements
2. The extent of compliance with permit standards, engineering requirements, and quality of work
3. Number of applications for a single structural inspection transaction (repeated transactions)
4. Technical violations at construction sites

It should be noted that the evaluation shall be conducted periodically, on an annual basis, according to the type of building. Names of the participating engineering offices shall be published within open data announced by the Municipality. Offices that achieve high evaluation results shall receive incentives.

[Appendix \(13-1-1-2\), Details of Engineering Excellence System for Engineering Consulting Offices](#)

### Sixth: Writing Details of Engineers on Plans

In addition to evaluating engineering offices according to the (engineering excellence) , engineers working in such offices shall be evaluated based on the quality of the plans submitted for approval. Accordingly, engineering offices shall adhere to and shall be aware of the following requirements:

1. Writing the name of the designer engineer and their registration number (the engineer's registration number with the Consultants and Contractors Qualification Department at Dubai Municipality) on all plans that are uploaded to the system when applying for building permits according to the following form:

|                     |  |     |  |
|---------------------|--|-----|--|
| Architect           |  | No. |  |
| Structural Engineer |  | No. |  |

2. An engineer whose name is written on the plans shall bear responsibility for the design and data attached to them (this does not exempt the engineering office from any legal responsibility stipulated in the laws in force in the Emirate and the State).

**“This is a technical translation, in case of ambiguity Arabic version will prevail “**