

# Practice Note: Coordination of Engineering on Projects

*Prepared by C.R. Bouskill, P.Eng., February 1999*

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There continues to be a trend to develop projects on a design/build basis. A number of concerns have been expressed about certain shortcomings arising from the design and inspection procedures associated with this method of project development.

The Investigation Committee has reviewed a matter of the partial collapse of a one-storey structure which was developed using the design/build process. This review revealed that there were at least three professional engineers involved in various structural aspects of the building, but there was no one professional engineer in overall charge of coordinating the structural design of the building and providing field inspection services for the structure. This lack of coordination of the structural aspects of the building contributed to the conditions which ultimately resulted in the partial failure of the structure.

Each professional engineer who is involved in providing design engineering services for projects for which there is not a prime consultant is strongly reminded that it is the responsibility of each professional engineer to:

- a. identify the design professional who is providing overall coordination of the engineering design services within the applicable area of practice (e.g. structural, mechanical, etc.),
- b. clearly specify the requirements for 'designs to be provided by others' in those situations where his/her design interconnects with that of another designer, and
- c. inform the client of the importance and value-added benefits of inspections and the significance of their being undertaken by the professional engineer responsible for the design.