Structural Engineers

#12 Structural Engineers’ Qualifications

Following on from Fact Sheet #11 (Opting-in or Opting Out of SI No.9) this fact sheet covers the suitability/qualifications of the appointment of Structural Engineers for your residential construction project (ie a House or extension >40m² for example).

The four organisations that represent the design professionals that can act as Assigned Certifier and Design Certifier under S.I. No. 9 are:

• The Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI) (Chartered Engineer)
• Engineers Ireland (Chartered Engineer)
• The Royal Institution of Architects of Ireland (RIAI) (Registered Architect Member)
• The Society of Chartered Surveyors of Ireland (SCSI) (Chartered Surveyor).

In order to be a Chartered Structural Engineer then he/she MUST be Chartered with Engineers Ireland. You can check whether this on the link below:

http://www.engineersireland.ie/membership/search-members.aspx

The key word then in the search results is ‘Chartered’:

The Chartership with Engineers Ireland comes first and then you can also become a member of the ACEI.

On an architect led project for example (such as mine), I would call upon the services of a Structural Engineer to provide Ancillary Certification for the Structural Engineering aspects.

The Ancillary Certificates have been agreed, approved and recommended by the organisational bodies described above and are available HERE. Although they can be signed by the Principal or Director of the Structural Engineering Company; the certificate requires the supervision and direction to be undertaken by a Chartered Engineer.

The relationship of the above to whether you Opt-In or Out of SI No.9 of 2014 is the following:

Although not Statutory, they are recommended to be included in the upload of an Opt-in BCMS Commencement Notice; this ensures that the process for inspecting & certifying the works is in accordance with the Code of Practice. The minimum requirements for a valid Commencement Notice (not including the Statutory documents) for an ‘Opt-in’ are:

Select at least one from the following
• General Arrangement Drawings
• Plans
• Sections
• Elevations

And at least one of the following
• Schedule of Plans
• Calculations
• Specifications and Particulars

And at least one of the following
• Inspection Plan
• Inspection Notification Framework

You still have the ability to upload Ancillary Certificates if you decide to opt-out from SI9 but my guess is that the majority of ‘opt-outs’ would not be uploading any more information then they have to. The minimum requirements for a valid Commencement Notice (not including the Statutory documents) for an ‘Opt-out’ are:

Select at least one from the following
• General Arrangement Drawings
• Plans
• Sections
• Elevations

And also:
• A Schedule of Documents in the prescribed format