



**ACEC**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Position Paper Standard Form Agreements

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### **ACEC-BC Position Paper**

Position Papers are articles developed by ACEC-BC Committees and published for use by consulting engineering companies as a general resource. The information provided highlights relevant issues and practices for the industry and should not be construed as legal advice.

### **Edition Editors**

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## **Standard Form Agreements**

There are well researched and vetted standard form agreements available to the consulting engineering industry to use directly or as a guide to appropriate contractual language. These include:

### **[CCDC 31 - 2020 Service Contract Between Owner and Consultant:](#)**

This document was originally adapted from ACEC Document 31 – Engineering Agreement Between Client and Engineer at the request of the ACEC Canada. CCDC 31 – 2020 is considered the industry standard for owner-consultant agreements and contains equitable limitation of liability and indemnity language. The Provincial Government of British Columbia has released a standard engineering agreement based on the CCDC-31, see [ACEC-BC Announces Release of Provincial Government Standard Architectural and Engineering Contracts - ACEC-BC](#).

### **[MMCD Client/Consultant Agreement:](#)**

This document is produced by the Master Municipal Construction Documents Association, which since 1989 has been a partnership of ACEC British Columbia, the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association, and Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia. A document committee comprised of representatives of municipalities, contractors and consulting engineers worked together to publish this document, intended primarily to retain consultants on municipal engineering projects. Key objectives include fairness to all parties, appropriate allocation of risk, and equitable means of dispute resolution and addressing changes. The MMCD Client/Consultant Agreement was updated in 2024, see [ACEC-BC Member Bulletin: Understanding the 2024 MMCD CCA](#).

### **[ACEC Document 32 – 2011 Agreement between Engineer and Sub-Consultant:](#)**

This document was developed by ACEC Canada for use when a consulting engineer will act as prime consultant and engage subconsultant engineers. ACEC Document 32 flows through suitable terms from the prime agreement to sub-consultants. It is also a useful reference for subconsultant engineers to reference when engaging with a prime consultant.

### **[RAIC Document 9 – Canadian Standard Form of Contract Between Architect and Consultant:](#)**

This document was developed for use when a consulting engineer is subconsultant to an architect on a building project. It is intended to work in conjunction with the prime agreement between the architect and the ultimate client, RAIC Document 6 – Canadian Standard Form of Contract for Architectural Services. The RAIC Document 9 flows through to the consultant the obligations and benefits of all rights that the architect has in the prime agreement. See also related information in [ACEC-BC Member Bulletin: Unintended Scope – use of RAIC Doc 6 for Electrical and Mechanical Consulting Services](#).

## **Other Resources**

There are other industry partners able to provide useful reference information, including insurance professionals and other professional or industry associations. Speak with your insurance broker for additional reference materials.

ACEC-BC recommends that every member responsible for negotiating contracts on behalf of their firm be familiar with these standard form documents to use as a baseline in determining appropriate contract language. This should be done in consultation with legal counsel and taking into consideration project-specific risks, to the extent they impact the key provisions or terms of the negotiations with stakeholders.