



Beware of Unlicensed Services on Freelance Platforms

Over the last few years, the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS) has seen a steady increase in complaints alleging fraudulent use of engineers' seals, specifically through "gig" or freelance websites. Individuals are advertising professional services on these websites [without the required professional license](#).

They may claim to be:

- "Licensed" or "Certified"
- "Professionals" in fields that require credentials, such as engineering and surveying.
- Offering "official" inspections, plans, or advice

But their claims may be false.

Hiring an unqualified/unlicensed person can lead to unsafe or illegal work, invalid plans, documents, or reports, and financial loss for the customer who paid for services through these sites and are left with plans they cannot use.

Common warning signs include: [very low prices](#), [unrealistically quick schedules](#), [communicating solely through the freelance website or email](#), [pressure to pay up-front](#), and [vague or inconsistent credentials](#).

Protect yourself by using the [OSBEELS License Search](#). This search allows you to verify an Oregon license and the licensee it belongs to, as well as to view if there have been any disciplinary actions taken against a licensee in Oregon. **If there is any doubt, contact the licensee directly.**

OSBEELS strongly urges the public to use caution and verify credentials before hiring professionals online. If you believe someone is offering professional services without the required license, please submit a complaint to OSBEELS, either through [email](mailto:osbeels.info@osbeels.oregon.gov) (osbeels.info@osbeels.oregon.gov), or through our [complaint portal](#).

