

County of Los Alamos


Building Safety Division

Policy: Fences Over Six Feet in Height

Effective Date: December 06, 2018

Approved By: Michael Arellano (December 06, 2018)

Revised:


Elias Isaacson, CDD Director


Date

Policy: Fences exceeding six feet in height will require engineering approval.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all fences exceeding six (6) feet in height are safe, stable, and compliant with applicable codes. Engineering review and approval protect public safety, maintain neighborhood standards, and align with County building rules.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all residential, commercial, and industrial fence installations within Los Alamos County. It includes new fences, replacements, or significant changes to existing fences if the height is over six (6) feet.

3. Eligibility

- Subject to engineering review:
Fences over six (6) feet require stamped engineering drawings by a licensed professional engineer.
- Exception:
Chain link fences that are greater than six (6) feet in height and up to a maximum height of eight (8) feet do not require stamped engineering drawings if all other applicable building codes and zoning regulations are met.

4. Procedures

1. Application Submission:
Property owners or contractors must submit a building permit application for fences exceeding six (6) feet in height.

2. **Engineering Documents:**
Applications must include engineered drawings when required. They must also show structural details and specifications.
3. **Plan Review:**
The Building Safety Division reviews your documents. They confirm that you meet County codes and this policy.
4. **Permit Issuance:**
A building permit will be issued only after approval of all required documentation.
5. **Inspections:**
Field inspections happen during and after construction. They confirm you followed approved plans and codes.

5. Requirements

- Fences over six (6) feet must handle local wind, snow, and soil conditions. The County code sets these conditions.
- A licensed engineer in New Mexico must sign and seal the engineering documents.
- Fences must not block sightlines needed at intersections or driveways.
- Chain link fences under eight (8) feet are exempt from engineering requirements but must meet all placement and safety standards.

6. Enforcement

- If you do not get permits or engineering documents, your permit can be denied. Stop-work orders or citations may also be issued.
- You may need to remove fences that do not comply with the rules. The property owner pays for this removal.
- If violations occur again, additional enforcement actions may be taken under County and State laws.