

Topic: State Seal Questions
 Question by: Alberta Bennett
 Jurisdiction: Colorado
 Date: August 19, 2013

| Jurisdiction | Question(s) |
|---------------------------------|--|
| | We are wondering what is the official size of the seal for other states and who uses an embossed seal vs rubber stamp on official documents? Is the seal size in statute, rules, etc? |
| Manitoba | |
| Corporations Canada | |
| Alabama | |
| Alaska | |
| Arizona | |
| Arkansas | |
| California | |
| Colorado | |
| Connecticut | |
| Delaware | |
| District of Columbia | In the District of Columbia we use official DC's seal and added agency's name and division name to it. Seal size is not in our rules or statute. We have moved to e-seal on all of our documents and no longer use rubber stamp.. |
| Florida | |
| Georgia | |

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| <p>Hawaii</p> | <p>The size of the seal of the State of Hawaii is in statutes.</p> <p>§5-5 State seal, description. The great seal of the State shall be circular in shape, two and three-quarters inches in diameter, and of the design being described, with the tinctures added as a basis for the coat of arms as follows:</p> <p>Arms. An heraldic shield which is quarterly; first and fourth, stripes of the Hawaiian flag; second and third, on a yellow field, a white ball pierced on a black staff; overall, a green escutcheon with a five-pointed yellow star in the center.</p> <p>Supporters. On the right side, Kamehameha I, standing in the attitude as represented by the bronze statue in front of Aliiolani Hale, Honolulu; cloak and helmet yellow; figure in natural colors. To the left, goddess of liberty, wearing a Phrygian cap and laurel wreath, and holding in right hand the Hawaiian flag, partly unfurled.</p> <p>Crest. A rising sun irradiated in gold, surrounded by a legend "State of Hawaii, 1959", on a scroll, black lettering.</p> <p>Motto. "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono" on the scroll at bottom, gold lettering.</p> <p>Further accessories. Below the shield, the bird phoenix wings outstretched; arising from flames, body black, wings half yellow, half dark red; also eight taro leaves, having on either side banana foliage and sprays of maiden hair fern, trailed upwards. [L 1901, c 16, §1; RL 1925, §143; RL 1935, §7771; RL 1945, §12941; RL 1955, §14-5; am L 1957, c 29, §1; am L 1959, c 272, §2; HRS §5-5]</p> <p>Note</p> <p>The seal is the same as that of the Republic of Hawaii, except that the latter was three inches in diameter and had the legend "Republic of Hawaii". See L 1896, p 272, joint resolution; CL §24.</p> |
| <p>Idaho</p> | |
| <p>Illinois</p> | |
| <p>Indiana</p> | |
| <p>Iowa</p> | |
| <p>Kansas</p> | |
| <p>Kentucky</p> | |
| <p>Louisiana</p> | <p>Louisiana is the same as Washington. The seal is printed on all our certificates and apostilles.</p> <p>There is no statutory requirement on the size of the seal.</p> |
| <p>Maine</p> | |

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| Maryland | |
| Massachusetts | |
| Michigan | <p>In Michigan, the Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau uses a seal which is distinct from the State of Michigan seal. The State of Michigan seal can only be placed on specific documents listed in Section 4 of the Great Seal Act, 1963 PA 19, available at: http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-2-44 .</p> <p>The Bureau seal is 1 ½ inches when it appears on Certificates that are transmitted by fax. The Bureau seal is 1 ¾ inches when it is preprinted on Certificates that are sent by mail. Thus, in both instances the Bureau seal is preprinted and not manually placed on the documents. There is no authority which specifies size requirements for the Bureau seal. Attached is an example of the preprinted Certificate paper and an example of a Certificate of Good Standing that was transmitted by fax.</p> |
| Minnesota | <p>In Minnesota, the state seal is often preprinted, for example on certificate paper used for certificates of incorporation. In addition, for some official documents, we use raised gold seals that adhere by a sticky-back onto proclamations and other similar documents. For certified copies, there is a very small state seal that is part of our certified copy stamp. There is no dimensional requirement for the seal. We have not used manual embossers as a general rule for quite some time.</p> |
| Mississippi | |
| Missouri | |
| Montana | <p>I believe the embossers in this office are originals from 1889, they don't look any newer than that anyway.</p> <p>The Montana Seal is also set by Montana Code Annotated at 2 1/2 inches:</p> <p>MCA 1-1-501. Great seal. The great seal of the state is as follows: a central group representing a plow and a miner's pick and shovel; upon the right, a representation of the Great Falls of the Missouri River; upon the left, mountain scenery; and underneath, the words "Oro y Plata". The seal must be 2 1/2 inches in diameter and surrounded by these words, "The Great Seal of the State of Montana".</p> <p>We also use a digital representation on our on-line certificates, but for certificates, apostilles, etc. processed in this office we have a printed seal, (and the stickers), that we emboss with the stamp.</p> <p>If you are having problems obtaining the stamps, perhaps you could talk to a Machine Shop with a CNC mill. They could program the pattern in and produce as many as you want. I don't know what your process would be of authenticating the produced seals, but that might solve your problem.</p> <p>Just a suggestion.</p> |

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| Nebraska | |
| Nevada | Nevada Electronically seals its certified copies and certificates. Only in the case of ceremonial certificates will we attach the silver seal. Very seldom do we use an embosser. |
| New Hampshire | |
| New Jersey | |
| New Mexico | |
| New York | <p>In NY the size of our seals is in statute. 2 ½ inches for the Great Seal of the State and 2 ¼ inches for state departments. The law permits facsimile seals for department seals which are used on out certificates of existence. Documents issued under the Governor’s signature require the embossed Great Seal.</p> <p>We have had replacement of dies and repairs to the seals by The Gramecy Group, a local business with connections to engravers/craftsmen. It is becoming a lost art.</p> |
| North Carolina | <p>In North Carolina the State Seal is defined by law at N.C.G.S. § 147-26 and the dimension is two and one-quarter inches in diameter.</p> <p>The Secretary of State's Office has its own seal that is not set by statute. This is the one that we place on certified documents. The only difference between the "Great Seal" and the Secretary of State Seal is the text around the perimeter. The Secretary of State seal contains the text, "Department of the Secretary of State" around the perimeter.</p> |
| North Dakota | The size of North Dakota’s Great Seal embossed image is 2 1/2 inches. The size is not set in law or rule. It happens to match our two embosser applicators and they date back over 100 years. It was in 1999 when we had new embossed impressions made. At that time, it was done through a local company who found someone in the industry who could do it. We have not tried to do anything since then. To date, we still apply the embossed image to official documents, but do not apply the embossed seals to corporate or LLC charters, notary commissions, or certification documents. |
| Ohio | |
| Oklahoma | |

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| Oregon | <p>We moved away from embossed seals for business registry certificates years ago. The image of the seal is sufficient, and people can always check to see that we actually issued the certificate; not that anyone does check.</p> <p>We've been using a rubber stamp for our apostilles now for almost 2 years, but only for the security aspect of overlap. We have the actual image of the seal as a graphic on our certificate. I realize you have rules you must follow, but if you look to rewrite the rule, I encourage you to look at the NASS recommendations on the Uniform Apostille Guidelines.</p> |
| Pennsylvania | <p>Because use of the Pennsylvania state seal is reserved by statute for documents bearing the attestation of the Governor's signature, Pennsylvania uses the seal of the Secretary of the Commonwealth on most documents, certificates and authentications issuing from the Department of State.</p> <p>The size and appearance is not prescribed by statute or rule. The law just states that each Department and agency head may have and use a seal.</p> <p>Pennsylvania still uses embossed gold seals (fancy stickers which come in huge rolls) on apostilles, but has moved to a computer-generated black and white image of the seal on corporate certificates and authentications. Again, nothing in rule or statute that mandates appearance or size.</p> |
| Rhode Island | |
| South Carolina | |
| South Dakota | |
| Tennessee | |
| Texas | <p>Same as Louisiana and Washington</p> |
| Utah | |
| Vermont | |
| Virginia | |
| Washington | <p>Washington State is similar to Oregon. The seal is printed on our all of our certificates (corporations and apostille)</p> <p>Like corporations, there is an apostille/certificates search on our website based on date and number.</p> <p>http://www.sos.wa.gov/corps/apostilles/search.aspx</p> |
| West Virginia | |

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| Wisconsin | |
| Wyoming | |

Additional comments:

Full text of email:

Good morning everyone,

Colorado has been undergoing an endless process of attempting to replace our state seal embossers. We use the embossed seal on our authentication certificates. Currently the size of the seal is 2 ½ inches in diameter which is set by rule. The supplier of the manual embossers can no longer supply an embosser that supports a seal that size, nor are we able to find any other supplier. We then looked into getting a two inch seal but have found that the plate is two inches and the actual embossed seal is then 1 7/8 inches. We are still looking at various options prior to changing our rule and that process.

We are wondering what is the official size of the seal for other states and who uses an embossed seal vs rubber stamp on official documents? Is the seal size in statute, rules, etc?

I realize some of you may need to reach out to your notary divisions but I would appreciate any information you can address.

Thank you!

Alberta

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Business & Licensing Division

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