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Statement of Qualifications Professional Specification Consultation

Specification Design Services Serving the Architect

An Independent Practice Specializing in:

- Architectural Finish Hardware (Door Hardware)
- Architectural Wood Doors and Frames
- Steel Doors and Frames
- Aluminum and Glass Entrances
- Specialty Doors
- Detention Hardware

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I. Practice Overview

HARD/SPECS is a fully independent consulting firm specializing in the design, coordination, engineering, and provision of specification, drawing, and schedule documents to the design community. We are qualified to provide all interrelated work for architectural door openings, including all opening components – doors, frames, door hardware, and security/access components on all types of projects.

As building codes become more complex, as interdependency increases with new security challenges, and as environmental concerns and improved building access concerns intensify, the balance between form and function requires expert attention and a practiced approach.

As Architects and Designers compile Project Documents, some lean heavily on in-house personnel in producing their Project Manual. Many have established standardized specifications for door opening products that are utilized to satisfy the requirements of highly varied projects, often with limited success. Products employed for electrified security are often left to the electrical or low voltage engineer, whose knowledge of electrified systems is more than adequate, but whose knowledge of electrified hardware may be limited.

These specification sections, particularly door hardware, have increased in complexity to such a degree that a highly qualified person is required to understand the nuances of a particular project, to ask the right questions, to direct the conversations, and design the Products Specified. It is essential to see the specification section as a coherent whole, including the hardware sets, which require careful and considered assembly.

When a design or architectural firm lacks such an individual on staff, they have few options for enlisting a consultant. Some hardware manufacturers and distributors make a hardware consultant available for free, or for a nominal fee, but these arrangements result in a specification section that is written to favor the products of the employer. Often, substitution requests are routinely rejected for perfectly acceptable products. The manufacturer has no motivation to provide competitive pricing to the distributors. As long as their firm provides the hardware they specify, and as long as they have the review and approval responsibility for Substitution Requests and their own submittal, they will provide specification services for little or no cost.

In addition to hidden higher costs resulting from these types of arrangements, the lack of impartial expert oversight for the work can ultimately cause problems that reflect negatively on the Design Professional; and, unless a fully qualified door openings specification professional assists with the in-house specification, the resulting sections can contain errors, omissions, and ultimately, liability. As each door opening increases in complexity, such as the coordination between security systems, fire ratings, electrically operated hardware and other factors, the likelihood of mistakes increases.

Just as Primary Design Professionals count on the assistance of Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, and Acoustic Engineers, Landscape Architects, and Fire Safety professionals, they are well advised to find competent and independent specification assistance. At HARD/SPECS we remain available to:

- **prepare** Construction Documents,
- **write** specifications for products,
- **review** Substitution Requests and submittals, and to
- **coordinate** the work through all phases of construction, down to final occupancy.

At HARD/SPECS, our specifications conform to the fire, building, and accessibility codes and guideline requirements of any jurisdiction. We are fiercely independent, accepting no compensation from manufacturers, representatives, or distributors. Thus, we can lend an unbiased perspective to substitution requests and submittal documents, and offer system coordination and deep product knowledge for each project. We pride ourselves on being responsive to our clients, and mindful of their needs.

II. Statement of Personal Qualifications



Specifications Consultant – David C. Chaffin, AHC, CSI, CDT

More than thirty years of experience in the door, security, and hardware field serve to inform David's consultation and specification writing. He has extensive and broad-based experience in door hardware, metal doors and frames, detention hardware, hospitality hardware, wood doors and frames, and specialty products. He has specified, sold, and serviced all types of door products, ranging from valve access panels to vault doors, aircraft hangar doors to blast doors, and all types of electronic security hardware. He has worked as a door installer, and has specified products as wide ranging as "themed" hardware for casinos and entertainment venues, and zoo hardware.

David has experience as a Project Manager, estimator, trainer, team leader, manufacturer's representative, general contractor, and business owner. His extensive skills, experience, and training offer a unique set of skills and expertise in the areas of door product knowledge, problem solving, and code applications.

David is an excellent cook, a gardener, and he loves theater, films, and music, where his tastes range from Bill Evans to Eric Satie, from Captain Beefheart to Allison Krauss. He is well read and well spoken, a father and husband.

III. Formal Education /Industry Certification

Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne - Humanities, Languages

California State University, Sacramento - Humanities

Door and Hardware Institute - Accredited Architectural Hardware Consultant (AHC)

Construction Specifications Institute - Accredited Construction Document Technologist (CDT)

Licensed Fire Door Assembly Inspector

IV. Insurance Coverage

HARD/SPECS carries insurance coverage as follows:

General Aggregate Liability	USD 2,000,000
Professional Liability (E & O)	USD 1,000,000

V. HARD/SPECS Design Work Disciplines (Partial List)

Primary Disciplines:

- Designing and Writing the Door Hardware Specification
- Designing and Writing the Electrified Door Hardware Specification

When designing the Project Manual, Door Hardware (Architectural Finish Hardware) is one of the most challenging product sections to specify. At HARD/SPECS, we specialize in selecting hardware products that address the needs for cost, functionality, security and aesthetics, while meeting requirements for accessibility issues and life/fire safety. Hand in glove with mechanical hardware, the electrical and electro-mechanical hardware that is integral to many security systems and life safety systems also requires close attention to the owner's needs and "wants" in securing, protecting, and utilizing the final built environment.

Other Disciplines:

- Designing and Writing the Architectural Wood Door Specification
- Designing and Writing the Steel Door and Frame Specification
- Designing and Writing the Aluminum and Glass Entry Specification
- Reviewing Related Sections

All door openings need to be viewed as Door Systems. To that end, close coordination of the door hardware and the doors receiving the hardware is essential. We are constantly researching and, when appropriate, incorporating new products and materials into our specifications. By keeping open to new manufacturers, technologies, products, and materials, we are able to find and specify the best products for a particular project. Even when we are not contracted to provide specifications beyond the finish hardware section, we ask to give a cursory review to the other closely related sections in the Project Manual, and offer guidance and suggested language to ensure close coordination between the sections of the contract Documents.

- System coordination for Security/Access Control

A Door Systems approach is nowhere more critical than in the area of coordinating complex Security/Access Control.

The Low Voltage Security Contractor(LVSC) handles the workings of the security system - the controls, low voltage direction, and programming. He or she knows what to do to send the appropriate power to the appropriate place at the appropriate time. The Electrical Engineer ensures proper and adequate power and distribution. The Owner has a vision for the finished project, and the General Contractor makes it all work together.

Our place in this mix is to coordinate all aspects of security and access. The dialogue that we direct can bring all of the parties into focus as to the possibilities and limitations of the systems. We know what different types of electrically operated products will meet the requirements of the Security System proposed, will meet fire and life safety codes, and will address accessibility standards. We keep the discussion on track and productive, both in project meetings and during construction.

➤ Pre-Installation coordination

When included in our Scope of Services, we can conduct a coordination meeting prior to the main onset of door, frame, and hardware installation. Interested Parties typically include the Architect, General Contractor, Installation Contractor, Low Voltage Contractor, Hardware Supplier, and Door and Frame Supplier. Topics for discussion and coordination include:

- Product staging and storage
- Any special preparation required
- Installation Do's and Don'ts
- Protection of finished areas and products
- Product Markings for installation and distribution
- Project Closeout
- Final Documents required

➤ Post Installation Inspection and Punch List Preparation

When included in our Scope of Service, we can conduct a site walk-through and prepare a Punch List and narrative document detailing improper installation and verifying product selection and provision.

➤ Designing and Writing Detention Door Opening Specifications

Detention products present their own unique requirements and challenges, and HARD/SPECS has the experience and expertise to design these challenging openings.

VI. Partial Listing of Typical Projects:

➤ ELECTRONIC AND HIGH TECH FACILITIES

Numerous Tech Fabrication, Internet Server, Distribution, and associated Facilities (Exact Names and Locations withheld at request of owners)

State of Oregon, DEQ and PHL Laboratories, Salem, Oregon

State of Oregon, Central Data Facility for Department of Administrative Services

➤ EDUCATION

Oregon State University, Kelly Engineering Center

Oregon State University Housing and Dining Services

University of Nebraska (Lincoln), Center for Virology

Portland Community College (Several Projects)

State of Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, new Campus in Monmouth, OR

Olympic College, Bremerton, WA – Humanities Building, Science and Technology Building

Pierce College, Puyallup, WA – Health Education Center

Shoreline Community College, Shoreline, WA – New Student Union Building

Marin Academy Classroom Building and Gymnasium, Marin County, CA

Jewish Community High School of the Bay, San Francisco, CA

Google Childcare Center, CA

Mills College Student Apartments, Oakland, CA

➤ MIXED USE

850 Broderick, San Francisco, CA (Residential / Retail Mid-Rise)

Alabama Street Housing, San Francisco, CA (Residential / Retail Mid-Rise)

The John Ross, Portland, OR (High-Rise Luxury Condominium and Retail)

The Meriwether, Portland, OR (High-Rise Luxury Condominium and Retail)

The Atwater, Portland, OR (High-Rise Luxury Condominium and Retail)

EVO, Los Angeles, CA (High-Rise Luxury Condominium and Retail)

➤ HEALTHCARE

Firs II Assisted Living Facility, Bremerton, WA

Oregon Clinic Gateway Center, Portland, OR

➤ CIVIL AND GOVERNMENT

Fort Vancouver Regional Library, Vancouver, WA

Historic Fox Theater Restoration, Oakland, CA

Portland Center Stage - The Armory Renovation, Portland, OR

➤ HOSPITALITY

Estancia Resort and Hotel, La Jolla, CA

Paris Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV (Themed Area Hardware)