e-PlanCheck®

Electronic Document Review - e-PlanCheck®
Frequently Asked Questions

Not many years ago, a document like this would have focused on explaining how *electronic plan review software* could be used to add 'digital' markups, measurements and comments to 'digital plans'. Today, the conversation has evolved significantly with the **costs** incurred for *printing*, *scanning* and *archiving* paper plans; staff reductions and heavy budget cuts having all impacted permitting and zoning departments nationwide. Today, owners, architects and engineers look to their building officials to offer a modern solution - electronic plan check services.
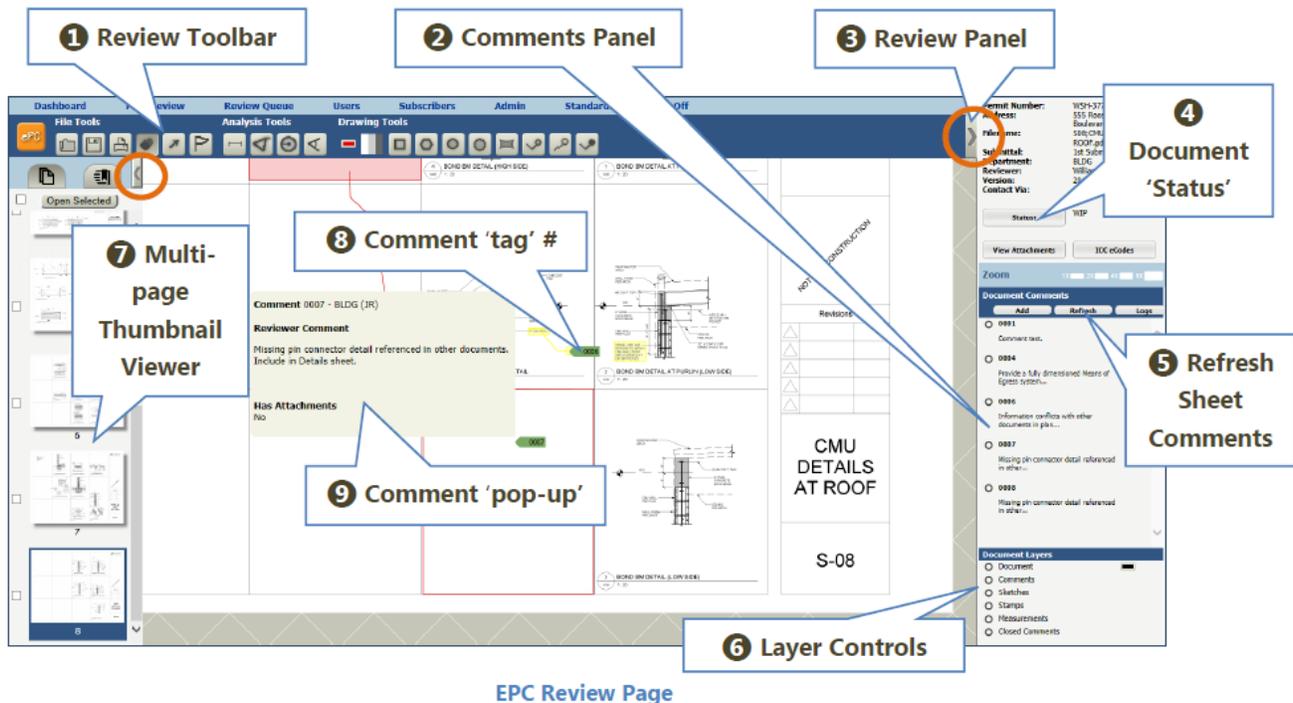
Typical tools – limited functionality

Electronic plan review software allows plan checkers and field inspectors the ability to add their comments, markups and digital stamps onto plans saved in PDF, TIF or other common file formats. Beyond the markup functionality, however, these legacy products differ only slightly - and many do not properly handle document versioning and are completely disconnected from an agency's permit system. Reviewer's comments are not fully searchable - and collaboration between permitting departments is poor.

Founded by award winning architects and engineers, and developed with input from building officials, e-PlanCheck (EPC) is the 'go-to solution' for small and large permitting agencies nationwide. At e-PlanSoft™, we know that markup software by itself does not fully meet the needs of a permit department so, in addition to our web-based, custom-built and *patented markup review software*, we provide must-have tools that go above and beyond those found in other products.

If your jurisdiction is evaluating the benefits of e-plan software, read on to make sure you get the most affordable, comprehensive plan check technology.

How is EPC different from other products?

One of the most significant differences is that EPC runs in your Internet Explorer, Firefox or Chrome browser – **no special software is needed.** The markup tools are easy to learn and easy to use. Reviewers can update the 'plan check' status for their department with the click of a button. More importantly, EPC **supports truly concurrent reviews**. Staff can view new comments and sketches created by colleagues online in real time. Because EPC is built on a *SQL database*, all previously drawn markups and comments are automatically carried forward from the earlier submittals to the most current plan – and visible to all departments.

EPC Review Page

Does e-PlanCheck connect to our Permitting Software?

YES. EPC can connect to most permitting applications and to the *Citizen Access Portals* that allow applicants to submit their plan check applications over the Internet. If your current permit software does not include a public portal, contact us for more information about adding the E-PLAN Citizen Portal for your community.

Can our Agency create Workflows for Distributing Plans Automatically?

YES. In EPC, staff can create workflow rules in as little as two minutes that route incoming plans to specified departments and/or specific plan reviewers based on the project type. There is no programming required. EPC also accepts workflow assignments triggered by integrated permit applications.

What markup tools are available?

Our custom-built markup tool provides rectangles, polygons, circles, clouds, line tools, freehand sketches, color selectors, opacity settings, panning, zooming, line, area, angle and radii measurements, electronic stamps and auto-numbered comment tags. Overlay and side-by-side comparisons tools are built directly into the system - and users retain full use of markups tools while comparing documents. Users can hide or display individual layers for the comments, sketches, stamps, measurement and even show or hide closed (resolved) comments. EPC's thumbnail viewer makes finding and opening multiple documents at once simple and efficient. EPC now supports digital certificates as well.
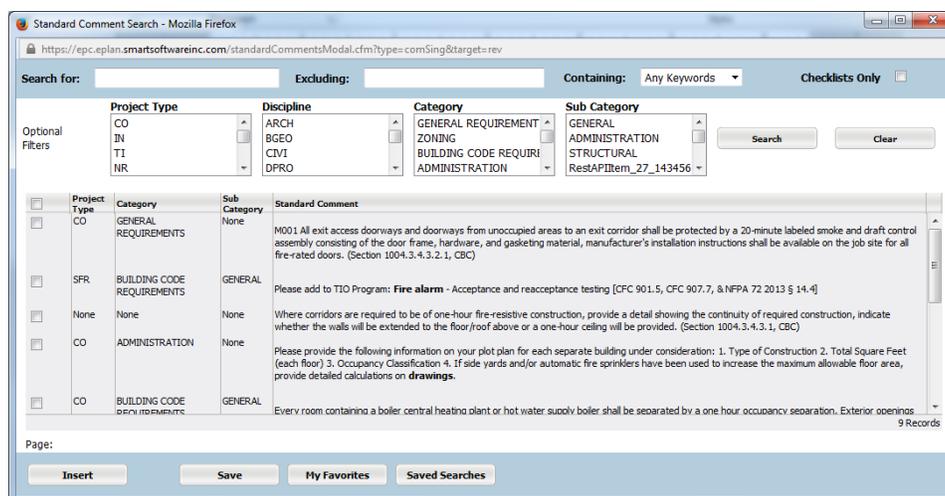
How are the review comments added and how are they stored?

Like other plan review tools, comments can be placed at an x/y coordinate chosen by the user. However, in EPC adding comments is taken it to a whole other level because all data is stored not in a text box but in a **searchable database.** All project comments can be filtered by department, discipline, reviewer, disposition (open or closed) – and many other options. Standard Comments or entire checklists can also be added to a project singly or *en masse* - and pushed to multiple sheets at the click of a button. Additionally, comments can be marked as 'major issue' or 'minor issue' – to help prioritize issues for the applicant. In EPC, comments can be included in the project overall – without being linked to any particular document or plan.

Can we Import our Checklists and Standard Comments?

YES. In EPC entire checklists and standard comments can be uploaded into Standards library where they can be filtered and grouped by discipline and project type. Plan checkers can perform keyword searches on these comments, apply custom filters and even save their searches as 'Favorites' for re-use.

This Standards library becomes a powerful search tool for the plan checkers and can be easily managed by an administrator. In EPC, comments can be formatted with bolding, italics, bulleted and numbered lists to provide a professional looking Correction List.

Insert 'Standard Comments'

Can I create Custom Correction Reports by Department and Discipline?

YES. EPC allows staff to run custom Correction Reports that can be created with one mouse-click. Not only that, but each line item includes the corresponding *sheet number* and *comment tag number* for easy reference. This design ensures that only the specific comments that must be addressed are returned to the Applicant for corrections.

Sample Corrections List

Can I request a Free Demonstration?

YES. e-PlanSoft offers a suite of on premise and cloud-hosted solutions for a variety of industries who conduct plan reviews or quality assurance reviews. Our patented applications allow instant, secure access to project documents 24/7 via your web-browser. To learn more about our electronic plan review solutions, call 1-877-654-3752 or visit our website at www.eplansoft.com to request a live demonstration.

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