



BOARD OF ARCHITECTS OF TASMANIA

Newsletter – September 2023

Amendments to Architects Act and New Regulations

The [Architects Amendment Act 2020](#), the amendments from the Occupational Licensing (Automatic Mutual Recognition Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022 and the new Architects Regulations 2023 will commence on 1 November 2023.

These amendments are the first amendments to the Architects Act since 1984 and the most significant changes since the Architects Act 1929 was originally enacted.

The Board first wrote to the Minister of the day in February 1994 with a request to update the Act in line with guidelines for a Model Act produced by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia.

The main changes contained in the Amendment Act and new Regulations include the strengthening the Board's complaints and disciplinary procedures, the introduction of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) requirements, adoption of a Code of Practice by the Board and allowing the Board to create Classes for registration with different requirements including the registration of architectural firms.

Architects and Architectural Firms will need to apply to be registered in the appropriate Class by 15 October 2023 to enable their registration in the Class to be approved prior 1 November 2023.

The initial Classes are:

- **Practising Architect**
 - required to be covered by sufficient Professional Indemnity Insurance,
 - comply with the Code of Practice
 - comply with the Board's CPD requirements
- **Non-practising Architect**
 - can apply to the Board for an exemption from PII requirements
 - comply with the Code of Practice
 - comply with the Board's CPD requirements
(retired architects can apply for an exemption)
- **Practising Architect (AMR)**
 - AMR legislation complying interstate architect
 - required to be covered by appropriate Professional Indemnity Insurance,
 - comply with the Code of Practice
 - comply with Board's CPD requirements
 - No fee required
- **Architectural Firm**
 - required to have at least one Tasmanian registered architect in the Class Practising Architect or Practising Architect (AMR) be nominated as a responsible architect
 - required to hold sufficient Professional Indemnity Insurance,

Registration of Architectural Firms

To increase consumer protection and awareness of who are the responsible architects within a firm, the changes to the legislation will introduce the requirement for all firms offering architectural services and using the term architect, architectural or a derivative of those terms to be registered. As AMR legislation only applies to individuals and not firms, all firms offering architectural services in Tasmania need to apply for registration.

An Architectural Firms application for registration Form will be sent to responsible architects on our current list of Tasmanian Architectural Firms and any other firms we become aware of to enable Firms to apply for registration prior to 15 October 2023.

An architect or architects registered in Tasmania in the Class of Practising Architect or Practising Architect (AMR) may apply on behalf of an architectural firm for the firm to be registered in the Class Architectural Firm. The application is to provide details of the firm's professional indemnity insurance and a list of architect employees/partners/directors/beneficiaries covered by the insurance to overcome the need for each architect to provide details.

Professional Development Session to educate architects on the new requirements

The Board will be organising some professional development sessions in the near future to assist architects understand the new requirements and the need for all architects and firms to apply to be registered in appropriate Classes prior to 1 November 2023.

Details on times and dates of sessions will be sent to all architects once all details have been finalised.

The sessions will outline the changes in the legislation including :

- Applying for the appropriate Class of registration
- Registration of architectural firms
- Code of Practice requirements (copy attached)
- Professional Indemnity Insurance requirements (refer Clause 18 of Code)
- Continuing Professional Development requirements (copy attached)

Registration and other Fees

The new Regulations include fees at the same level as previous, however with the Board taking on additional responsibilities including strengthened complaints and disciplinary processes, ensuring all architects and firms have a sufficient level of professional indemnity insurance, and comply with the Code of Practice including continuing professional development requirements, the fees will be reviewed to ensure the Board is financially viable in the long term.

To ensure the Board remains financially viable in the short term, the Department of Justice has provided a Grant to the Board while it undertakes a review of all fees relating to Occupational Licensing.

Duplication of Registration and Licensing with CBOS

With the amendments to the Act becoming operational, all the requirements for licensing with CBOS will be covered by the Architects Act. The Board is in discussion with the Department of Justice regarding making the necessary changes for the Board to become the primary body to regulate architects in Tasmania and to overcome the need for architects to be regulated by two bodies.

Architectural Practice Exam

In 2023 there was a total of 21 applicants for the two Sessions, with 14 candidates to undertake the Part 2 written examination on 19 September 2023. The 7 applicants for Session 1 were all successful in all three Parts of the Exam, with all of the applicants now registered as architects.

2024 Architectural Practice Exam Changes

Starting in 2024, the Architectural Practice Examination will follow the [2021 National Standard of Competency for Architects \(NSCA\)](#) using a new AACA logbook online.

For more details and access to the [new log book](#) please refer to :
<https://aaca.org.au/architectural-practice-examination/2024ape/>

This page also includes access to [2024 APE Online video resources](#).

Accreditation of Master of Architecture Course at University of Tasmania

The Accreditation Review Panel visited the University between 31 October and 2 November 2022.

The Course was found to need some changes to ensure it teaches all 37 required Performance Criteria of the NSCA for Courses and has been accredited for 5 years on the condition the Board receives quarterly reports on the changes being made to the course.

Current Registrations

Currently there are 611 architects registered in Tasmania, with 301 having postal addresses in outside Tasmania.

This calendar year has seen 54 registrations processed.

Board of Architects of Tasmania - University of Tasmania Prize for Professional Studies

The Board of Architects Prize for Professional Studies recognises excellent achievement in Professional Studies in the Master in Architecture by a student at the University of Tasmania. The Prize is based on meritorious achievement in aspects of architectural education related to readiness for professional practice based on selected performance criteria in the National Standard of Competency for Architects (NSCA). These criteria include parts of the Elements in NSCA which are defined in relation to architectural education by the curriculum of Architecture Program at the University of Tasmania.

The Board's University prize valued at \$ 1,500 was awarded to Danchun Yoa and Banruo Han for 2022.

Expressions of Interest are sought for the position of Convenor, Architectural Practice Examination

The Board is seeking expressions of interest from experienced architects to assist the Board run the Architectural Practice Exams. The position involves assisting with the review of applications for the two Sessions of the AP Exam held each year and coordinating examiners for the Part 3. The position also involves attending National State Convenors meeting arranged by AACA.

Please contact the Registrar, Geoff Harper on 62 348188 if you are interesting in this role.