



BOARD OF ARCHITECTS OF TASMANIA

Newsletter – August 2024

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](#) commenced on 1 November 2023. The consolidated [Architects Act 1929](#).

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.

The changes have created a significant workload for the Board with the need for all architects registered in Tasmania re-applying for registration in the appropriate Class with evidence of being covered by professional indemnity insurance and the registration of all architectural firms offering architectural services in Tasmania.

The current numbers of registrations in the various Classes are:

Class	Applications Finalised	Tasmanian
Architectural Firm	406	169
Practising Architect	333	289
Practising Architect(AMR) ***	235	
Non-Practising Architect	46	28

*** AMR – Deemed registration under Automatic Mutual Recognition provisions for eligible interstate architects

Duplication of Registration and Licensing with CBOS

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

Benefits to architects of amended legislation & proposed changes to CBOS licensing

With the legislative changes and the proposed changes an architect registered in the Class-Practising Architect or Practising Architect (AMR) will be able to sign off documents for projects and not need to be separately licensed with CBOS.

An architect registered in the Class-Practising Architect can also register to work in all other States and Territories in Australia, except Queensland, under the Automatic Mutual Recognition legislation without the need to pay an additional fee for their individual registration.

Architects need to be aware that they are only registered to carry out work as an architect on behalf of the registered architectural firm which holds the professional indemnity insurance which covers them.

Registration and other Fees

The new Architects Regulations included 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 are covered by a sufficient level of professional indemnity insurance, and comply with the Code of Practice including continuing professional development requirements. As part of the Board becoming the sole regulatory body for architects in Tasmania the Board fees will be reviewed to ensure the Board is financially viable in the long term.

In the short term, to ensure the Board remains financially viable, the Department of Justice has provided a Grant to the Board.

The current Board annual registration fee is \$84.15 and the CBOS license fee for an architect is \$ 364.65 in total \$448.80. All other CBOS licensed building service providers: engineers, building designers, builders, building surveyors, building services designers, and permit authorities, pay \$ 448.80.

Complaints & Code of Practice

The Board is receiving an increase in the number of complaints and enquiries about making complaints against architects.

In most cases the architect has not fulfilled the requirement under the [Code of Practice](#) to have an agreement with the client which covers all the items in Section 2 – Client relations.

Regulation 29 provides for a **Penalty fine not exceeding 20 penalty units (currently \$ 4,040)** for non-compliance with the Code.

Part IVA of the Act sets out the Board's disciplinary powers and the range of orders as a result of determining a complaint.

The Code also requires architects and architectural firms to notify the Board within 7 days of any changes to their particulars including name, email address, business, postal & home addresses, business name, employer, or professional indemnity insurance details etc.

The Board's Published Registers

The Board now publishes two registers on its website at <https://architectsboardtas.org.au/registration/is-your-architect-registered/> which contains the following information:

Architects Register

- Surname
- First Names
- Registration number
- Class of Registration
- Date registered to
- Representative of (firm's legal name)
- Firm's Trading Name
- Firm's registration number

Architectural Firms Register

- Legal Name
- Trading name
- Registration number
- ABN
- Nominated architect
- Nominated architect's registration number

2025 Registration Renewals

Renewal invoices will be sent to registered architectural firms and architects registered in the Classes-Practising Architect and Non-Practising Architects in November 2025. There is no need to provide CPD Records or certificates of currency for professional indemnity insurance as these are only required if you are selected for an audit.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The Architects legislation now requires all architects (unless they have applied and been granted an exemption) to comply with the [Board's CPD requirements](#). In brief, an architect is required to undertake at least twenty (20) hours of acceptable CPD per year with at least 10 hours of CPD required to be Formal CPD. Formal CPD hours must relate to a minimum of 2 units (with a maximum of 5 hours in any one unit), of the National Architecture Competency Standards.

Architects are not required to provide their [CPD Record form](#) with their annual renewal however architects are required to keep their CPD records for a period of 5 years.

The Board will commence CPD audits in 2025.

Professional Indemnity Insurance Audits

The Board is commencing the Audit of registered architectural firm's professional indemnity insurance which will require the firm to provide a copy of its certificate of currency of the firm's professional indemnity insurance together with a list of the highest value projects undertaken in the last 12 months together with a list of the Tasmanian registered architects covered by the firm's insurance.

Updated Guidelines – Use of Title Architect, architectural or derivatives

The *Architects Act 1929* protects the public by ensuring that only practitioners and firms registered by the Board can use the term architect or similar in Tasmania. A person or firm who is not registered under the Architects Act commits an offence if he, she or the firm takes or uses the title "architect" or any other word or combination of letters that sounds or looks like the word "architect" to describe himself, herself or the firm in respect of any practice, trade, or business. (For full details of the prohibited practices please refer to Section 19 of the Act).

With changes to the legislation, the Board has updated its [Guidelines – Use of Title Architect, architectural or derivatives](#)

**For Contravention of Section 19(4) of the Act there are Penalties of up to:
\$ 30,300 for a body corporate, and
\$ 15,150 for an individual**

Architectural Practice Exam

The Board has appointed Michael Cooper as the Convenor for the Architectural Practice Examinations.

The September 2023 examinations saw 14 candidates to undertake the Part 2 written examination with all being successful. An additional 2 candidates re-sat the Part 3 oral exam with 14 of the 16 candidates successful.

Session 1 of the APE in 2024 saw 3 candidates successfully completing Parts 1 & 2 examinations and with an additional candidate re-sitting Part 3, all 4 were successful in Part 3.

Session 2 in 2024, 3 candidates have been successful in Part 1 of the exam and are preparing to sit the written Part 2 exam.

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 Jessie-Ann Pankiw for 2023.