

board of architects singapore

5 Maxwell Road, #01-03 Tower Block, MND Complex, Singapore 069110. Tel: 6222 5295 Fax: 6222 4452
Email: boarch@singnet.com.sg Website: www.boa.gov.sg

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To all Registered Architects

AMENDMENT TO THE ARCHITECTS ACT AND ARCHITECTS (AMENDMENT) RULE 2017

This circular is to inform all registered architects that the Architects Act have been amended, and that the amended Architects Act and Architects (Amendment) Rules 2017 have been gazetted on 6 October 2017.

The legislative changes seek to tighten illegal practice and encourage cross border and overseas practice. The main amendments to the Architects Act and Rules are as follows:

Section 10 – Illegal practice

The amended clause clarifies that a foreign architect may only supply architectural services in collaboration with a local architectural practice. This tightens the control over illegal practices to ensure that those involved in illegal practices could be held accountable.

Registered architects who have in force a practising certificate are now allowed to use the word "architect" or the abbreviation "Ar" as a title before his or her name.

Section 15 – Qualification for registration

A new clause has been added to enable foreign architects who are from another participating jurisdiction to engage in the practice of architecture in Singapore, whilst foreign architects from non-participating jurisdiction would be allowed to practice in collaboration with a local registered architectural practice.

Section 15A – Recognition for purposes of mutual recognition arrangements

This clause is to effect the APEC Trilateral agreement and ASEAN Mutual Recognition Agreement for Registered Architects to be registered and practise in the participating jurisdiction.

Section 26A – Revocation of license

Penalty imposed on the corporation, partnership and limited liability partnership is increased from \$20,000 to \$100,000 when there is no cause of sufficient gravity to warrant revocation of the licence.

Section 31G – Findings of Disciplinary Committee

The penalty imposed on the registered architect who has been convicted by the Disciplinary Committee has been increased from \$10,000 to a penalty not exceeding \$50,000. The raised penalty is to provide a sufficient deterrent to the registered architect from contravening the clauses in the Architects Act.

Section 31K – Investigators

This new addition enables the Board to appoint an investigator to assist the Board and the investigation Committee to delve deeper into the case and carry out search on site for evidence. The investigator will only be engaged to resolve specific cases where the evidence is not forthcoming.

Rule 13A - Requirements as to continuing professional education

The amendment to the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points requirement for registered architect who has not been renewing his practising certificate for a continuous period of 3 years or more will have to obtain double the number of CPD points (according to the age group) before he or she is allowed to renew the practising certificate.

New rule 27A – Signed document to include architect registration number

This new rule has been added to enable the client and the public to differentiate easily between a registered architect and a person who is not registered with the Board. The registered architect will sign and include his registration number in any submission to the client, building and public authorities.

The updated amendments in relation to the changes above are published in the government Gazette (<https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Act/AA1991>).

BOA has given the architects the briefing on the changes of the Architects Act 2017 at the annual BOA Presentation Ceremony and Seminar held on 7 Oct 2017. If there are further requests, BOA can consider to hold additional sessions and briefings on the amendments to the Architects Act 2017.

All registered architects are to read and understand the new amendments and strictly comply with the Architects Act and Rules.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



**Ar. NG LYE HOCK, LARRY
REGISTRAR**