



ADMINISTERING THE CALIFORNIA
CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNER
TITLE ACT, SINCE 1991



**CCIDC Sunset Review
2018 Staff Issue - Progress Update**

CURRENT SUNSET REVIEW ISSUES FOR THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR INTERIOR DESIGN CERTIFICATION

The following are unresolved issues pertaining to CCIDC, or those which were not previously addressed by the Committees, and other areas of concern for these Committees to consider, along with background information concerning the particular issue. There are also recommendations the Committees' staff have made regarding particular issues or problem areas which need to be addressed. CCIDC and other interested parties, including the professions, have been provided with this Background Paper and can respond to the issues presented and the recommendations of staff.

ADMINISTRATION OF CCIDC

ISSUE #1: (ACCEPTANCE OF STAMP) What has CCIDC done to facilitate the acceptance of the certified interior designer stamp by local building officials?

Background: Under BPC § 5537 and 5538 of the Architect's Practice Act are exemptions for "laypersons" to do non-structural and non-seismic work where a licensed/registered architect or engineer is not required to stamp and or sign drawings that may be needed for a building permit issued by a local jurisdiction. "Laypersons" are anyone who is not a licensed/registered design professional, i.e. architect or engineer. Persons who fit into this definition are licensed contractors or sub-contractors, building designers, owner builders, developers, interior designers, interior decorators, and members of the general public that possess the skills necessary to prepare drawings that require the skills of a licensed contractor to implement them.

Certified interior designers are a group within the above definition, who practice under the exemptions of BPC § 5537 and 5538, that have been specifically tested on California Codes and Title 24, along with California laws and statutes that are relevant to interior designers, and that must have a specified amount of education and/or experience. This is codified in BPC § 5800 – 5812. CCIDC contends that because of the requirements of BPC § 5800 – 5812 certified interior designers should not just be considered "laypersons". CCIDC believes that "certified interior designers are held to a higher standard than 'laypersons' vis-à-vis a codified standard of education, work experience, and a California specific examination that thoroughly tests on California building codes, Title 24, California regulations and laws, ethics and conduct, and design standards."

CCIDC reports that plans designed by certified interior designers, which encompass non-structural, non-seismic interior design plans, have been denied by local jurisdictions without an architect or an engineer's stamp. In the past, the Committee has reviewed proposals seeking to license interior designers under a practice act within the Business and Professions Code. Both of these bills, SB 1312, (Yee in 2008) and AB 2428 (MA in 2012) were the focus of a good deal of controversy and failed passage in the legislative process. Proponents of these bills argued that a state program for interior designers would provide greater acceptance in local building departments across the state.

Since these proposals, local jurisdictions have continued to deny certified interior design plans without an architect or engineer's stamp. To fix this issue, CCIDC has proposed amendments to the definition

of “certified interior designers”. The Board believes the change in definition will clarify to local jurisdictions what certified interior designers can and cannot do.

CCIDC has put forward the following changes to the CID definition. The words below with strikethrough text highlight deleted words, and the words italicized and underlined highlight new language.

“Business and Professions Code 5800. As used in this chapter:

“Certified interior designer” or the initials “CID” as used in this context shall mean an Occupations Title Standard for a person who meets all of the following requirements:

(1) ~~p~~Prepares and submits non-structural ~~or~~ *and* non-seismic plans *and documents* consistent with Sections 5805 ~~and 5538~~ to local building departments that are of sufficient complexity so as to require the skills of a licensed contractor to implement them, *and that require a building permit.*

(2) ~~and who~~ *Engages* in programming, planning, designing, and documenting the construction and installation of non-structural ~~or~~ *and* non-seismic *conventional and standard construction* elements, finishes, *veneers*, ~~and~~ furnishings *and the administration of construction observance and installation thereof.*

(3) *Provides plans and documents that illustrate non-structural and non-seismic conventional and standard partition layouts, horizontal exiting, rated corridors, reflected ceiling plans and lighting orientation, locate power and communications outlets, materials and finishes and furniture, including storefronts, interior alterations, fixtures, millwork, appliances and equipment for all buildings as described in 5537 and 5538, including but not limited to high-rise office and high-rise residential buildings.*

(4) *Engages in coordination and collaboration with other allied design professionals who may be retained to provide consulting services, including but not limited to architects, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineers, and various specialty consultants.*

(5) ~~within the interior spaces of a building, and has~~ *Demonstrated*, by means of education, experience and examination, the competency to protect and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

(6) *The certification of Interior Designers does not prohibit Interior Designer or Interior Decorator services by any person or retail activity.*

(7) *Nothing in this statute shall preclude local building officials who have jurisdiction over any project as required by the California Building Standards Code from determining the requirements or qualifications of who can submit such documents in order to procure a building permit.*

5805. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude ~~e~~Certified ~~i~~Interior ~~d~~Designers ~~or any other person~~ from submitting *non-structural, non-seismic conventional and standard construction* interior

design plans for commercial or residential buildings to local building officials, ~~except~~ as provided for in Sections 5537 and 5538. In exercising discretion with respect to the acceptance of interior design plans, the local building official shall reference the California Building Standards Code and the Occupational Title Standard set forth in Section 5800(a).

Committee staff believes that it may be appropriate to clarify the law relating to the acceptance of certified interior designer plans and designs by local building departments. However, more input is needed from all stakeholders before amendments can be included. While a stakeholder meeting was held on February 3, stakeholders needed more time to review the proposed changes to the “certified interior designer” definition. CCIDC, IDDC, ASID, AIACC, California Building Officials (CALBO), California Architects Board (CAB), and League of California Cities were some of the stakeholders in attendance at this meeting. On a first glance, however, some stakeholders have noted that horizontal exiting and rated corridors directly impact a building and its users. By affecting the structural system and safety of the building, the aforementioned features may be in direct conflict to Business and Professions Code Section 5538.

Any legislative proposal must allow building officials to retain the authority to accept submittals from architects, engineers, interior designers, building designers, and owners, as appropriate to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Staff Recommendation: *CCIDC should work with stakeholders to find a consensus on this issue and if appropriate, submit a specific legislative proposal to the Committees.*

ISSUE #2: (STRATEGIC PLAN) What is the status of the Board’s strategic plan?

Background: The process of creating a Strategic Plan sets the foundation for a regulatory entity’s efforts to effectively do its job. CCIDC reports that it has not developed a comprehensive strategic plan since 2001. While there have been subsequent strategic planning meetings since, the document appears to have not been updated. It is standard practice for various boards and bureaus in California to develop and publish a strategic plan every four years.

CCIDC should report to the Committees as to why this plan has not been updated and published for certificate holders and stakeholders. Since this document has not been updated for over 16 years, it would be helpful for the Committees to understand how the Board has set goals for itself.

As a means of jumpstarting the creation of a newly created strategic plan, CCIDC should reach out to certificate holders and stakeholders requesting their participation in an anonymous survey about the Board as a means of identifying strengths and areas in need of improvement. This will also help the Board develop a plan to address the areas of concern.

Staff Recommendation: *The Board should update the Committees on how it has set goals for itself since 2001. The Board should create a newly developed strategic plan and describe the timeline for its completion. This new strategic plan should address new and existing issues raised through the Sunset Review process and concerns raised by other interested stakeholders.*

ARTICLE 3. Application of Chapter [5535 - 5538]

(Article 3 added by Stats. 1939, Ch. 33.)

5537.

(a) This chapter does not prohibit any person from preparing plans, drawings, or specifications for any of the following:

(1) Single-family dwellings of woodframe construction not more than two stories and basement in height.

(2) Multiple dwellings containing no more than four dwelling units of woodframe construction not more than two stories and basement in height. However, this paragraph shall not be construed as allowing an unlicensed person to design multiple clusters of up to four dwelling units each to form apartment or condominium complexes where the total exceeds four units on any lawfully divided lot.

(3) Garages or other structures appurtenant to buildings described under subdivision (a), of woodframe construction not more than two stories and basement in height.

(4) Agricultural and ranch buildings of woodframe construction, unless the building official having jurisdiction deems that an undue risk to the public health, safety, or welfare is involved.

(b) If any portion of any structure exempted by this section deviates from substantial compliance with conventional framing requirements for woodframe construction found in the most recent edition of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations or tables of limitation for woodframe construction, as defined by the applicable building code duly adopted by the local jurisdiction or the state, the building official having jurisdiction shall require the preparation of plans, drawings, specifications, or calculations for that portion by, or under the responsible control of, a licensed architect or registered engineer. The documents for that portion shall bear the stamp and signature of the licensee who is responsible for their preparation. Substantial compliance for purposes of this section is not intended to restrict the ability of the building officials to approve plans pursuant to existing law and is only intended to clarify the intent of Chapter 405 of the Statutes of 1985.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE - BPC
DIVISION 3. PROFESSIONS AND VOCATIONS GENERALLY [5000 - 9998.11]

(Heading of Division 3 added by Stats. 1939, Ch. 30.)

CHAPTER 3. Architecture [5500 - 5610.7]

(Chapter 3 added by Stats. 1939, Ch. 33.)

ARTICLE 3. Application of Chapter [5535 - 5538]

(Article 3 added by Stats. 1939, Ch. 33.)

5538.

This chapter does not prohibit any person from furnishing either alone or with contractors, if required by Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3, labor and materials, with or without plans, drawings, specifications, instruments of service, or other data covering such labor and materials to be used for any of the following:

- (a) For nonstructural or nonseismic storefronts, interior alterations or additions, fixtures, cabinetwork, furniture, or other appliances or equipment.
- (b) For any nonstructural or nonseismic work necessary to provide for their installation.
- (c) For any nonstructural or nonseismic alterations or additions to any building necessary to or attendant upon the installation of those storefronts, interior alterations or additions, fixtures, cabinetwork, furniture, appliances, or equipment, provided those alterations do not change or affect the structural system or **safety of the building.**

ADMINISTRATION OF CCIDC

ISSUE #1: ACCEPTANCE OF STAMP

- Attended meetings with the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning
- Propose Joining the League of Cities and attend local meetings
- Continue to work with CAB & CALBO to promote the CID Commercial Designation

ISSUE #2: STRATEGIC PLAN

- June 24, 2017 Strategic Plan Meeting
 - Stakeholder Participation
 - CID Commercial Designation
 - Created directly from ideas, suggestions, requests of:
 - CIDs
 - Stakeholders
 - Industry Leaders
- Strategic Planning meetings to be held annually after each Annual Board Meeting.

LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

ISSUE #6: (NEW CERTIFICATION) Does CCIDC believe a new certification category should be created for commercial interior designers?

Background: In October 2016, the Little Hoover Commission released a report titled *Jobs for Californians: Strategies to Ease Occupational Licensing Barriers*. The report highlights different barriers to licensure and possible recommendations to help promote easier access to licensure. In particular, the report provides a positive outlook on the idea of a “commercial interior designer” certification. The report underscores the following:

“Commercial interior designers, for example often do building code-impacted design work – moving walls that entail electrical, lighting, HVAC and other changes. They design the layout of prisons, where the safety of correctional officers and inmates is on the line. Even though the people performing this commercial work typically have extensive educational and work experience, city and county inspectors do not recognize their unlicensed voluntary credentials. Architects or engineers must sign off on their plans, resulting in time and cost delays.”

Many interested parties have also suggested that, if a new certification for commercial interior designers were to be created, an individual should meet the following requirements:

- 1) Passage of the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) Exam
- 2) Passage of a supplemental exam testing knowledge of the California Building Code
- 3) Annual continuing education courses sanctioned by the California Building Officials (CALBO) and agreed upon by the interior design profession.

Given that this new certification has been discussed by both the Little Hoover Commission and discussed in other states, CCIDC should explain to the Committees whether a “commercial interior design” certification promotes the health and safety of the public. If so, the creation of this certification should involve input from all affiliated stakeholders. Some stakeholders may include IDDC, ASID, AIACC, California Building Officials (CALBO), California Architects Board (CAB), and League of California Cities.

Staff Recommendation: *CCIDC should explain to the Committees whether “commercial interior design” certification category should be created. If so, the Board should outline a plan to involve all interested stakeholders when crafting this certification.*

LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

ISSUE #6: NEW CERTIFICATION

- Certified Interior Designer – Commercial Designation
- Created through the Strategic Planning meeting
 - With CIDs, Stakeholders and Industry Leaders
- Created Courses with ICC – International Codes Council
 - Create the IBC
 - Create the CBC
 - Train/Educate/Certify Building Officials

Certified Interior Designer *Commercial Designation*

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this program is to allow building officials to identify individuals (CIDs) who have prepared non-structural, non-seismic commercial tenant improvement plans in accordance with Sections [5537](#) and [5538](#) of the CBPC that do not require an architect or engineers stamp or signature who are submitting said plans for the purpose of obtaining a building permit.

HISTORY:

Some Building Departments have routinely denied the submission of non-structural, non-seismic tenant improvement plan check submission, especially for work in hi-rise office buildings, even though the design work is exempt under Sections [5537](#) and [5538](#) of the CBPC. When turned away designers are forced to seek the services of a licensed architect or structural or civil engineer incurring delays and additional consumer costs.

- Who is it for?
 - For Interior Designers who primarily engage in commercial design
 - For Interior Designers who submit drawings to building departments for commercial projects
 - For Interior Designers who want an additional commercial designation to their certification

Requirements to Obtain the Commercial Designation

- CIDs must currently be in good standing, and complete requirements within 6 months of application submission.
- Current CIDs, in good standing, who apply and complete the process BEFORE December 31, 2019 do NOT need to provide proof of National Exam passage. The application fee and completion of listed ICC Courses shall be sufficient to obtain the Commercial Designation. APPLY NOW to take advantage of this CID Special Promotion!
- Effective January 1, 2020 ALL CIDs must provide proof of passing one of the following examinations, to qualify:
 - ARE CQRID LEED-AP NCBDC NCIDQ NKBA-(CKBD) RIDQC

- *Designers not-yet certified must also pass the IDEX California® Exam***
- Provide proof of passing the following California Based, International Codes Council (ICC) Courses, to qualify:

Course Name	Course Link
2015 IBC Essentials with 2016 CA Amendments	https://learn.iccsafe.org?course_id=34573
2016 CBC Title 24 Regulation (Energy)	https://learn.iccsafe.org?course_id=34782
2016 CBC Chapter 11B Accessibility in Public Buildings	https://learn.iccsafe.org?course_id=34604
2016 CBC Means of Egress	https://learn.iccsafe.org?course_id=34625
Building Codes 101 for Interior Designers	https://learn.iccsafe.org?course_id=34622

- CID Application Fee **\$100**.
 - Fee includes new Commercial Designation ID Card and Digital Stamp upon completion/approval.
- 2-Year Certification and Renewal Fees will be the same for all Certified Interior Designers.
- Commercial Designation CEU Requirements: 10 Hours per 2-Year Certification Period.
 - Five of the 10 CEU hours MUST be CA code specific courses
- This Designation is voluntary and not required for CIDs who do commercial design.
 - This designation is to assist in the identification of CIDs whose primary focus of practice is in commercial design.
 - Not a guarantee that plans will be reviewed
 - This is not intended as a fix-all for plan submission uniformity
 - It is only one of many steps in the process to affect change.

CCIDC provides a means for building officials to check on the CCIDC web site that such individuals are CIDs and do hold this extra credential and are current with their certification. CCIDC provides a stamp and ID Card that denotes the commercial designation (covered with the application fee).

APPLICATION PROCESS

NOTE: Current CIDs, in good standing, who apply and complete the process BEFORE December 31, 2019 do not need to provide proof of National Exam passage. The application fee and completion of listed ICC Courses shall be sufficient to obtain the Commercial Designation. APPLY NOW to take advantage of this CID Special Promotion!

For current CIDs to apply: Login to your CID Account to [pay application fee](#). You will have six months from receipt of application payment to submit proof of course completion. CCIDC will respond to your application once received via email.

Commercial Interior Designers who are not-yet certified can apply for certification with the commercial designation through [Path 4](#).



Certified Interior Designers,

The Commercial Designation courses through ICC have now been released. Please find the links below to sign-up for the online courses. Please note that some of the course names have changed, but that the courses are the same and still meet the Commercial Designation requirements. The classes will range from 1-1.5 hours long.

2015 IBC Essentials with 2016 California Amendments https://learn.iccsafe.org/course_id=34573

2016 CBC Chapter 11B: Accessibility in Public Buildings

https://learn.iccsafe.org/course_id=34604

2016 CBC Means of Egress https://learn.iccsafe.org/course_id=34625

2016 CBC Title 24 (Energy) Regulations Overview https://learn.iccsafe.org/course_id=34782

Building Codes 101 for Interior Designers https://learn.iccsafe.org/course_id=34622

Use the following coupon codes to receive a discounted price –

\$69.00 courses: CCC-01

\$29.00 course: CCC-02

****The \$69.00 courses can all be purchased together, but the \$29.00 course will need to be purchased separately in order to use the coupon codes****

If you have any questions, please let us know.



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