

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA – DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

Hearing Date: June 2, 2010

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Experience Evaluation

Section Affected: Title 16, California Code of Regulations, Section 117

Specific Purpose of the Regulation

§ 117 – Experience Evaluation

The existing regulation specifies that work experience shall only be granted when the supervising licensed professional is licensed in a United States jurisdiction, Canadian province, or a qualifying foreign country where the work experience is obtained or the project is located. This proposal would allow candidates to obtain training credits when his or her supervising professional holds a license in any U.S. jurisdiction or Canadian province regardless of whether the supervising professional is licensed in the specific U.S. jurisdiction or Canadian province where the work is performed or project is located. The Board would retain the requirement that in order to gain work experience in a qualifying foreign country, the supervising professional must be licensed in the same country where the work experience is obtained or project is located in order to maintain the same level of equivalency standards. This proposal would align the Board's regulations with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards' (NCARB) revised national standard.

Factual Basis/Rationale

The Board is mandated to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Like all regulatory programs under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), the Board is allowed to make determinations on what is required of applicants to become eligible for a professional license. Currently, the Board requires that work experience shall only be granted when the supervising licensed professional is licensed in a United States jurisdiction, Canadian province, or a qualifying foreign country where the work experience is obtained or the project is located. In other words, the project that the applicants work on must also be in the jurisdiction that the office is located in. The architectural profession is one that uses modern technology for communication between workers on projects, such as having an office physically be in one jurisdiction and have the project in another. Therefore, unless the requirements for reporting work experience are modified, there will be an unnecessary burden on applicants for obtaining and reporting work experience.

In addition, the Board currently requires applicants to complete the NCARB Intern Development Program (IDP). IDP is currently going through a transition to IDP 2.0, and part of this transition is the modification of the role of direct supervisor to reflect the current architectural practice. NCARB's modification to the role of direct supervisor will allow the supervisor to supervise their interns through a mix of personal and remote communication, such as email and webinars.

Underlying Data

The Board relied on the following document in its proposal:

1. NCARB IDP Guidelines January 2010

Business Impact

The proposed regulatory action will not have a significant adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with business in other states, because it affects only architect applicants.

Specific Technologies or Equipment

This proposed regulatory action does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

Consideration of Alternatives

No reasonable alternative to the regulation would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private person than the proposed regulations.