

Changes to Architecture Practice Act – How to Stay Out of Trouble
Q&A Report

Time	Question Asked	Answer Given (black = during webinar / red = after webinar)
12:13:41 PM EDT	I would assume the qualifying architect must be registered in Florida..	Correct
12:15:21 PM EDT	What about names of Business Organizations? Any Name or DBA?	Separate legal issue operating under fictitious name
12:16:23 PM EDT	What happens if the qualifying agent/architect leaves the "business organization"?	Must notify Board within 30 days
12:18:56 PM EDT	what is the actual process of qualifying a firm? Who do we file the qualification with?	Board of Architecture/DBPR
12:20:07 PM EDT	Do we just write a letter or is there a form?	A new form is being developed. There will be a grace period
12:20:46 PM EDT	Does the qualifying agent in satellite office (not owner of the firm) have to sign and seal the plans?	No
12:23:48 PM EDT	What if the firm is only 1 licensed Architec, dies, and his/her lawyer or spouse hasn't been notified to contact DBPR does it matter as the firm had no employees who put that once licensed professional at risk?	Would the firm continue or dissolve? Firm cannot continue if qualifier is deceased.
12:24:51 PM EDT	Does the Qualifier required to be licensed to practice architecture in Florida?	Yes
12:29:39 PM EDT	Does this take effect immediately?	Yes but there will be a grace period to allow for transition - probably until 1/1/21
12:30:18 PM EDT	What about referencing your license number on social media? Many small firm Architects do not have websites, but the younger licensed pro's are marketing through social media. Would it be mandatory to present it on their profile page?	I don't think social media would require license number
12:34:53 PM EDT	So, everybody is an Interior Designer!?	More like anybody can use that title and act as one
12:35:16 PM EDT	As a lic. architect, I'm also currently "licensed" as an Interior Designer. Do I need to do anything?	No. All interior designer licenses that were in good standing as of July 1, 2020, were automatically converted to registrations. No action is needed by currently licensed interior designers.
12:35:31 PM EDT	Does this mean that people claiming to be interior designers yet they are not registered, and are merely "decorators" they are no longer breaking any laws?	Correct
12:35:46 PM EDT	If you are a licensed architect in another state, does the same rule re: ID registration apply?	No only to FL architects
12:35:51 PM EDT	Can an interior designersay that they are licensed and/or registered in Florida?	If previously licensed they can claim to be registered

12:36:42 PM EDT	Why would you, an architect want to be "registered" as an interior designer?	If you need a few more certificates...or if a client wanted to see you have registered designer on staff
12:36:56 PM EDT	What about fire-rated walls?	NO because that affects life-safety elements
12:38:20 PM EDT	Is there a change in the term Architect, and its use by non licensed individuals. How is the board enforcing?	No change
12:38:46 PM EDT	what if an architect prepares the CDs and has consultant drawings for structural and MEP, but they hired an "interior designer" to create FFE drawings - can they just be put on the architect's title block?	If clearly identified as consultant
12:39:31 PM EDT	We have problems up here with Interior Designers coming down from Atlanta and Birmingham and moving interior load bearing walls without dealing with the consequences on their documents, leaving it to the contractors to deal with.	Lee, that is affecting life-safety elements so it's a violation
12:40:22 PM EDT	Please clarify the a building department has to require an Interior Designer to submit documents. They cannot submit for a permit without that requirement from a building official.	It's gray. They can't do work that materially affects life-safety systems - what doesn't?
12:40:44 PM EDT	I have a seal with the old Lic. Interior Designer and Reg. Architect. Do I need to change the seal?	Yes
12:40:52 PM EDT	The new interior designer deregulation affects architects, as there was reciprocity. An architect could be an interior designer. Now can architects become registered interior designers?	Yes,yes,yes
12:41:09 PM EDT	Are wet signatures still the requirement if not using electronic sealing?	about to address
12:42:08 PM EDT	If a firm is one person, then there is no qualifying agent. So do you provide your license number?	yes, you are qualifier and provide Responsible supervisory control
12:42:50 PM EDT	No more AA and IB numbers in the title block required?	correct, just qualifier #
12:43:11 PM EDT	Sorry just saw the answer on the slide	I forgive you
12:43:34 PM EDT	Does this legally put the Qualifying Agent at more risk personally?	see 558.035
12:44:18 PM EDT	Do current Licensed Firms have to qualify?	Yes, but there will be grace period probably until 1/1/21
12:46:27 PM EDT	When a firm has offices nationwide how would the FL requirement to include a qualifying agents number on all advertising apply? Is this actually the new requirement in lieu of the CA or is this what is being proposed? Particularly curious about social media and brochures, etc. that may be shared by people in offices outside Florida. Also how would this be applied to the firms website when licensed in all states?	Social media not required, but qualifier for each office must be published

12:48:32 PM EDT	When do you have to have a qualifier listed with the state board and number on your letterhead and cards.	Letterhead only
12:49:06 PM EDT	Will DBPR disseminate this information to all registered FL architects?	yes
12:49:07 PM EDT	How do you go about listing a qualifier with the state board of architecture	Contact Board office in TLH
12:49:13 PM EDT	In some states when doing residential design a licensed Architect is not required so if not licensed in that state you can still offer professional architectural services?	Depends on the specific state
12:50:19 PM EDT	what if you are a licensed architect with a firm who wants you to sign and seal their construction documents after you have left the firm.? is that appropriate?	As long as the person provided services per laws and Responsible supervisory control
12:50:33 PM EDT	Is there any discussion to ease the requirement for architects licensed in other jurisdictions based on experience (not degreed) to become licensed in Florida?	WE take each case on case by case basis. NCARB has a method for broadly experienced architects
12:53:41 PM EDT	Just to confirm, any Interior Designer or ID Firm can work on a project in florida without registration as long as A) the drawings are not used for permit and B) Any items that effect structure/MEP/FP/FA are under the scope of the licensed architect.	correct
12:53:42 PM EDT	regarding qualifying agent license number, what about multi-discipline firms like AEI firms? is the individual license required in addition or does it replace that business license?	must have qualifier number
12:53:44 PM EDT	When a firm is national, how does the Individual Professional Liability exemption apply? Does the project have to be in Florida or would it just be if anyone in a Florida office worked on a project elsewhere in any capacity?	The liability clause for individuals is specific to Florida projects
12:54:20 PM EDT	Can BOAID require the signing and sealing architect have a primary contract with the owner/client, irrespective of even a Design-Build arrangement?	there is a carve-out for Design Builders, otherwise architect must hold contract
12:54:29 PM EDT	It is true that is legal that Cities as Miami Dade and City of Miami accept single family home plans signed by an unlicensed person?	In FL an architect is not required for single family residences.
12:54:43 PM EDT	does qualifying agent license number at variance with architect of record if that's a different individual in the office (is it "okay" that they be different license holders). which architect is "responsible" for the work?	Qualifier is responsible for office, individual architect who signs/seals is responsible for the work.
12:54:49 PM EDT	RE: having the contract with the client, can an Architect work under a Licensed Engineer?	only if architectural work is minor/"incidental" to the engineering work

12:54:57 PM EDT	The State (BOAID) does not record courses taken for each 2 year period. They say we have to keep track and be ready for an audit should it occur. The CILB and AIA record courses which provides confidence of compliance. Why?	You can provide AIA records to BOAID to confirm CEUs. Not the Board's responsibility to keep up with an individual's CEUs, only to confirm that an licensee is in compliance.
12:55:07 PM EDT	Since Certificates of Authorization have been eliminated, what happens to past violations?	If violation occurred prior to 7/1/2020 it's still a violation. Probably a minor one.
12:55:22 PM EDT	aiding and abetting: if its a hotel renovation where 90% of the value is interior furnishing, but there is a small pavillion added to the pool area, the architect has to be the primary contract with the hotel?	That is a bit gray but since so minor should not be issue.
12:55:33 PM EDT	how do you notify the state about the qualifying agent?	Form completed on BOAID/DBPR website
12:55:35 PM EDT	how does the registration affect my license as an interior designer?	Marjorie: You will be able to convert to a "registered" interior designer.
12:55:36 PM EDT	Who can submit permit documents for one and two family residential buildings?	anybody can design 1/2 family dwellings in FL
12:55:38 PM EDT	Please explain if an architect can provide services through a Professional Engineer. For example, a major HVAC renovation that requires minor architectural services.	If services are "incidental" the engineer could hold contract.
12:55:42 PM EDT	If a firm is practicing unknowingly without an old qualifying agent listed at DBPR's website, what is the course of action to correct it.	Contact Board office, there is a form on website to make changes
12:55:49 PM EDT	Will the certificate of authorization automatically roll over into a business organization if the qualifier is the same?	No new Application will be required
12:55:51 PM EDT	Can the client be a GC who was hired by the owner of the project	As long as they are offering design/build services
12:56:03 PM EDT	If you have a project manager that does not have a license, what goes on their business card? No license at all, or list the qualifying architect and their license number? If you put just the license number is that not misleading and looks like the PM is licensed?	Qualifier's license number not required on cards since that would be misleading.
12:56:06 PM EDT	Do we have to put the qualifiers registration number on all the business cards for the staff of the firm? Even if the staff have their own numbers?	Not business card, would create confusion. Only letterhead, etc. There will be a grace period.
12:56:11 PM EDT	Our power just went out. Will this webinar be available online?	Yes
12:56:14 PM EDT	Any clarifications on what an architect can do vs. what an engineer can do?	Architect can do engineering work "incidental" to the architecture, and visa versa. We are working to have a better definition.

12:56:31 PM EDT	The owner of the project. I work with GC's who hire my services but I never meet the owner.	Theroretically OK but if there are problems later it could be an issue. It is required for the architect to have interaction with client.
12:56:43 PM EDT	Does the Qualifying agents # and AR # need to be on email and businesscards?	No
12:56:45 PM EDT	If I'm dual licensed, do I need to do anything special with changing my interior license to a registered interior designer or will it be changed when I renew my licenses?	
12:56:49 PM EDT	if an architect works for a contractor can they provide architectural services for in a design build contract? do they need to have any special professional liability?	Yes can be a subcontractor, and Design/Builder can hold the primary contract. Liability is a question of the D/B company and your insurer.
12:57:22 PM EDT	If a firm has an architect signing and sealing drawings that is not the "qualifying architect" for the business, would the titleblock include both names and license numbers? Seems that would be confusing of which architect was supervising the work.	Qualifier's number is required, name is optional. Person signing/sealing name and number are required.
12:57:30 PM EDT	Do we need to reapply for a Business License in lieu of the AA	That is the current opinion we are clarifying. There will be a grace period.
12:57:31 PM EDT	I'm an Brazilian architect studying for the ARE exam. I have been working for 23 years in Brazil. How many years of experience I have to complete after been approved the ARE EXAM?	Contact Terri McEwen at Board office - NCARB has procedures for foreign architects
12:57:45 PM EDT	If you are unlicensed architect living in Florida, could you do any job abroad as an architect?	Outside my area of expertise
12:57:48 PM EDT	Why do we have to pay Entrust or similar companied to 3rd party verify our electronic signatires when they just charge fees and have noidea if we are licensed in good standing or not? Why isn't our seal and License number sufficient?	You don't have to pay 3rd party. Adobe, Bluebeam, PDF Xchange etc have capability to electronically sign documents. You can also pre-print seal or insert image on titleblock file and sign - just can't insert scanned signature.
12:58:22 PM EDT	It was mentioned that the Architect (agent) needed to be full time for each practice. How does that work if the agent is spread over two or more practices? Is that allowed by statue?	Architect does not need to be full time in each office but must verify that they are capable of providing control over the office(s) they are listed for
12:58:40 PM EDT	how do you change how your license is accossiated with a former firm????does the previous firm have to release your license?	There is a form on the DBPR website to change the firm's qualifier or person providing RSC
12:59:04 PM EDT	I am a registered arch and the qualifier of a company and responsible supervisor. I would like to provide also arch services on my own, not thru the company. How do i comply with the rules?	Under the new rules you may be qualifer and RSC for multiple companies

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ed by currently licensed interior designers.