

SERVICES FOR BUILDING PROFESSIONALS

▶ ABOUT KNOWLEDGE SERVICES

With a focus on delivering quality products and services, the Australian Institute of Architects' Knowledge Services team provides the tools that support architectural practices and facilitates a broad range of continuing professional development opportunities for architects.

Contact the Knowledge Services office on:
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▶ CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

The Australian Institute of Architects is committed to the advancement of architecture and the fostering of skills and service in the profession. The changing regulatory environment for architects in Australia, and the requirements by some state governments for architects to undertake continuing professional development to maintain registration, reinforce the importance of building skills and keeping up-to-date with developments in the industry.

The Australian Institute of Architects, together with the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia, has developed a joint policy on CPD. This forms the basis of the Australian Institute of Architects CPD Policy. The policy details the preferred framework for acceptable CPD and the amount of CPD to be undertaken.

Under this policy, a CPD program has a learning outcome and is linked to the AACA Competency Standards. It is also important to identify if the event is "Formal" or "Informal". "Formal" programs either include formal assessment or have significant interaction between the presenter and participant. CPD points are allocated to activities on the basis of one point for every hour of involvement. This applies to both formal and informal activities.

The acceptable minimum commitment for CPD from registered practising architects is 20 points per annum, of which a minimum of ten points must be for formal activities. Architects should check with their local registration body for specific CPD requirements for registration.

The AACA/ Australian Institute of Architects Joint CPD Policy, the Australian Institute of Architects CPD Policy and the AACA competency Standards can be found through the CPD section of www.architecture.com.au

The Australian Institute of Architects delivers many hundreds of hours of event based CPD through the National Seminar Series, the annual Australian Institute of Architects Conference, and through Chapter programs. In response to difficulties faced by members with regard to their ability to attend these programs, Australian Institute of Architects Knowledge Services has developed an online training resource to improve the accessibility of professional development for architects. Training courses are available through www.continuum.com.au and provide self-paced, web-based courses for architects, related industry professionals and anyone interested in the built environment.

▶ ADVISORY NOTES

The best source of information for practising architects.

The Australian Institute of Architects Advisory Notes service is one of the most highly-rated Institute services. Subscriptions continue to grow in response to success in aligning the content with the issues most important to architectural practices.

The Advisory Notes are written primarily by practising architects who are able to draw on personal, practical experience. The notes represent a significant part of the collective wisdom of the profession.

Importantly, the notes can now also contribute to an architect's annual continuing professional development requirements by complying with one or more of the competencies listed in the ACAA's National Competency Standards in Architecture. This is particularly pertinent in New South Wales, where continuing professional development is mandatory for architects wishing to maintain registration.

Subscription options include:

- » annual payment by cash, cheque or credit card
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The online payment option can be accessed through the Australian Institute of Architects website, where clear instructions take you step by step through the payment procedure, and enable you to print out a tax invoice receipt when your payment is made. Go to: www.architecture.com.au/members/online_payments.

The breadth of practice information covered in the Advisory Notes and the updates of special conditions relating to contracts is essential to running a successful architectural practice.

Contact Australian Institute of Architects Knowledge Services on 03 8620 3877 or email knowledge@raia.com.au for more information. Subscription forms can be downloaded from the Advisory Notes section of the Australian Institute of Architects website.

2008 Subscription Rates*

(Includes full set of notes, folders and CD.)

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Non-member

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Cautionary Note

Progress claims and the Security of Payment Acts

Several states have now enacted legislation covering the security of payment in the building and construction industry.

The legislation, first introduced in NSW, was not widely used initially, but following some amendments use is becoming more common.

Generally, under the legislation, an owner in receipt of a claim for payment from a contractor has a set time within which they must either pay the amount claimed, dispute the amount claimed and pay the portion of the claim which is not in dispute, or reject the claim entirely. However, if they do not respond at all within the set time the claim must be paid in full.

Ignorance of the need to respond to such a claim within the set time frames can mean a substantial claim has to be paid earlier than it would otherwise have been due.

The legislation provides a mechanism to deal with disputed claims in a manner which is intended to ensure a speedy resolution of the dispute. As the legislation and the case law develops, it is becoming clearer that payments made under the legislation are 'on account' in relation to the contract price. Adjudication decisions about disputed claims should properly be seen as disputes about the timing of payment under the contract. Nevertheless, the timing of payment can be significant for both contractors and owners.

The legislation also applies generally to claims between consultants and their clients.

A claim made under the legislation must be identified as such and must include a payment schedule setting out the detail of the claim.

Architects should be aware that progress claims made by a contractor in accordance with the provisions of the standard forms of contract are not (or should not be) claims under legislation. The contractor's claim only becomes a claim under the legislation when

the claim is submitted to the owner as a claim stated to be made under the relevant legislation.

Architects must therefore ensure that owners are aware that if they receive a claim from a contractor made under the legislation, they should notify the architect immediately. The architect can then process the claim and advise the owner what portion of the claim ought to be paid.

The owner must also pay the undisputed amount within the timeframe set in the legislation, or else the full amount claimed becomes payable.

Continuing Professional Development

Self directed study of this Advisory Note may contribute to an architect's annual CPD requirements. Refer AN03.01.100 RAI A Continuing Professional Development for more information. Acceptable CPD activities must be contained within one or more of the competencies listed in the Abaca's 'The National Competency Standards in Architecture', available on their web site www.aaca.org.au.

This Advisory Note addresses the topic of Practice Management 4.1.4.135.

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