



SC Architect

LLR A newsletter published by the South Carolina Board of Architectural Examiners

November 2008

Firm Licenses Extended Until August 2009



In an effort to streamline licensing procedures and to bring fees more in line with operating costs, the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Board of Architecture are moving toward biennial renewal of licenses. The license for your South Carolina architecture firm is currently set to expire

on December 31, 2008. However, the firm license renewal date has been extended until August 31, 2009, at no charge. You will receive a new firm license with the expiration date of August 31, 2009, in about two weeks. If you do not receive it by the end of November, contact [Alice Richardson](mailto:richardsona@llr.sc.gov) at richardsona@llr.sc.gov.

Again, currently licensed architectural firms will NOT be required to renew the license by December 31, 2008, in order to continue practicing in South Carolina.

In August 2009, if you choose to continue practicing as a firm in South Carolina, you will be able to renew the license online for a two-year period. In July 2009, we will send you instructions for renewing online.

We also anticipate changing the annual renewal of individual architect licenses to a biennial period so that a renewal on June 30, 2009, would give architects a valid license until June 30, 2011. Continuing education requirements would be adjusted accordingly. More definitive information will be mailed to you next year about renewing individual architect licenses in South Carolina.

We hope you are pleased with these changes, and we welcome your feedback.

Please always ensure the Board has the firm's current e-mail and mailing address by sending changes to [Alice Richardson](mailto:richardsona@llr.sc.gov).

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Important Changes for Interns and Exam Candidates

- Direct Registration
- Early entry to ARE
- Use of title "Intern Architect"



1) Direct Registration

Exam candidates will no longer apply to the South Carolina Board to be admitted to the ARE.

In October 2008, the South Carolina Board adopted NCARB's Direct Registration program, which allows exam candidates who meet South Carolina requirements (see below) to apply directly to NCARB to begin taking the ARE.

This change does not affect candidates who have already been approved to sit for the ARE by the Board. Those candidates will continue to receive exam scores from the S.C. Board office. Contact the Board office if you have questions.

[NCARB](#) Direct Registration: Effective immediately, you will apply to NCARB to begin taking the [ARE](#). Once you have passed all divisions of the ARE and completed [IDP](#) training, you will request that NCARB send your Council Record to the S.C. Board. Upon receipt, Board staff will send instructions about the forms and fees required to complete the process of becoming licensed here.

2) Early Entry to ARE

South Carolina law changed in June 2008 to allow interns to begin taking the ARE before completing IDP.

The law now allows interns who have completed an accredited degree, who are enrolled in IDP and are actively participating in IDP, and who are employed by an architectural firm to begin taking the ARE. The law still requires completion of IDP prior to licensure. [Section 40-3-240 (C)]

To Sit for the Examination, you must have:

- Completed a professional architecture degree from a college or university accredited by the [National Architectural Accrediting Board \(NAAB\)](#) or the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB)
- Established an [NCARB](#) Record and be actively participating in IDP or have completed IDP
- If you have met NCARB's and South Carolina's Education Requirement and have established a Council Record, you should go to the ["Ready to take the ARE?"](#) portion of NCARB's Web site to start the testing process

NCARB Will...

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- Notify the examination administrator ([Prometric](#)) that you are eligible to sit for the examination.
- Send your exam score reports to you
- Continue to evaluate and record your Training Units under IDP

Prometric Will...

- Notify you about procedures for scheduling the examination. Fees for the examination are paid directly to [Prometric](#).
- Send your exam scores to NCARB
- Accept address changes

Once you have successfully completed all sections of the examination and IDP:

You Will...

- Authorize NCARB to transmit your record to the South Carolina Board

NCARB Will...

- Notify the Board office that you are eligible for registration.
- Send your entire NCARB Record to the South Carolina Board

The Board Will...

- Notify you of the forms and fees necessary to complete licensure in South Carolina
- Review your application and record at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting
- If approved, issue your license.

3) Use of title "Intern Architect"

If you have completed an accredited architecture degree, are enrolled in the Intern Development Program (IDP), and are employed by an architecture firm, you may call yourself an "Intern Architect," thanks to a change in statute proposed by the members of the Board of Architecture. This issue is often the topic of discussion on intern blog sites and other e-sites, with spirited debate pro and con among interns. The Board appreciates the feedback provided by many interns when these changes were being considered by the South Carolina Legislature.



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Changes Made to S.C. Statutes

South Carolina statutes were revised effective June 11, 2008. Please familiarize yourself with these changes:

Section 40-3-20(11): Adds a definition that will allow individuals who have completed an accredited architecture degree, who are enrolled in the Intern

Development Program (IDP) and who are employed by an architecture firm to call themselves "intern architect."

Section 40-3-240: Subsection (A) clarifies that application fees are nonrefundable.

Subsection (C) allows interns who have completed an accredited degree, who are enrolled in IDP and are actively participating in IDP, and who are employed by an architectural firm to begin taking the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). The law still requires completion of IDP prior to licensure.

Section 40-3-250: All 12 hours of continuing education must be obtained in topics related to health, safety and welfare. (Previously, 8 of the 12 hours were required to be in health or safety-related topics, while 4 hours were allowed in practice related topics.) Emeritus architects are still exempt from continuing education requirements. This change will be in effect for the renewals due on June 30, 2009.

Subsection (E): Strengthens compliance requirements for architects whose renewal forms are audited for CE compliance.

Section 40-3-280:

The proposed change will allow use of electronic seals. (This change does not mandate use of electronic seals.) South Carolina's Uniform Electronic Transmittal Act, passed in 2004, allows use of electronic signatures, but this section provides for use of electronic seals.

To view the full revised statute, please go back to the home page and click on "Laws/Policies" and then click on "Architectural Laws".

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Unlicensed Practice

In this newsletter, there is information about [Cease and Desist Orders](#) issued by the Board of Architecture. When unlicensed activity is reported to the Board, the matter is handled by the Board's administrative staff rather than the Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE).

When there is credible evidence that an unlicensed individual or a company is providing architecture services, is advertising that they can provide architecture services, or is using the word "architecture" or similar words, the Board's administrator sends a Cease and Desist Order, and the Order is posted on the Board's Web site. Unlicensed activity encompasses individuals who have never been licensed as an architect and are not eligible to be licensed; individuals who live in South Carolina (or who have a South Carolina address on the Board's records), who have let their license lapse and have not responded to the Board's late renewal notice reminder; and Emeritus architects who practice while in Emeritus status.

Many individuals and companies respond to the Cease and Desist Order by reporting that they were unaware of the law that reserves use of the term "architect" for licensees. Most readily comply with the requirement to stop the activity and to remove all reference to "architecture" from printed materials, advertisements, Web sites, etc. If an individual or firm fails to comply with the Order and continues the unlicensed activity, LLR's legal division may file a complaint with the S.C. Administrative Law Court seeking injunction or fines against the individual or firm. Section 40-3-100 states, "In addition to other remedies provided in this chapter or Article, 1, Chapter, 1, the board in accordance with Section 40-1-100 also may issue a cease and desist order or may petition an administrative law judge for a temporary restraining order or other equitable relief to enjoin a violation of this chapter."



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(FIRM)

Firm License Required

If you practice architecture in South Carolina through a firm, whether as an owner/shareholder/partner of the firm or as an employee, the firm must be licensed. Firms must designate at least one South Carolina-licensed architect who will be "in responsible charge" of the firm's architecture work in this state. Design documents must be sealed with the individual architect's seal and the firm seal.

Many architects incorrectly believe they can "just use my personal seal" and not put the firm name on the title block for a project for which the firm is contracted for services. This is a violation of South Carolina law. If the project is a firm's project, the firm must be licensed in South Carolina.

You may learn more about firm licensure and download forms and instructions on this Web site.



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Architects and Architectural Firms Listed on Web

Architects and architectural firms currently licensed in South Carolina are listed on the Licensee Lookup Web site. You can use this lookup to make sure your licenses are up-to-date and to determine if others are licensed. This site is updated daily.

The Web site address is

www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Architects/ click on

"Licensee lookup." If you believe a firm or individual was recently licensed but are unable to locate them on this site, e-mail us at [Alice Richardson](mailto:Alice.Richardson@llr.state.sc.us) or call us at 803-896-4408.



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Change in Continuing Education Requirements



Effective June 30, 2009, all 12 hours of continuing education must be obtained in topics related to health, safety and welfare. This change in Section 40-3-250 was approved by the South Carolina legislature on June 11, 2008. (Previously, 8 of the 12 hours were required to be in health or safety-related topics, while 4 hours were allowed in practice related topics.) Emeritus architects are still exempt from continuing education requirements. This change will be effective for the continuing education audit conducted after renewal in 2009. Please see the article on [statute changes](#) for more information.

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NEWLY REGISTERED ARCHITECTS

Congratulations to the following individuals who recently passed the Architect Registration Examination:

- Joshua Allison, Mt. Pleasant
- Stuart M. Barber, Greenville
- Bronwyn Brahe Lurkin, Isle of Palms
- Bradley K. Brown, Charleston
- Sarah K. Butler, Atlanta, GA
- Mary E. Haas, Charleston
- Luke McCary, Columbia
- Christopher M. Schlechte, Baton Rouge, LA
- Charles R. Stone, Jr., Greenville
- David J. Victoria, Jr., Surfside Beach
- Christopher T. Youngblood, Easley
- Stephanie E. Morgan, Columbia
- Michael Craig Johnson, Savannah, GA
- Christopher C. Bonner, Charleston
- Dennis L. Blaschke, Jr., Charleston
- Sally Anita King, Mt. Pleasant
- Jerome Keith Simons, Columbia



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Disciplinary Actions

Final [disciplinary actions](#) taken by the Board since publication of the last newsletter may be viewed on the Board's Web site. While the Board staff makes every effort to include all final actions, some may have inadvertently been omitted. Documents on the Web site date from July 2004; they are in PDF format and may be downloaded. If you need a copy of an action not posted

on the Web site, contact [Melissa Jones](#) or call her at 803-896-5147.

You will notice the Board is issuing Orders to Cease and Desist from the practice of architecture (or the offer to practice architecture) to individuals and firms not licensed in South Carolina. Continued practice after receipt of a Cease and Desist Order is considered a violation of the Order. Such violations are handled by the South Carolina Administrative Law Court, which has authority to levy fines up to \$10,000.

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Moving? Be Sure To Notify The Board

A change of address form can be downloaded from the web at www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Architects/ or you may simply send the changes to the Board by e-mail, fax or mail. Type or neatly print changes so they may be entered into the database correctly.

The Board cannot accept address changes over the telephone. Please send address or e-mail changes to the attention of [Alice Richardson](#).

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Board Office Hours

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Voice mail is activated after 5 p.m.

Telephone (803) 896-4408, Fax (803) 896-4427

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Board of Architecture Meeting Dates

2008

- November 17, 2008

2009

- January 14, 2009
- May 7, 2009
- September 22, 2009
- November 3, 2009

The Board office will be closed for the following state holidays:

- Tuesday, November 11, 2008
- Thursday, November 27, 2008
- Friday, November 28, 2008
- Thursday, December 25, 2008
- Friday, December 26, 2008



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Stephen A. Russell, Chairman
W. Barry Jenkins, Vice Chair
V. Stokes Browning, Secretary
Dennis S. Ward, Member
Jose R. Caban, Member
Tom Johnson, Esq., Public Member

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