

## **PRACTICE BULLETIN: Firms - The Architects Act 2008 Significantly Changed how Firms can Provide Architectural Services.**

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While the Architects Act 2008 has no requirement for a Firm to register with the Board before it starts to offer and provide Architectural services, *Section 13(2) of the Act requires an Architect to supervise the offering and provision of Architectural services. This includes supervising the promotion and marketing of Architectural services, including Architectural proposals.*

Before an Architect can start supervising a Firm, the Board's Code of Ethics requires the supervising Architect to:

- Notify the Board in advance before supervising a Firm, and immediately notify the Board when supervision ceases.
- Be an employee, or a contract employee, or sole proprietor of the Firm he/she chooses to supervise.
- Limit the supervision to only one Firm at a time, plus any associated companies.
- Refrain from providing services or supervision to any Firm who has contravened Section 13(2) of the Act within the last 6 months.

The supervising Architect must also provide the Board with a Certificate of Insurance for the Firm.

An Architect who stamps documents for a Firm that is offering and providing Architectural services must ensure the name of the Firm appears alongside the Architect's stamp and the Firm is identified as the *Architectural Consultant*. No other Firm name can appear on stamped documents that could be misconstrued as being a provider of Architectural services unless the Firm also employs a supervising Architect.

A Firm who employs Architects need to ensure at least one Architect assumes responsibility for supervising the Firm's practise of Architecture and he/she has notified the Board accordingly. Firms are also encouraged to understand which types of Architectural documents must contain an Architect's stamp.

An Architect who works for a Firm also needs to ensure at least one Architect has been appointed to supervise the practice.

A Firm who offers or provides Architectural services without first employing a supervising Architect is subject to a fine of \$25,000 for the first offence and up to \$100,000 for subsequent offences. In turn, an Architect who supervises a Firm without notifying the Board in advance or who stamps documents of a Firm without identifying it as the *Architectural Consultant* is subject to a disciplinary hearing.

- For the exact wording contained in the Architects Act 2008 and the Regulations:  
<https://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/a15-1.htm>
- For a list of Architects licensed to provide Architectural services:  
<https://www.albnl.com/documents/documents/registry-of-license-holders/>