

Registration as an Architect

The Architects Act 2004 (Act) and Architects Regulations 2005 allow for two divisions of registration:

- (a) division 1 for registered persons who are currently practising architecture (practising division); and
- (b) division 2 for registered persons who are not currently practising architecture (non-practising division).

Consequently, an architect's registration status can be either practising, or non-practising. Architects are able to move between these two divisions of the register. In addition, an architect can also move on and off the register by resigning or being removed from the register and applying to restore.

Knowledge, Skill and Competence

The Board has developed a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) framework that practising architects are encouraged to use as the preferred method of demonstrating they have an appropriate level of knowledge, skill and competence (see: "Information Sheet 02 – Continuing Professional Development Framework").

An architect registered in the practising division of the register must demonstrate to the Board that their level of knowledge, skill and competence is satisfactory (section 36(2)(a) of the Act). The Board's policy is that this level of knowledge, skill and competence is assessed against the National Standard of Competency for Architects (NSCA)¹. This may include:

- having voluntarily undertaken CPD activities and providing documentary evidence of this;
- sitting an oral examination²;
- providing a log book documenting 12 months experience in an architectural office, sitting a written and oral examination (i.e. similar to the Architectural Practice Examination)²; or
- another method acceptable to the Board.

Re-entering the Practising Division

When re-entering the practising division of the register, the Board will consider its Assessment Guidelines (shown overleaf) in order to determine if a person's level of knowledge, skill and competence is at an appropriate level. These Guidelines apply in the following circumstances:

- moving from the non-practising division to the practising division; and
- restoring to the register after a period of absence.

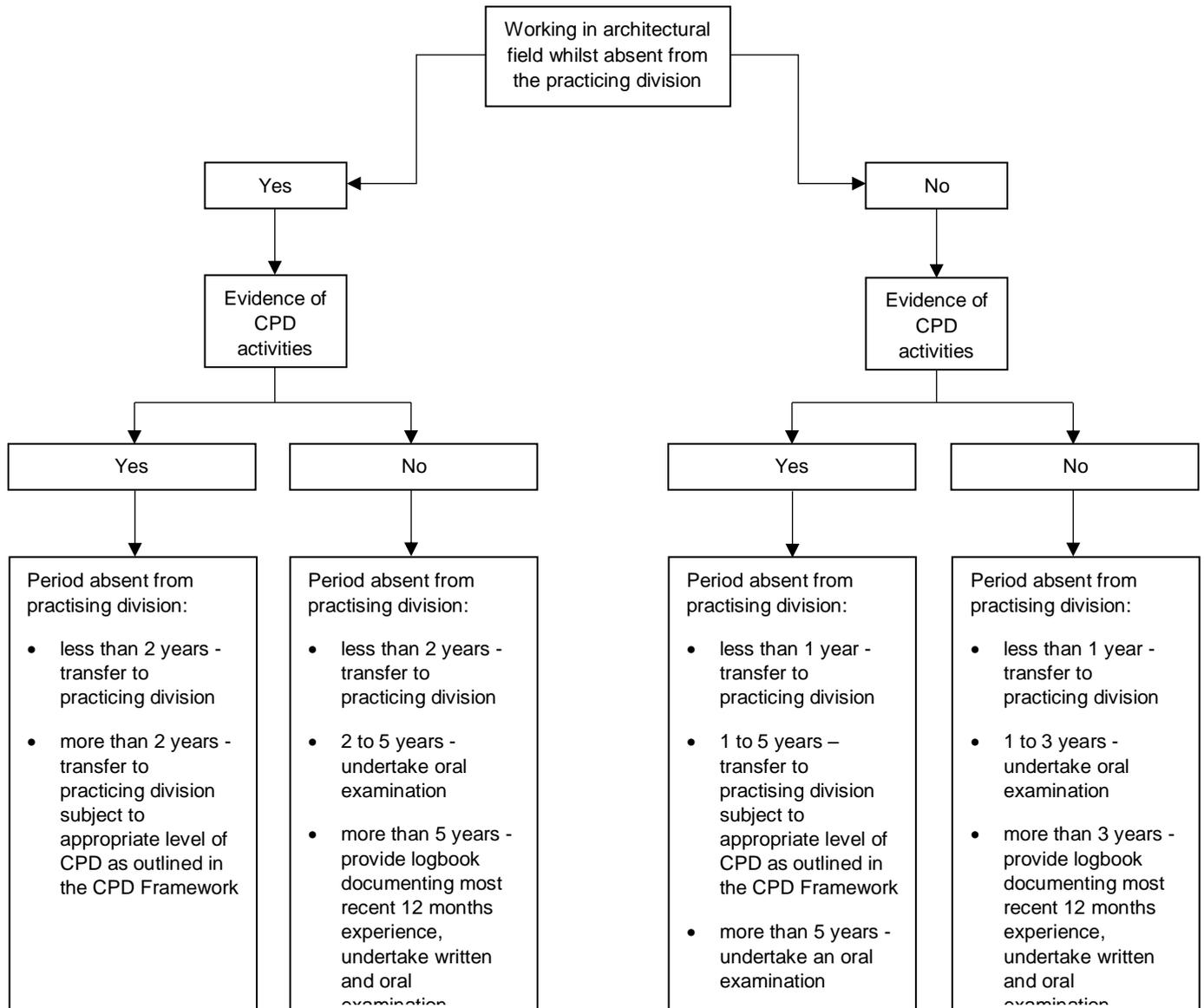
Architects considering moving from the practising division to the non-practising division should also consider these Guidelines if they intend to move back to the practising division at some time in the future.

Once an architect has transferred from the non-practising division to the practising division, a compulsory audit of their CPD activities will occur as part of the subsequent renewal of registration process (see: "Information Sheet 02 – Continuing Professional Development Framework").

¹The NSCA is produced by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia and can be downloaded from their website www.aaca.org.au.

²Examinations may incur a fee.

Assessment Guidelines



Relevant Sections from the Architects Act 2004 and Architects Regulations 2005

Architects Act 2004

36. Renewal of registration and licences

1. A registration or a licence may be renewed in accordance with the regulations for a period of 12 months or a longer period that is prescribed by the regulations.
2. The registration of a person is to be renewed if —
 - (a) the Board is satisfied that the person —
 - (i) continues to comply with the requirements prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of section 29 that are relevant to that person at the time of the renewal of registration;
 - (ii) is complying with any current condition of registration or renewal of registration; and
 - (iii) has attained or maintained a level of knowledge, skill and competence that the Board considers is required at the time of the renewal of registration in the practice of architecture generally or in the practice of a specific aspect of architecture that is likely to be practised by the person if registration is renewed;and
 - (b) the person pays the fee referred to in section 37(1).
3. The licence of a corporation is to be renewed if —
 - (a) the Board is satisfied that the corporation continues to comply with the requirements prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of section 31 that are relevant to the corporation at the time of the renewal of the licence;
 - (b) the Board is satisfied that the corporation is complying with any current condition of the grant of the licence or the renewal of the licence; and
 - (c) the corporation pays the fee referred to in section 37(1).
4. The Board may at any time, in writing, require —
 - (a) a registered person or licensed corporation to give information to the Board for the purpose of satisfying the Board as to a matter relevant to the renewal of a registration or licence and to verify the information by statutory declaration;
 - (b) an applicant for the renewal of registration to attend before the Board for the purpose of satisfying the Board as to a matter relevant to the application;
 - (c) an officer of a corporation that is an applicant for the renewal of a licence to attend before the Board for the purpose of satisfying the Board as to a matter relevant to the application; or
 - (d) a registered person to undergo any examination that is necessary for the purpose of satisfying the Board as to a matter referred to in subsection (2)(a)(iii).

5. The Board may refuse to renew a person's registration or the licence of a corporation if a requirement under subsection (4) in relation to that person or corporation is not complied with.

45. Amendment of particulars

A registered person or a licensed corporation may at any time apply to the Board for the amendment of the particulars entered in the register relating to the person or corporation, and if the Board is satisfied that the amendment may properly be made, the Board, on payment of the fee prescribed by the regulations, is to direct the registrar to amend the particulars accordingly.

Architects Regulations 2005

16. Divisions of the register — registered persons

The divisions of the register in relation to registered persons are —

- (a) division 1 for registered persons who are currently practising architecture;
- (b) division 2 for registered persons who are not currently practising architecture.

Disclaimer

The content of this Information Sheet is based upon the best information available at the date of issue and is subject to change without notice. The Board does not accept any liability to any person for the information or the use of this information. Persons requiring an interpretation of the meaning of the Architects Act or Regulations should seek their own legal advice.

