

APEC ARCHITECT SUPPLEMENTARY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The objective of the APEC Architect Supplementary Assessment process is to provide the relevant Registration Authorities with confidence that those with APEC Architect status seeking registration in a host economy

- . understand the general principles behind applicable codes of practice**
- . have demonstrated a capacity to apply such principles safely and efficiently**
- . are aware of the special requirements operating in the host economy**

BACKGROUND

What is APEC?

APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) is a cooperative association between 21 regional economies (countries), founded to promote economic and technical cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. APEC builds on the WTO General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) principles for the progressive liberalisation of trade in services through the reduction of regulatory restrictions, leading to reciprocal agreements between member economies where appropriate.

The APEC Architect project is a direct response to these commitments. 14 member economies of APEC have joined together to create the APEC Architect project and establish the APEC Architect Register to facilitate the mobility of architects in the provision of professional services throughout the region.

APEC ARCHITECT

Who is an APEC Architect?

An APEC Architect is a person who is enrolled on a section of the APEC Architect Register. APEC Architect registration applies only to individual persons.

Registration as an APEC Architect is reserved for practising architects who have sufficient experience in designated aspects of professional practice and who have acted in a position of professional responsibility for projects undertaken in the course of that practice.

Registration as an APEC Architect provides evidence of the achievement of standards of professional competence that are common to all participating economies. APEC Architect registration is intended to streamline admission to registration in a host economy.

(Further information on registration as an APEC Architect may be downloaded from www.aaca.org.au/APECarchitect)

What are the benefits of APEC Architect Status?

An APEC Architect may be exempted from many of the eligibility criteria required for registration in a host economy, but may be tested on matters of practice specific to that host economy. This is known as the supplementary assessment process.

A Reciprocal Recognition Framework has been established providing for three categories of supplementary assessment. For details on the categories of supplementary assessment refer to the section of this document titled Details of the Reciprocal Recognition Framework.

REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION IN AUSTRALIA

The use of the title 'architect' is protected in all Australian jurisdictions.

A person with 'APEC Architect' status cannot use this title, or the title 'architect', until they have obtained registration in the State or Territory of Australia in which they wish to offer their services.

Overseas trained architects

Generally to be eligible for registration as an architect in Australia, architects from other countries are required to have their academic qualifications assessed, to complete a period of professional experience as residents of Australia, and to pass the written and oral professional examination.

Overseas trained architects with APEC Architect status

The State and Territory Architects Registration Boards in Australia are responsible for granting exemption from the above professional recognition requirements to APEC Architects from other economies to the extent that those economies have agreed to extend reciprocal exemptions to APEC Architects from Australia under the **APEC Architect Reciprocal Recognition Framework**.

APEC ARCHITECT RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION FRAMEWORK

What is the APEC Architect Reciprocal Recognition Framework?

The Reciprocal Recognition Framework provides for **three categories of supplementary assessment**:

- . Domain Specific Assessment (the most liberal)
- . Comprehensive registration examination
- . Period of host economy residence/experience (the least liberal)

The following economies have agreed to implement a reciprocal **Domain Specific Assessment** process

- . Australia
- . Japan
- . Mexico
- . New Zealand
- . Chinese Taipei
- . Singapore
- . United States of America

In essence this means that these economies are prepared to liberalise their current regulatory requirements for registration. Architects with APEC Architect status from the above economies will only be required to undertake a supplementary process known as a Domain Specific Assessment in a reciprocating economy in order to obtain registration in that host economy.

Australia* has concluded negotiations with Japan and Chinese Taipei; negotiations are also proceeding with other economies.

APEC Architects from economies that do not offer the above reciprocal Domain Specific Assessment arrangement will not be eligible for exemptions. If an APEC Architect's home economy does not provide any exemptions to Australian APEC Architects, then there will be no obligation on any Registration Authority in Australia to provide any of the above exemptions.

* The reciprocal registration arrangement between Australia and New Zealand (through the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement) will not be affected by the APEC Architect Framework. For further details on the TTMRA please contact AACA.

DETAILS OF THE DOMAIN SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS (the Supplementary Assessment Process)

In Australia the Domain Specific Assessment process will be known as the **Supplementary Assessment Process (SAP)**.

The objective of the SAP is to provide the State and Territory Architect Registration Boards with confidence that those with APEC Architect status seeking registration in Australia

- . understand the general principles behind applicable codes of practice
- . have demonstrated a capacity to apply such principles safely and efficiently
- . are aware of the special requirements operating in the host economy

The **SAP will be conducted as an assessment by interview**. Specific issues to be examined will be

- . technical issues specific to Australia
- . legal and practice issues specific to Australia
- . issues relating to professional responsibility, accountability and liability.

Candidates will not be required to have Australian professional experience.

An APEC Architect who wishes to be registered in Australia and whose home economy offers reciprocal arrangements for a Domain Specific Assessment to Australian APEC Architects may apply for this process.

The SAP in Australia is conducted against the *AACA National Competency Standards in Architecture (NCSA)*. The relevant Competencies for the SAP are contained at Appendix 1.

How does an Overseas Trained APEC Architect apply to do the Australian SAP?

An APEC Architect wishing to be registered in Australia should contact the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) to confirm eligibility for the SAP. Upon confirmation an application form will be forwarded.

Where and how frequently will this assessment process be available?

The process is currently available in Perth (Western Australia), and Sydney (New South Wales). AACA will organise the interview within eight weeks of receipt of the completed application form and all required documentation.

What documentation is required to be presented for assessment?

When lodging the completed application form and prescribed fee APEC Architects are required to provide certified copies of:

- . APEC Architect certificate
- . The 'Record of seven year period of professional experience as a registered architect' submitted to the home Monitoring Committee when applying for APEC Architect registration
- . registration certificate in home economy
- . academic qualifications in architecture

If any of the above information is not in English, English translations must be provided. Originals of all documentation are required to be presented at the examination.

When presenting for the SAP interview, APEC Architects are encouraged to bring a portfolio of work.

Notification of assessment results

Applicants will be notified of results within three weeks of the interview.

Can an APEC Architect who is unsuccessful in the SAP appeal the result?

An APEC Architect unsuccessful in the supplementary process may appeal the result.

What is the appeal process?

The appeal is to AACA. It must be lodged with the Registrar AACA within 14 calendar days of receipt of notice of the result to which the appeal relates, along with payment of any prescribed fee. Appellants must state clearly the grounds for the appeal. Causes external to the assessment will be not normally constitute acceptable grounds for appeal.

The appeal will be determined by the AACA National Assessment Panel (NAP). In determining the appeal the NAP may determine

- . that the appellant be re-assessed; or
- . that the result of the assessment to which the appeal relates be set aside and/or
- . that the result of the assessment be varied; or
- . that the appeal be dismissed.

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY PROCESSES WITHIN THE RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION FRAMEWORK

The Reciprocal Recognition Framework provides for two other supplementary processes. These are not as liberal as the Domain Specific Assessment process. They will require

- (i) Comprehensive Registration Examination; or
- (ii) Period of host economy residence/experience

To date none of the participating economies in the APEC Architect project has implemented either of these supplementary processes.

APPENDIX 1

DOMAIN SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT COMPETENCIES to be tested under the SUPPLEMENTARY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Unit 1 – Design:

- Element 1.1.2 Recognise the need to sustain the natural and the built environment, the needs and aspirations of building users and the community, in the formulation of a conceptual design (Performance Criteria 9, 10, 11, 12)
- Element 1.1.3 Comply with laws and regulations governing planning, building procurement and the practice of architecture (Performance Criteria 13, 14)

Unit 2 – Documentation

Documentation prepared for the construction and contract management and handover of an architectural project, including architectural drawings, specifications and schedules, must conform with relevant codes and industry standards.

The compliance of documentation, supplied by consultants, with codes and regulations is to be verified.

Unit 3 – Project Management

- Element 3.1.2 - Performance Criterion 87 (only)
The limitations of the site and its environs are investigated, identified and opportunities recorded
- Element 3.1.3 Assess potential interaction between the project, the environment and the community (Performance Criteria 91,92,93)
- Element 3.1.4 Assess regulatory context (Performance Criterion 94)
- Element 3.2.1 Establish terms of agreement with client (Performance Criteria 96, 97)
- Element 3.2.6 Prepare and conclude contractual agreements and negotiations for proceeding with project construction (Performance Criteria 108, 112)

Unit 4 – Practice Management

Element 4.1.1 – Performance Criterion 126 (only)

Knowledge is demonstrated of alternative practice models, such as sole practice, partnership, company, joint-venture, secondary consultancy, networking.

Element 4.1.3 Deploy and manage staff (Performance Criteria 138, 139, 140)

Element 4.1.4 Comply with the law and regulations governing the conduct of an architectural practice (Performance Criteria 143, 144, 145, 146, 147)

Element 4.1.5 Observe the standards of the conduct expected by the community of a professional in the practice of architecture (Performance Criteria 148, 149)

A full set of the *AACA National Competency Standards in Architecture (NCSA)* may be obtained on the AACA website: www.aaca.org.au/publications.html. Another useful document *Reference Guide for Candidates (NCSA REF/G)* may also be downloaded from the AACA website.