



## Ohio Architects Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 12, 2011

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Columbus, Ohio--The Ohio Architects Board has proposed new Continuing Education rules, effective January 1, 2012. The changes will greatly simplify compliance for Architects. At the same time, the state will be in alignment with the new Continuing Education Model Regulations adopted in June 2011 by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB).

Currently, nearly every state has different requirements and deadlines for completion of their Continuing Education requirements. When the majority of states have adopted the new NCARB Model Regulations, as they are widely expected to do, architects will find it much easier to track and fulfill the more uniform requirements.

Under the proposed rules, the fulfillment of Continuing Education will take place on an annual calendar year basis, rather than the two year renewal period. Instead of completing 24 hours every two years, architects will now complete 12 hours per calendar year.

In addition, all 12 hours must be Health, Safety and Welfare (HSW) hours. This will also make it easier for architects licensed in multiple states, as there are several significant jurisdictions that accept only HSW hours. All states accept HSW hours; many states do not accept non-HSW hours.

The definitions of Health, Safety and Welfare have also been updated. Architects will find many practice-related courses still qualify for HSW hours, including codes, zoning, ethics, insurance to protect owners and the public, documents and construction administration.

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The new Health, Safety and Welfare definitions are as follows:

- (a) Legal: laws, codes, zoning, regulations, standards, life safety, accessibility, ethics, insurance to protect owners and public
- (b) Building systems: structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, communications, security, fire protection
- (c) Environmental: energy efficiency, sustainability, natural resources, natural hazards, hazardous materials, weatherproofing, insulation
- (d) Occupant comfort: air quality, lighting, acoustics, ergonomics
- (e) Materials and Methods: construction systems, products, finishes, furnishings, equipment
- (f) Preservation: historic, reuse, adaptation
- (g) Pre-design: land use analysis, programming, site selection, site and soils analysis, surveying
- (h) Design: urban planning, master planning, building design, site design, interiors, safety and security measures
- (i) Construction documents: drawings, specifications, delivery methods
- (j) Construction contract administration: contracts, bidding, contract negotiations

Medical, military and emeritus architect exemptions are still available upon request to practitioners.

The board recognizes courses and programs offered by providers pre-approved by NCARB, the American Institute of Architects, universities and many other organizations related to the built environment.

As with the current policy, there is no carry-over of credits from year to year. Architects are responsible for keeping accurate records, including certificates of completion or transcripts from professional associations.

The Board will continue to conduct random compliance audits. Architects who are found to have falsely attested completion of the requirement on renewal applications are subject to a variety of penalties, ranging from fines to license suspension or revocation.

As regulators of the profession of architecture, NCARB exists to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the public through the development and application of standards for licensure and credentialing of architects.

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Of NCARB's 54 Member Boards, currently 85 percent have a continuing education requirement for registration renewal and 93 percent of those require that all or a portion of the requirement be in health, safety, welfare.

The prevalence of health, safety, welfare requirements among its Member Boards, in combination with NCARB's mission, supports NCARB's efforts to promote standardization of health, safety, welfare continuing education requirements among Member Boards through recent modification of NCARB Model Regulations.

A public hearing on the proposed rules will take place at 9:30 am on Friday, September 30, on the 31<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Riffe Center for Government at 77 S. High St, Columbus, OH 43215. Interested parties who are unable to attend may submit written comments to the Board at 77 S. High St, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbus, OH 43215.<sup>1</sup>

For more information about the proposed requirements, please contact Amy Kobe at 614-466-1327 or Chad Holland at 614-466-1476.

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<sup>1</sup> *If your publication date occurs after the September 30 public hearing, please replace the entire paragraph with the following sentence:*  
A public hearing on the proposed rules was held on September 30.