
Colorado Revised Statutes

Title 12 Professions and Occupations

Article 25 Engineers, Surveyors, and Architects

Part 3 Architects

Effective July 1, 2008

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12-25-301. General provisions.

The regulatory authority established by this part 3 is necessary to safeguard the life, health, property, and public welfare of the people of this state and to protect them against unauthorized, unqualified, and improper practice of architecture.

12-25-302. Definitions.

As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Architect" means a person licensed under this part 3 and entitled thereby to conduct a practice of architecture in the state of Colorado.

(2) "Board" means the state board of licensure for architects, professional engineers, and professional land surveyors, created in section 12-25-106.

(3) "Buildings" means buildings of any type for public or private use, including the structural, mechanical, and electrical systems, utility services, and other facilities required for said buildings.

(4) "Drawings" means the original documents produced to describe a project. Such original documents may be produced by computer assisted design and drafting software, commonly known as "CADD", or other means.

(5) "Dwellings" means private residences intended for permanent occupancy by one or more families but does not include apartment houses, lodging houses, hotels, or motels.

(6) (a) The "practice of architecture" means the performance of the professional services of planning and design of buildings, preparation of construction contract documents including working drawings and specifications for the construction of buildings, and the observation of construction pursuant to an agreement between an architect and any other person, but does not include the performance of the construction of buildings.

(b) An architect's professional services, unless performed pursuant to the exemptions set forth in section 12-25-303 by a person who is not an architect, may include any or all of the following:

(I) Investigations, evaluations, schematic and preliminary studies, designs, working drawings, and specifications for construction, or for one or more buildings, and for the space within and surrounding the buildings or structures;

(II) Coordination of the work of technical and special consultants;

(III) Compliance with generally applicable codes and regulations, and assistance in the governmental review process;

(IV) Technical assistance in the preparation of bid documents and agreements between clients and contractors;

(V) Contract administration; and

(VI) Construction observation.

(7) "Responsible control" means that amount of control over and detailed knowledge of the content of technical submissions as defined in section 12-25-304 (3) (c) during their preparation as is ordinarily exercised by a licensed architect applying the required standard of care.

12-25-303. Exemptions.

(1) Nothing in this part 3 shall prevent any person, firm, corporation, or association from preparing plans and specifications for, designing, planning, or administering the construction contracts for construction, alterations, remodeling, additions to, or repair of, any of the following:

(a) One-, two-, three-, and four-family dwellings, including accessory buildings commonly associated with such dwellings;

(b) Garages, industrial buildings, offices, farm buildings, and buildings for the marketing, storage, or processing of farm products, and warehouses, that do not exceed one story in height, exclusive of a one-story basement, and, under applicable building codes, are not designed for occupancy by more than ten persons;

(c) Additions, alterations, or repairs to the buildings referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection (1) that do not cause the completed buildings to exceed the applicable limitations set forth in this subsection (1);

(d) Nonstructural alterations of any nature to any building if such alterations do not affect the life safety of the occupants of the building.

(2) Nothing in this part 3 shall prevent, prohibit, or limit any municipality or county of this state, home rule or otherwise, from adopting such building codes as may, in the reasonable exercise of the police power of said governmental unit, be necessary for the protection of the inhabitants of said municipality or county.

(3) Nothing in this part 3 shall be construed as curtailing or extending the rights of any other profession or craft.

(4) Nothing in this part 3 shall be construed as prohibiting the practice of architecture by any employee of the United States government or any bureau, division, or agency thereof while in the discharge of his or her official duties.

(5) Nothing in this part 3 shall be construed to prevent the independent employment of a licensed professional engineer practicing pursuant to part 1 of this article.

(6) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (6), nothing in this part 3 shall be construed to prevent an interior designer from preparing interior design documents and specifications for interior finishes and nonstructural elements within and surrounding interior spaces of a building or structure of any size, height, and occupancy and filing such documents and specifications for the purpose of obtaining approval for a

building permit as provided by law from the appropriate city, city and county, or regional building authority, which may approve or reject any such filing in the same manner as for other professions.

(b) Interior designers shall not be engaged in the construction of the structural frame system supporting a building; mechanical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, ventilation, or electrical vertical transportation systems; fire-rated vertical shafts in any multi-story structure; fire-related protection of structural elements; smoke evacuation and compartmentalization; emergency sprinkler systems; emergency alarm systems; or any other alteration affecting the life safety of the occupants of a building. Any interior designer shall, as a condition of filing interior design documents and specifications for the purpose of obtaining approval for a building permit, provide to the responsible building official of the jurisdiction a current copy of the interior designer's professional liability insurance coverage that is in force. No interior designer shall be subject to any of the restrictions set forth in paragraphs (b) and (d) of subsection (1) of this section.

(c) As used in this subsection (6), "interior designer" means a person who:

(I) Engages in:

(A) Consultation, study, design analysis, drawing, space planning, and specification for nonstructural or nonseismic interior construction with due concern for the life safety of the occupants of the building;

(B) Preparing and filing interior design documents for the purpose of obtaining approval for a building permit as provided by law for nonstructural or nonseismic interior construction, materials, finishes, space planning, furnishings, fixtures, equipment, lighting, and reflected ceiling plans;

(C) Designing for fabrication nonstructural elements within and surrounding interior spaces of buildings; or

(D) The administration of design construction and contract documents, as the clients' agent, relating to the functions described in sub-subparagraphs (A) to (C) of this subparagraph (I), and collaboration with specialty consultants and licensed practitioners in other areas of technical expertise; and

(II) Possesses written documentation that he or she:

(A) Has graduated with a degree in interior design from a college or university offering such program consisting of four or more years of study and has completed two years of interior design experience; or

(B) Has graduated with a degree in interior design from a college or university offering such program consisting of two or more years of study and has completed four years of interior design experience; and

(C) Has met the education and experience requirements of, and has subsequently passed, the qualification examination promulgated by the national council for interior design qualification or its successor organization.

(d) As used in this subsection (6), "nonstructural or nonseismic" includes interior elements or components that are not load-bearing or that do not assist in the seismic design and do not require design computations for a building's structure. Common nonstructural or nonseismic elements or components include, but are not limited to, ceiling and partition systems that employ normal and typical bracing conventions and are not part of the structural integrity of the building.

(7) Nothing in this article shall prohibit a person who is licensed to practice architecture in another jurisdiction of the United States from soliciting work in Colorado. The person shall not perform the practice of architecture in this state without first having obtained a license from the board or having associated with an architect licensed in this state who is associated with the project at all stages of the project.

12-25-304. Forms of organizations permitted to practice - requirements.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no firm, partnership, entity, or group of persons shall be licensed to practice architecture; except that a partnership, entity, or group of persons may use the term "architects" in its business name if a majority of the individual officers and directors or members or partners are either licensed architects under this part 3 or persons who qualify for a license by endorsement under section 12-25-314 (3).

(2) The practice of architecture by the following entities is permitted, subject to subsection (3) of this section:

(a) A corporation that complies with the "Colorado Business Corporation Act", articles 101 to 117 of title 7, C.R.S.;

(b) A limited liability company that complies with the "Colorado Limited Liability Company Act", article 80 of title 7, C.R.S.;

(c) A registered limited liability partnership that has registered in accordance with section 7-60-144, C.R.S., or qualified in accordance with section 7-64-1002, C.R.S.

(3) An entity listed in subsection (2) of this section may practice architecture, but only if:

(a) The practice of architecture by such entity is under the direct supervision of an architect, licensed in the state of Colorado, who is an officer of the corporation, a member of the limited liability company, or a partner in the registered limited liability partnership;

(b) Such architect remains individually responsible to the board and the public for his or her professional acts and conduct; and

(c) All architectural plans, designs, drawings, specifications, or reports that are involved in such practice, issued by or for such entity, bear the seal and signature of an architect in responsible control of, and directly responsible for, such architectural work when issued.

(4) (a) Nothing in this part 3 shall be construed as prohibiting the formation of a corporation, limited liability company, registered limited liability partnership, joint venture, partnership, or association consisting of one or several architects or corporations meeting the requirements of subsection (3) of this section and one or several professional engineers, all duly licensed under the respective provisions of the applicable laws of this state.

(b) It is lawful for such an entity to use in its title the words "architects and engineers".

(c) No identifying media used by any member of such entity shall mislead the public as to the fact that such member is licensed as an architect or as a professional engineer.

12-25-305. Unauthorized practice - penalties - enforcement.

(1) Any person who practices or offers or attempts to practice architecture without an active license issued under this article commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501, C.R.S., for the first offense, and, for the second or any subsequent offense, the person commits a class 6 felony and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-401, C.R.S.

(a) to (c) Repealed.

(1.5) and (2) Repealed.

(3) The attorney general or the attorney general's assistant shall act as legal advisor to the board and render such timely legal assistance as may be necessary in carrying out this part 3. With the concurrence of the attorney general, the board may employ counsel and assistance necessary to aid in the enforcement of this part 3, and the compensation and expenses therefor shall be paid from the funds of the board.

(4) (a) If it appears to the board, based upon credible evidence as presented in a written complaint by any person, that a licensee is acting in a manner that is an imminent threat to the health and safety of the public or a person is acting or has acted without the required license, the board may issue an order to cease and desist such activity. The order shall set forth the statutes and rules alleged to have been violated, the facts alleged to have constituted the violation, and the requirement that all unlawful acts or unlicensed practices immediately cease.

(b) Within ten days after service of the order to cease and desist pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (4), the licensee or person alleged to have acted without a license may request a hearing on the question of whether acts or practices in violation of this part 3 have occurred. Such hearing shall be conducted pursuant to sections 24-4-104 and 24-4-105, C.R.S.

(5) (a) If it appears to the board, based upon credible evidence as presented in a written complaint by any person, that a person has violated any other provision of this part 3, then, in addition to any specific powers granted pursuant to this part 3, the board may issue to such person an order to show cause as to why the board should not issue a

final order directing such person to cease and desist from the unlawful act or unlicensed practice.

(b) A person against whom an order to show cause has been issued pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (5) shall be promptly notified by the board of the issuance of the order, along with a copy of the order, the factual and legal basis for the order, and the date set by the board for a hearing on the order. Such notice may be served by personal service, by first-class United States mail, postage prepaid, or as may be practicable upon any person against whom such order is issued. Personal service or mailing of an order or document pursuant to this subsection (5) shall constitute notice thereof to the person.

(c) (I) The hearing on an order to show cause shall be commenced no sooner than ten and no later than forty-five calendar days after the date of transmission or service of the notification by the board as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (5). The hearing may be continued by agreement of all parties based upon the complexity of the matter, number of parties to the matter, and legal issues presented in the matter, but in no event shall the hearing commence later than sixty calendar days after the date of transmission or service of the notification.

(II) If a person against whom an order to show cause has been issued pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (5) does not appear at the hearing, the board may present evidence that notification was properly sent or served upon such person pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (5) and such other evidence related to the matter as the board deems appropriate. The board shall issue the order within ten days after the board's determination related to reasonable attempts to notify such person, and the order shall become final as to that person by operation of law. Such hearing shall be conducted pursuant to sections 24-4-104 and 24-4-105, C.R.S.

(III) If the board reasonably finds that the person against whom the order to show cause was issued is acting or has acted without the required license or has or is about to engage in acts or practices constituting violations of this part 3, a final cease-and-desist order may be issued directing such person to cease and desist from further unlawful acts or unlicensed practices.

(IV) The board shall provide notice, in the manner set forth in paragraph (b) of this subsection (5), of the final cease-and-desist order within ten calendar days after the hearing conducted pursuant to this paragraph (c) to each person against whom the final order has been issued. The final order issued pursuant to subparagraph (III) of this paragraph (c) shall be effective when issued and shall be a final order for purposes of judicial review.

(6) If it appears to the board, based upon credible evidence presented to the board, that a person has engaged in or is about to engage in an unlicensed act or practice, any act or practice constituting a violation of this part 3, any rule promulgated pursuant to this part 3, any order issued pursuant to this part 3, or any act or practice constituting grounds for administrative sanction pursuant to this part 3, the board may enter into a stipulation with such person.

(7) If any person fails to comply with a final cease-and-desist order or a stipulation, the board may request the attorney general or the district attorney for the judicial district in which the alleged violation exists to bring, and if so requested such attorney shall bring, suit for a temporary restraining order and for injunctive relief to prevent any further or continued violation of the final order.

(8) A person aggrieved by the final cease-and-desist order may seek judicial review of the board's determination or of the board's final order in a court of competent jurisdiction.

12-25-306. Board - composition - appointments - terms.

(1) To be eligible for membership on the board, an architect shall be:

(a) A United States citizen and a resident of Colorado for at least one year; and

(b) A licensed architect in the state of Colorado and have practiced architecture for at least three years prior to their appointment.

(2) The governor, in making appointments of architects to the board, shall endeavor to select the most highly qualified members of the profession willing to serve on the board. Staggered appointments shall be made so that not more than one member's term expires in any one year, and thereafter appointments shall be for terms of four years each. Appointees shall be limited to two full terms each. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) or (4) of this section, each board member shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which such member is appointed or until a successor has been duly appointed, whichever occurs first.

(3) In the event of an architecture vacancy on the board due to resignation, death, or any cause resulting in an unexpired term, the governor shall fill such vacancy promptly.

(4) The governor may remove an architect member of the board for official misconduct, incompetence, or neglect of duty.

12-25-307. Powers and duties of the board.

(1) The board is authorized to:

(a) Adopt such rules as may be necessary to implement this part 3, including rules for disciplining licensed architects;

(b) Examine and license duly qualified applicants, and renew the licenses of duly qualified architects;

(c) Conduct hearings upon complaints concerning the conduct of architects;

(d) Cause the prosecution of all persons violating this part 3 by the district attorney or by the attorney general pursuant to section 12-25-305;

(e) Require every licensed architect to have a stamp as prescribed by the board.

(2) The board shall:

(a) Keep a record of its proceedings and of all applications for licensing or certification under this part 3. The application record for each applicant shall include:

- (I) Name, age, and residence of the applicant;
- (II) Date of application;
- (III) Place of business;
- (IV) Education of the applicant;
- (V) Architecture and other applicable experience of the applicant;
- (VI) Type of examination required;
- (VII) Date and type of action by the board; and
- (VIII) Such other information as may be deemed necessary by the board;

(b) Make available through printed or electronic means the following:

- (I) The architect statutes administered by the board;
- (II) A list of the names and addresses of record of all currently licensed architects;
- (III) The rules of conduct for architects adopted pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section; and
- (IV) The rules of the board and such other pertinent information as the board deems necessary.

12-25-308. Disciplinary actions - grounds for discipline.

(1) The board may deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the license of, place on probation, or limit the scope of practice of a licensee for the following:

(a) Fraud, misrepresentation, deceit, or material misstatement of fact in procuring or attempting to procure a license;

(b) Any act or omission that fails to meet the generally accepted standards of the practice of architecture, as evidenced by conduct that endangers life, health, property, or the public welfare;

(c) Conviction of, or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony in Colorado concerning the practice of architecture or an equivalent crime outside Colorado. A certified copy of the judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction of such conviction or plea shall be presumptive evidence of such conviction or plea in any hearing under this part 3. The board shall be governed by section 24-5-101, C.R.S., in considering such conviction or plea.

(d) Affixing a seal or allowing a seal to be affixed to any document of which the architect was neither the author nor in responsible control of preparation;

(e) Violation of, or aiding or abetting in the violation of, this part 3 or any rule promulgated by the board in conformance with this part 3 or any order of the board issued in conformance with this part 3;

(f) Use of false, deceptive, or misleading advertising;

(g) Performing services beyond one's competency, training, or education;

(h) Failure to render adequate professional control of persons practicing architecture under the responsible control of a licensed architect;

(i) Habitual intemperance with respect to, or excessive use of, any habit-forming drug, any controlled substance as defined in section 12-22-303 (7), or any alcoholic beverage, any of which renders him or her unfit to practice architecture;

(j) Any use of a schedule I controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-203, C.R.S.;

(k) Violation of the notification requirements in section 12-25-312;

(l) Failure to pay a fine assessed under this part 3;

(m) Failure to report to the board any architect known to have violated any provision of this article or any board order or rule or regulation;

(n) Fraud or deceit in the practice of architecture;

(o) Mental incompetency;

(p) Making or offering to make any gift (other than a gift of nominal value such as reasonable entertainment or hospitality), donation, payment, or other valuable consideration to influence a prospective or existing client or employer regarding the employment of the architect; except that nothing in this paragraph (p) shall restrict an employer's ability to reward an employee for work obtained or performed;

(q) Selling or fraudulently obtaining or furnishing a license or renewal of a license to practice architecture;

(r) Engaging in conduct that is intended or reasonably might be expected to mislead the public into believing that the person is an architect; or

(s) Engaging in the practice of an architect as a corporation or partnership or group of persons, unless such entity meets the requirements of section 12-25-304.

(2) (a) When a complaint or investigation discloses an instance of misconduct that, in the opinion of the board, does not warrant formal action by the board but that should not be dismissed as being without merit, a letter of admonition may be issued and sent, by certified mail, to the licensee.

(b) When a letter of admonition is sent by the board, by certified mail, to a licensee, such licensee shall be advised that he or she has the right to request in writing, within

twenty days after receipt of the letter, that formal disciplinary proceedings be initiated to adjudicate the propriety of the conduct upon which the letter of admonition is based.

(c) If the request for adjudication is timely made, the letter of admonition shall be deemed vacated and the matter shall be processed by means of formal disciplinary proceedings.

(d) When a complaint or investigation discloses an instance of conduct that does not warrant formal action by the board and, in the opinion of the board, the complaint should be dismissed, but the board has noticed indications of possible errant conduct by the licensee that could lead to serious consequences if not corrected, a confidential letter of concern may be issued and sent to the licensee.

(3) Any disciplinary action in another state or jurisdiction on grounds substantially similar to those that would constitute a violation under this part 3 shall be prima facie evidence of grounds for disciplinary action, including denial of licensure, under this section.

(4) (a) In addition to the penalties provided for in subsection (2) of this section, any person violating any provision of this part 3 or any standards or rules promulgated pursuant to this part 3 may be punished upon a finding of misconduct by the board, made pursuant to article 4 of title 24, C.R.S. In an administrative proceeding against a licensee, the board may impose a fine of not more than five thousand dollars.

(b) All fines collected pursuant to this section shall be transferred to the state treasurer, who shall credit such moneys to the general fund.

(5) If, as a result of a proceeding held pursuant to article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., the board determines that a person licensed to practice architecture pursuant to this part 3 has acted in such a manner as to be subject to disciplinary action, the board may, in lieu of or in addition to other forms of disciplinary action that may be authorized by this section, require a licensee to take courses of training or education relating to his or her profession. The board shall determine the conditions that may be imposed on such licensee, including, but not limited to, the type and number of hours of training or education. All training or education courses are subject to approval by the board, and the licensee shall be required to furnish satisfactory proof of completion of any such training or education.

12-25-309. Disciplinary proceedings - injunctions.

(1) The board upon its own motion may, and upon the receipt of a signed complaint in writing from any person shall, investigate the activities of any licensee or other person that present grounds for disciplinary action as specified in this part 3.

(2) Disciplinary hearings shall be conducted by the board or by an administrative law judge appointed pursuant to part 10 of article 30 of title 24, C.R.S., and shall be held in the manner prescribed in article 4 of title 24, C.R.S.

(3) (a) The board or an administrative law judge shall have the power to administer oaths, take affirmations of witnesses, and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of all relevant papers, books, records, documentary

evidence, and materials in any hearing, investigation, accusation, or other matter coming before the board.

(b) Upon failure of any witness to comply with such subpoena or process, the district court of the county in which the subpoenaed person or licensee resides or conducts business, upon application by the board or director of the division of registrations within the department of regulatory agencies with notice to the subpoenaed person or licensee, may issue to the person or licensee an order requiring that person or licensee to appear before the board or director; to produce the relevant papers, books, records, documentary evidence, or materials if so ordered; or to give evidence touching the matter under investigation or in question. Failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt of court.

(4) The board may, in the name of the people of the state of Colorado, through the attorney general of the state of Colorado, apply for an injunction in any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any person from committing any act declared to be a misdemeanor by this part 3. In order to obtain such injunction the board need not prove irreparable injury.

(5) The court of appeals shall have initial jurisdiction to review all final actions and orders of the board that are subject to judicial review. Such proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with section 24-4-106 (11), C.R.S.

(6) When a complaint or an investigation discloses an instance of misconduct that, in the opinion of the board, warrants formal action, the complaint shall not be resolved by a deferred settlement, action, judgment, or prosecution.

12-25-309.5. Reconsideration and review of board actions.

The board, on its own motion or upon application, at any time after the imposition of any discipline as provided in this section, may reconsider its prior action and reinstate or restore such license or terminate probation or reduce the severity of its prior disciplinary action. The taking of any such further action, or the holding of a hearing with respect thereto, shall rest in the sole discretion of the board.

12-25-310. Application for licensing.

(1) An applicant shall submit an application that includes evidence of education and practical experience as required by section 12-25-314 and the rules of the board. Such application shall also include a signed statement that the applicant has never been denied licensure as an architect or been disciplined with regard to the practice of architecture or practiced architecture in violation of the law. If the board determines that an applicant has committed any of the acts specified as grounds for discipline under section 12-25-308 (1), it may deny an application for examination or licensure. If the applicant has not complied with subsection (3) of this section, the board shall deny an application for examination or licensure.

(2) When the board is reviewing or considering conviction of a crime, it shall be governed by section 24-5-101, C.R.S.

(3) No licensee whose license is revoked shall be allowed to apply for licensure earlier than two years after the effective date of the revocation.

12-25-311. Professional liability.

(1) The shareholders, members, or partners of an entity that practices architecture are liable for the acts, errors, and omissions of the employees, members, and partners of the entity except when the entity maintains a qualifying policy of professional liability insurance as set forth in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) (a) A qualifying policy of professional liability insurance shall meet the following minimum standards:

(I) The policy insures the entity against liability imposed upon it by law for damages arising out of the negligent acts, errors, and omissions of all professional and nonprofessional employees, members, and partners; and

(II) The insurance is in a policy amount of at least seventy-five thousand dollars multiplied by the total number of architects and engineers in or employed by the entity, up to a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars.

(b) In addition, the policy may include:

(I) A provision that it shall not apply to the following:

(A) A dishonest, fraudulent, criminal, or malicious act or omission of the insured entity or any stockholder, employee, member, or partner;

(B) The conduct of a business enterprise that is not the practice of architecture by the insured entity;

(C) The conduct of a business enterprise in which the insured entity may be a partner or that may be controlled, operated, or managed by the insured entity in its own or in a fiduciary capacity, including, but not limited to, the ownership, maintenance, or use of property;

(D) Bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death of a person; or

(E) Damage to, or destruction of, tangible property owned by the insured entity;

(II) Any other reasonable provisions with respect to policy periods, territory, claims, conditions, and ministerial matters.

12-25-312. Notification to board.

Each architect shall notify the board of any judgment or settlement involving the architect and resulting from a claim concerning the life safety of the occupants of a building. The architect shall notify the board within sixty days after the judgment or settlement.

12-25-313. Eligibility for architect.

To be eligible for licensing as an architect, an applicant shall provide documentation of technical competence.

12-25-314. Qualifications for architect licensure.

(1) The board shall set minimum educational and experience requirements for applicants within the following guidelines:

(a) The board may require:

(I) No more than three years of practical experience under the direct supervision of a licensed architect or an architect exempt under the provisions of section 12-25-303 (4) and either:

(A) A professional degree from a program accredited by the national architectural accrediting board or its successor; or

(B) Substantially equivalent education or experience approved by the board, with the board requiring no more than five years of such education and experience; or

(II) No more than ten years of practical experience under the direct supervision of a licensed architect or an architect exempt under the provisions of section 12-25-303 (4); or

(III) A combination of such practical experience and education, which combination shall not exceed ten years.

(b) Up to one year of the required experience may be in on-site building construction operations, physical analyses of existing buildings, or teaching or research in a program accredited by the national architectural accreditation board or its successor.

(c) Full credit shall be given for education obtained in four-year baccalaureate programs in architecture or environmental design.

(2) (a) An applicant shall pass an examination or examinations developed or adopted by the board. The board shall ensure that the passing score for any examination is set to measure the level of minimum competency.

(b) The examination shall be given at least twice a year. The board shall designate a time and location for examinations and shall notify applicants of this time and location in a timely fashion and, as necessary, may contract for assistance in administering the examination.

(3) An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall hold a license in good standing in a jurisdiction requiring qualifications substantially equivalent to those currently required for licensure by examination as provided in section 12-25-310 (1) and subsections (1) and (2) of this section and shall file an application as prescribed by the board. The board shall provide procedures for an applicant to apply directly to the board. The board may also provide an alternative application procedure so that an applicant may, at his or her option, instead apply to a national clearinghouse designated by the board. The national clearinghouse shall then forward the application to the board.

12-25-315. Licenses.

(1) The board shall issue a license whenever an applicant for a license to practice architecture in Colorado successfully qualifies for such license as provided in this part 3.

(2) An architect may renew a license by paying to the board the license renewal fee established pursuant to section 24-34-105, C.R.S., and the board shall then issue a certificate of renewal.

(3) The license of any architect shall be renewed or reinstated pursuant to a schedule established by the director of the division of registrations within the department of regulatory agencies and shall be renewed or reinstated pursuant to section 24-34-102 (8), C.R.S. The director of the division of registrations within the department of regulatory agencies may establish renewal fees and delinquency fees for reinstatement pursuant to section 24-34-105, C.R.S. If a person fails to renew his or her license pursuant to the schedule established by the director of the division of registrations, such license shall expire. Any person whose license has expired shall be subject to the penalties provided in this part 3 or section 24-34-102 (8), C.R.S.

12-25-315.5. Continuing education - continuing professional competency - board rules.

(1) No later than December 31, 2008, the board shall adopt rules establishing requirements for continuing education that an architect shall complete in order to renew a license to practice architecture in Colorado on or after July 1, 2009. The rules shall require the architect to participate in a process or procedure that demonstrates whether the architect retained the material presented in the continuing education program or course.

(2) (a) Pursuant to sections 12-25-314 (1) and 12-25-315, the board issues a license to practice architecture based on whether the applicant satisfies minimum educational and experience requirements that demonstrate professional competency to practice architecture. After a license is issued to an applicant, the licensee shall maintain continuing professional competency to practice architecture.

(b) The board shall adopt rules establishing a continuing professional competency program that includes, at a minimum, the following elements:

(I) Assessment of the knowledge and skills of a licensee seeking to renew a license;

(II) Development, execution, and documentation of a learning plan based on the assessment; and

(III) Periodic demonstration of knowledge and skills necessary to ensure a minimal ability to safely practice the profession.

(c) The program may include the continuing education requirements adopted pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, and the board shall repeal the continuing education requirements once the program rules are adopted. After the program is established, an

architect shall satisfy the requirements of the program in order to renew a license to practice architecture in Colorado.

(3) As used in this section, "continuing professional competency" means the ongoing ability of a licensee to learn, integrate, and apply the knowledge, skill, and judgment to practice architecture according to generally accepted industry standards and professional ethical standards in a designated role and setting.

12-25-316. Disposition of fees - expenses of board.

(1) All moneys collected under this part 3, except as provided in section 12-25-308 (4), shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same pursuant to section 24-34-105, C.R.S., and the general assembly shall make annual appropriations pursuant to said section for expenditures of the board.

(2) The director of the division of registrations within the department of regulatory agencies may employ such technical, clerical, investigative, or other assistance as is necessary for the proper performance of the board's work, subject to section 13 of article XII of the state constitution, and may make expenditures for any purpose that is reasonably necessary for the proper performance of the board's duties under this part 3.

(3) The board may charge fees for licensure by examination, reexamination, endorsement, and recertification. The board may also charge fees for replacement of a license certificate and for the renewal and reinstatement of a license.

12-25-317. Architect's stamp - record set of drawings.

(1) The use of an architect's stamp shall be subject to the following:

(a) The stamp, signature of the architect whose name appears on the stamp, and date of the signature of such architect shall be placed on drawings to establish a record set of drawings. A record set shall not be reproduced. A record set shall be prominently identified and shall be for the permanent record of the architect, the project owner, and the regulatory authorities who have jurisdiction over the project. This section shall not prohibit the creation of multiple record sets.

(b) The stamp and the date the document is stamped shall be placed on drawings prepared under the direct supervision of the architect and on the cover, title page, and table of contents of specifications. Subsequent issues of addenda, revisions, clarifications, or other modifications shall be properly identified and dated for the record set. Where consultant drawings and specifications are incorporated into the record set, they shall be clearly identified by consultant stamps or other means and dated in accordance with law to distinguish proper reference to origination.

(c) Except as required for compliance with a federal contract, the stamp shall not be placed on reproducible drawings used for multiple copies or on reproducible drawings that are transferred away from the architect's possession and supervision.

(d) A stamped record set with an original signature shall be retained in possession of the architect and shall be held for a minimum of three years following beneficial occupancy or beneficial use of the project by the owner or occupant.

(e) One original document may be stamped, signed, and dated pursuant to the requirements of federal government contracts.

(2) No person preparing plans and specifications for or construction contracts for the administration of any alteration, remodeling, or repair of any building shall use the title "architect" unless such person has been licensed as an architect pursuant to this part 3.

12-25-318. Immunity.

Any member of the board, any member of the board's staff, any person acting as a witness or consultant to the board, any witness testifying in a proceeding authorized under this part 3, and any person who lodges a complaint pursuant to this part 3 shall be immune from liability in any civil action brought against him or her for acts occurring while acting in his or her capacity as board member, staff, consultant, or witness, respectively, if such individual was acting in good faith within the scope of his or her respective capacity, made a reasonable effort to obtain the facts of the matter as to which he or she acted, and acted in the reasonable belief that the action taken by him or her was warranted by the facts. A person participating in good faith in lodging a complaint or participating in any investigative or administrative proceeding pursuant to this part 3 shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability that may result from such participation.

12-25-319. Previous licenses - prior actions.

Any person holding a valid license to practice architecture in Colorado before July 1, 2006, shall be licensed under this part 3. All official actions of the state board of examiners of architects made or taken before July 1, 2006, are expressly ratified.