

Changing Continuing Education Requirements for Architects to Align with National Model

Background on the Requirement for Continuing Education in Colorado

Based on lobbying from the industry, the Colorado General Assembly passed legislation in 2008 requiring Architects to complete continuing education (CE) in order to renew their license. The bill also directed that the Board of Licensure for Architects, Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors put in place rules establishing those requirements by the end of 2008 for those renewing in July, 2009. (There was also a provision concerning continuing competency that was subsequently repealed in the 2010 Session.)

Changes at the National Level

In the last year, NCARB (National Council of Architectural Registration Boards) gathered information from the 46 jurisdictions that require continuing education. It became abundantly clear that the requirements for the various jurisdictions are all over the place as far as what is required, when, how much, and even the simple aspects, like how continuing education is defined and in what units. Anyone with more than one license has a struggle trying to comply.

At the June 2011 NCARB Annual Meeting, the 54 Member Boards passed significant changes to the Model Regulation that laid the ground work for standardizing continuing education requirements across the country and easing the burden on licensees.

If you would like more information about the process at the NCARB level, click on http://www.ncarb.org/emails/econnection/2011/October/econnection_October.html.

Colorado CE Changes

The Colorado Board decided that it would immediately start the process to change its rules regarding continuing education requirements to align with the NCARB Model Regulations for the simple reason that it will help licensees. If there is one approach nationally, using the same terminology, requiring the same amount of continuing education hours, on the same calendar, and requiring the same qualitative content, then it will be much easier for licensees to comply and the focus will be where it should be – on continuing education of the licensee.

Some of the major changes are:

- Professional Development Units (PDUs) are now Continuing Education Hours (CEHs). Refer to **Board Rule 4.9.3.1.2.4.**
- The credit required is a minimum of 12 CEHs per calendar year for a total of 24 CEHs during the renewal year. Refer to **Board Rule 4.9.3.1.2.5.**
- No carryover credit will be allowed from prior renewal periods. Any CEHs gained **prior to 2012 cannot** be used toward the renewal of the October 31, 2013 license and CE requirements. Refer to **Board Rule 4.9.3.1.2.7.**
- The Health, Safety, and Welfare subjects within which you may take CEHs are defined more specifically. Refer to **Board Rule 4.9.3.1.8.**
- Documentation must be retained for six years instead of five. Refer to **Board Rule 4.9.3.1.2.14.**

Please carefully review [Board Rule 4.9.3.1.2](#) in its entirety, so that you know what the requirements are when your license renewal comes up in October 2013. Looking at the redline version of the recent rulemaking may make your review easier. Click [here](#) to see that.