

IDP SIX MONTH RULE CHANGE WORKSHOP

PRESENTED BY SUSAN KLIMAN – TUCSON, AZ

June 26, 2009

SUMMARY

The AIA Arizona Associates would like to thank Susan Kliman, PhD, AIA for taking the time to answer questions on the IDP rule change at such a short notice!

Most of the questions were addressed at the workshop on Friday, June 26, 2009 in Tucson , Arizona. For more information on the discussions at the IDP workshop, please Refer to the meeting minutes or log in to www.Twitter.com (search #IDPAZ)

Also, join the FACEBOOK group – ‘AIA Arizona Associates’ for more IDP questions/answers. Susan Kliman has volunteered to monitor the Facebook page for further questions that might come up.

Additional questions that were emailed to Susan and me from associates who couldn't attend the workshop are addressed below.

***Thank you,
Nisha Babu, Associate AIA, LEED AP
AIASAC Associate Director
(nbabu@durrant.com)***

IDP Rule Change Q & A

Q1. Does this apply to me since I have been working under an registered architect since May of 1996 when I graduated from the UofA with my Bachelors of Architecture? I am assuming with the amount of experience that I have under my belt I should be able to take my exams as long as I document correctly all the time and experience that I have. Is this correct?

S.W.

A1. *Yes, Please begin your NCARB record before June 30th, 2009 or you will not be able to document experience older than 6 months. Once registered, you will then have until July 2010 to document past experience beyond 6 months.*

Q2. In an effort to start a file before the end of the month and before the '6 month rule' begins I signed up for NCARB today.

I had initially planned on becoming registered as an Architect through the AZ Board of Registration and having my firm sign off on my experience (4 years in the US and 2 in the UK) as I didn't want to have to pay the NAAB to evaluate my school for NCARB. Now that the AZ Board of Registration requires NCARB does this mean that I will have to have my school evaluated or can I still qualify with my years of professional experience? The first e-mail that I got from NCARB stated that they required university transcripts if from the US or to contact NAAB if from a foreign school

M.A.

A2. I am not sure what happened on the Arizona side of things. I was not the one who reviewed your file. I am going to provide a somewhat generic response as a result. I am glad that you got your IDP file established. That will buy you some time. You have a couple of options on the education part. Arizona does now requires IDP, and NCARB technically requires a degree for this program; however, we are one of a handful of states that does not require an accredited degree for licensure. So, you can have your foreign degree evaluated if you wish to see if it will be accepted. Your other option is to have Arizona do an evaluation, and potentially work a bit longer. What we are doing with candidates who do not have an accredited degree is reviewing the information we have and determining a degree 'equivalency'. We then advise NCARB of the date that the applicant is eligible to begin IDP. At that point the candidate may begin taking exams and credit for any work after the eligibility date counts towards IDP.

I hope this helps. I will likely answer this question in greater detail on Friday, so if you still have questions after this message please check the info on the website, and if that does not take care of it, feel free to contact me. –susan.

Q3. I did not attend a University and did not get a degree in Architecture. I do have my AAS in drafting technology. I had recently submitted my application to the Arizona State Board of Technical Registry and they denied me because lack of education/work experience. I will be resubmitting my application to the State Board in March of 2010. Do I need to do anything with this IDP right now? Will I lose my work experience for the last 5 years? Please help me out and let me know what I will have to do to keep on track to become a AIT.

G.P.

A3. Please begin your IDP record by June 30th, 2009 so that there is not risk of losing your past experience. In your case, the 5 years you have will likely count toward the degree equivalent (determined by the Arizona Board and the IDP eligibility date forwarded to NCARB). Any experience after that you obtain following that eligibility date will apply toward IDP. Also, once Arizona determines that you have met the education equivalency and are eligible for IDP, you will also be able to start taking exams.

Q4. I wanted to verify some information regarding the IDP requirement program. I am currently taking exams for the ARE (I have passed 6 out of the 9) and have about 6 months left of my internship with the State of Arizona. I did not go to architecture school but received the equivalent from the Arizona BTR for my education and work experience. Per the Arizona BTR:
". This requirement will affect all new applicants after the 24 February 2009 adoption date. Any individual whose application is already in process will not be affected by this change."
I wanted to verify that at this point in time, am I required to register with NCARB's IDP?
Thank you so much for your time and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at my information below.

N.W.

A4. *If you are registered with the State of Arizona before February 24, 2009, you are not required to register for IDP. It is not required, but is highly recommended for future transference/reciprocity to other States when required.*

Q5. What are the requirements and limitations for registered architects in AZ prior to 2001 if they wish to become NCARB in the future?

C.L

A5. *If you already have a license there are no limitations. In order to obtain an NCARB certificate, you will need to document all of your experience just like an intern does and submit that to NCARB for review. There is a separate group who review these applications.*

Q6. I have a few questions regarding the new IDP/ARE rules. Just to give you a little background of myself:

I graduated with a masters from ASU in May 2005. I am already enrolled in the IDP program and am near completion. However, I have not yet registered with the AZ technical Board of Registration for my licensure exams. As far as I know, the IDP 6 month rule does not affect me till July 2010 – but I am extremely confused about my ARE registration as explained in one the AIA emails (please see note # 3 below)

What You Need to Know...

- 1. The Intern Development Program (IDP) is now required for licensure in Arizona.*
- 2. Anyone who starts an IDP file by June 30, 2009 will have 12 months to document any experience that they have accrued.*
- 3. Anyone who waits until July 1, 2009 or after to start this file will be held to the **Six Month Rule**. This means that an individual who graduated in 2006, who has not yet started to take the exams or initiated a file with the **State Board of Technical Registration (BTR)**, will only be able to get credit for the most recent six month period, and will lose*

credit for 2 ½ years of work experience. An individual without a degree who began working in 2001, will be granted credit for five years of that experience toward the degree equivalent, but will lose credit for all of the work experience beyond that.

1. Could you please clarify how my registration with the technical board is affected with the IDP 6 month rule? Could you please clarify #3
2. Can I reference back to my IDP record for my work experience verification required by the technical board?
3. Do I still need to complete sections 6,7,8 of the application form for professional registration if I have an IDP record? If I do not need to fill those sections, then do I need to submit certificate of experience record and reference from three supervisors?

S.D.

A6. *Since you have an accredited degree and are registered with NCARB, you can begin taking exams any time. Your info should have been sent by NCARB to Prometric (if it hasn't then you can contact NCARB to see what is necessary). Once you complete IDP and the exams, you simply need to request that your information be sent directly to Arizona. We participate in direct registration with NCARB, so they will send everything on to us – education, experience, exam info. I think that you will send them the completed Arizona application (and no, you do not need to complete sections 6,7,8) along with the registration fee and they will send it along to Arizona with everything else.*

Q7. I am registered with the state board to start taking my exams. Do I still have to register by the 6th with NCARB? to not be held for the six month rule? Thank you very much for your time.

S.P.

A7. *If you registered with the State of Arizona before February 24, 2009, you are not required to register for IDP – but highly encouraged to do so. If you registered with the state after the 24th of February, then you do need to establish you IDP file – and the deadline is JUNE 30TH (not the 6th as you noted above.*

Q8. Could you perhaps explain how one would go about having a foreign degree evaluated *without* going through the NAAB (the expensive part at \$1500!). My firm is pushing for licensure so the idea of working longer to obtain it is not an attractive one, especially when I already have 6 years of experience post-university. I appreciate you taking the time to clarify what is quite a confusing matter! **M.A.**

A8. *The NAAB is the only evaluation system I am aware of. You could chose the route of using your experience to get the hours required. The State might consider any Bachelors' degree as 24 months (if not an accredited B. Arch) and with your 6 years experience you should have the 8 years required to get registered.*

Q9. I just started my third year of work for an architecture firm in Phoenix. I've begun to log into my spreadsheet my IDP hours and would like to start my IDP file before next week. I graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2004 with a BEnvd, bachelor in Environmental Design. There are a few routes to obtaining this degree, including Architecture, and Design studies. I chose the design studies route. Neither program is accredited by NAAB. Am I eligible to begin logging my hours through IDP? At this point, I plan on using the work experience route to obtain my licensure, and would hate to lose the last 2 years +.

H.F.

A9. *You can start logging your IDP hours any time, you just won't given credit 'officially' for those hours until Arizona notifies NCARB that you are eligible for IDP. You should apply to Arizona under the Architect-In-Training category to have your degree and experience so far evaluated. We will then determine your eligibility date for IDP and notify NCARB. At that point you will be able to start taking exams, and any time you worked after the IDP eligibility date will count towards the IDP program. And PLEASE register for IDP by June 30th so that you don't lose credit for those hours.*

Q10. I started my ncarb record last year and have been reporting my IDP work to ncarb, which I am understanding is good to this point. I have my degree from ASU, it's not a bachelors of architecture, rather it's a bachelors of interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in architecture and design. How will these changes affect me and my standing with ncarb? Will I still be able to become a registered architect?

J.I.

A10. *The rule changes should not affect you. You just have to report your experience within 6 month after July 2010; however, you need to apply to Arizona under the Architect-In-Training category to have your degree and experience so far evaluated. We will then determine your eligibility date for IDP and notify NCARB. At that point you will be able to start taking exams, and any time you worked after the IDP eligibility date will 'officially' count towards the IDP program.*

Q11. I've been in architecture since 1996 with no degree. Should/can I sign up for IDP based on experience? How is previous experience recorded if I did not use the official IDP method?

S.T.

A11. Yes

Q12. I don't know if these questions can be covered, but...

1. The BTR still shows the AIT application. Does it still really exist? And if so, which tests are required to be an Architect-in-Training.

2. The BTR had allowed candidates to take all of the tests even if all of the three year internship was not finished. Is this still the case?

J.G.C.

A12. *AIT still exists. It might be abandoned eventually, but for the time being it exists. The tests for AIT under ARE 4.0 are Building Design & Construction Systems, Structural Systems and Building Systems.*

Q13. I understand that I need to register for the IDP program before July 1st to avoid the 6 month limitation on experience. I graduated from ASU with an M.Arch. in 1997. I'd very much like to do this and would request directions for getting this filed. I leave town for work tomorrow and would like to take care of any fees or applications necessary to get this process started.

A13. *You will have to go to the NCARB website (ncarb.org<<http://ncarb.org>>) and start your NCARB record online (under IDP) by filling all the steps and paying the fee of \$285. As long as you start your file before July 1st, you should be fine – You just need to establish the file by Tuesday and then have 12 months to document that experience.*

Q14. I am intending to relocate for Tucson, Arizona to Philadelphia, PA. Will I still be able to test at Prometric Centers in Philadelphia to become licensed in Arizona? Or has the ability to become licensed in your home state, but work in another been crippled?

A14. *Once you are in the Prometric system, you can take the test at any center. If you have identified that you want your exam results sent to Arizona, that is where you will be licensed. Should you wish to become licensed in PA, you will simply request that NCARB transmit your file to PA. If you have completed IDP, the process should be fairly simple.*

Q15. Will there be any exception for those who are still unemployed and on unemployment benefits to receive an extension on payments, because of cost?

A15. *At the moment, NCARB does not have the ability to split payments (this is coming in the next couple of years). You will need to pay the fee as a lump sum to start the file. They do have a provision for students where if you start your file while in school it only costs \$100 to get the file established and then you pay the \$185 balance at the completion of the program. You might contact them to see if there is anything like that they can do for you like that if you are unemployed.*