

12 July 2010



Consultation

APEC Architect Host-Economy Registration Fee

To New Zealand Registered Architects and other stakeholders

Your feedback is sought regarding a proposed new fee that the New Zealand Registered Architects Board (NZRAB) intends to charge applicants for initial registration who are APEC Architects from economies with which New Zealand has a cross-border APEC Architect registration arrangement.

Background

New Zealand is a participant in the APEC Architect Project. Its purpose is to encourage the provision of cross-border architectural services around the Pacific Rim. This is being done by the development of shared processes by which senior architects from participating economies can become registered architects in other participating economies via a fast-track procedure.

How architects participate

For senior architects to participate, they first must become registered as APEC architects in their home economies. For this architects are required to:

- have completed a minimum period of professional practice of seven years after initial registration in any participating economy
- have gained experience in all of the following categories of architectural practice: preliminary studies; preparation of brief; design and contract; documentation; and administration.

In addition, at least three years of the seven-year period must have been undertaken as an architect with sole professional responsibility for the design, documentation and contract administration of buildings of moderate complexity or, in collaboration with other architects, as an architect in charge of and professionally responsible for a significant aspect of the design, documentation and/or contract administration of complex buildings.

Currently three New Zealand architects have met these requirements. Their names are listed at www.nzrab.org.nz under the "APEC Architect Register".

Once an architect is an APEC Architect in his or her home economy, then he or she is entitled to apply for initial registration in other participating economies. The host economy's application procedure can only test any aspects of the architectural process in the host economy that are unique to that economy. Otherwise the

judgment of the home economy that the applicant is competent must be accepted in good faith by the registration authority in the host economy.

There is an additional qualification. These procedures only apply between economies that, in addition to being part of the project, have also negotiated specific bilateral arrangements in terms of what each registration authority will assess.

Currently New Zealand has one of these arrangements with Japan¹ and we are close to finalising another with Singapore. The NZRAB intends to negotiate more of these arrangements with other participating economies in the future.

Proposed new fee and interpretation

The NZRAB's fees are based broadly on cost recovery. To that end, the NZRAB is proposing that the following be added to its fee schedule.

Application for initial registration, if the applicant is an APEC Architect from another economy" \$632.50 GST included

This is calculated on the basis of GST being 15 per cent from 1 October 2010.

In addition, we are proposing the following be added to the Registered Architects Rules 2006 – Rule 3: Interpretations. This is needed so that the term "APEC Architect" in the fee schedule is clearly defined.

Asian Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Architect means an architect who is registered as an APEC Architect in an economy with which New Zealand has a cross-border APEC Architect registration arrangement.

The references to "economies" rather than countries reflect sensitivities about the status of Taiwan.

Basis of the fee

The proposed fee has been calculated on the basis on cost recovery for the service provided and fair relativity with the NZRAB's other fees. The assessment of an offshore APEC Architect applicant will be done via a two to three hour professional conversation between the applicant and two registration assessors. Case studies will not be required.

We estimate the costs of the procedure will be as follows.

Basis for fee relative to cost of service:

GST	\$82.50
Assessors' fee	\$400.00 (\$200 assessor's fee per assessment x 2)
Room hire	\$80.00
Assessors' travel	\$50.00
Administration	\$25.00
Total costs	\$637.50
Fee charged	\$632.50
Fee/cost	Undercharge by \$5.00

¹ For more information on the NZ/Japan arrangement, including Japan's requirements, go to <http://www.nzrab.org.nz/default.aspx?page=204>

The relativities are that this is the same fee that is currently charged for former New Zealand architects registering again (pathway 7) and architects having desk top and then interactive assessments for their five-year continuing registration Competence Reviews (\$115.00 + \$517.50 = \$632.50). Both these procedures are very similar to the New Zealand APEC Architect host economy registration procedure.

To see the NZRAB's fees overall, and how the proposed new fee fits in, go to attachment 1.

Response sought

In order to seek the Government's approval of this new fee and Rule 3: interpretation, under the Registered Architects Act 2005, section 68(b) the NZRAB is required to obtain and consider your feedback on whether or not what's proposed is fair and reasonable.

We ask that you email back your responses to the following two propositions.

Proposition 1: The proposed initial registration fee for APEC Architect applicants of \$632.50 (GST at 15% included) is fair and reasonable.

Proposition 2: The proposed addition to the Registered Architects Rules 2006 – Rule 3: Interpretations that *Asian Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Architect means an architect who is registered as an APEC Architect in an economy with which New Zealand has a cross-border APEC Architect registration arrangement* is fair and reasonable.

All that's required is an indication that you either agree or disagree with each of these two propositions. A simple email is fine. However, you are welcome to make any other comments, if you wish.

This consultation closes on 12 August 2010.

Thank you.

Paul Jackman
CE NZRAB

Attachment 1

NZRAB fees

Initial Registration	Fees from 1st October 2010 GST 15% \$	Current Fees GST 12.5% \$
Pathway 1 – Recognised New Zealand/Australian Qualification	2,081.50	2,036.25
Pathway 2 – Recognised Overseas Registration	2,081.50	2,036.25
Pathway 3 – Recognised Australian Registration	No fee	No fee
Pathway 4 – Equivalent Qualification	517.50	506.25
Pathway 5 – No Recognised Qualification	1,725.00	1,687.50
Pathway 6 – Recognised Qualification – no work experience with a Registered Architect	1,725.00	1,687.50
Pathway 7 – Previously Registered in New Zealand	632.50	618.75
Pathway 8 – APEC Architect (proposed)	632.50	
Review of Registration Assessment Procedures	862.50	843.75

Annual Certificate of Registration	Fees from 1st October 2010 GST 15% \$	Current Fees GST 12.5% \$
Full Year (July – June)	563.50	551.25
Half Year (January – June)	281.75	275.62

Five-Year Competence Review	Fees from 1st October 2010 GST 15% \$	Current Fees GST 12.5% \$
Desk Top Assessment	115.00	112.50
Interactive Assessment (following desk top)	517.50	506.25