



## Architects Registration Board

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

建築師註冊管理局

香港特別行政區

### **Guidelines for the “USE OF TITLE”**

The Architects Registration Board (ARB) hereby draw your attention to the Architects Registration Ordinance (Cap. 408) concerning the Use of Title for any person practicing in the architectural discipline related to the design, construction or fitting out of buildings in Hong Kong.

#### A. Use of Title by a Person

PART VI Section 30(1) of the said Ordinance states that “A person whose name does not appear on the register shall not be entitled to describe himself as ‘architect’ or ‘registered architect’ or to use the initials ‘R.A.’ after his name.”

It follows that for any person whose name is not listed in the register of registered architects maintained by ARB, the use of the title ‘Architect’, or even ‘Assistant Architect’ without any reference, is NOT acceptable under the Ordinance.

However, Section 30(3)(b) states that “A person whose name is not on the register may describe himself as an ‘Architect’ if he describes himself by reference to a membership of an overseas body or institute of architects which description does not imply that he has the right to practice architecture in Hong Kong under the description of architect.”

Therefore, the use of title in the following examples are considered acceptable:

- ‘Architect (ARBUK)’ or similar
- ‘Registered Architect (California)’, ‘Registered Architect (NSW)’, or similar.
- ‘Architectural Designer’ or ‘Architectural Assistant’

#### B. Use of Title by a Firm or Company

For a firm or company which intends to use the description of ‘architects’, “registered architects” or initials “R.A.” to describe its business or staff, please refer to Section 30(4) of the Architects Registration Ordinance.

A copy of Section 30 of the Architects Registration Ordinance is attached herewith.

Please note that it would be an offence for non-compliance under the Ordinance.

Should there be further queries concerning the Use of Title under the Architects Registration Ordinance (Cap. 408), please contact the Registrar of the Architects Registration Board via email [[arbsec@arb.org.hk](mailto:arbsec@arb.org.hk)].

Effective date: 19 February 1991

1<sup>st</sup> update: 15 September 2009

2<sup>nd</sup> update: 20 November 2015

3<sup>rd</sup> update: 31 March 2022

**30. Use of title**

- (1) A person whose name does not appear on the register shall not be entitled to describe himself as “architect” or “registered architect” or to use the initials “R.A.” after his name.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the Board may apply to a judge for an order restraining any person whose name is not on the register from describing himself as “architect” or “registered architect” or using the initials “R.A.”.
- (3) A person whose name is not on the register may describe himself as an architect if—
  - (a) he describes himself by reference to an architectural discipline not related to the design, construction or fitting out of buildings; or
  - (b) he describes himself by reference to a membership of any body or institute of architects formed outside Hong Kong which description does not imply that he has the right to practise architecture in Hong Kong under the description of architect. (*Amended 23 of 1998 s. 2*)
- (4) Subject to subsection (3), a person, including a firm or company shall not use the description of “architects” or “registered architects” or the initials “R.A.” unless—
  - (a) at each place where the person carries on the business of architecture, the business is conducted under the supervision of a registered architect who does not act at the same time in a similar capacity for any other person other than a firm or company that has substantially the same beneficial ownership and management as the person (where the person is a firm or company);
  - (b) where the person carries on a multidisciplinary practice, the business, so far as it relates to architecture, is under the full time control and management of a registered architect who does not act at the same time in a similar capacity for any other person other than a firm or company that has substantially the same beneficial ownership and management as the person (where the person is a firm or company).