
Evidence of experience for building surveyor registration

Overview

In 2017, Building Ministers commissioned an independent expert examination of systemic problems affecting compliance with the National Construction Code (NCC). The resulting **Building Confidence Report** <https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/July%202018/document/pdf/building_ministers_forum_expert_assessment_-_building_confidence.pdf> (BCR) made 24 recommendations for a best practice model for compliance and enforcement, to strengthen effective application of the NCC.

Recommendation 4 of the BCR recommended action on career pathways for building surveyors. The BCR noted that the role of building surveyors is critical to the building approvals process and suggested that there may be an inadequate supply to meet future needs. It also called for supervision of trainees to be pragmatic so their engagement is commercially viable.

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) agreed to progress a response to this recommendation by developing guidance on building surveyor career pathways, obtaining and recording evidence of experience for registration, as well as balancing supervision and independent work. The ABCB noted the guidance may be used as the basis for future training schemes.

The ABCB has released a draft *Guide on evidence of experience for building surveyor registration*. This is accompanied by a discussion paper seeking feedback on how the guide can be improved, to ensure that each element of the proposed guide is clear and practical.

You can access the discussion paper below or download a copy at the bottom of this page.



1



2

Why we are consulting

The discussion paper explores a number of areas where additional guidance was identified as likely to assist prospective building surveyors and their supervisors. The discussion paper seeks your views on each element, and feedback received via the consultation survey will be used to shape the final model guide.

Providing comment

Comments are invited until **11:59 PM AEST Monday 19 July 2021**. Only comments submitted using the online form will be considered.

A preview of the consultation form is provided below.

If you have a question about this consultation, please contact **BCRImplementationTeam@abcb.gov.au**.

Information Collection

Information about saving your answers for later

More information

[Save and come back later](#)

The "save and come back later" button gives you the option to save your work. Enter your email address to receive an email with a link to return to your survey response before the closing date.

Important: Please ensure that you have read and understood the below statements before proceeding

Privacy Collection Statement

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) is bound by the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) outlined in Schedule 1 of the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (Privacy Act), which regulates how entities may collect, use, disclose and store personal information.

Your personal and sensitive information is being collected by the ABCB Office to assist the ABCB to carry out its functions, to inform the consultation process and for other purposes including to communicate with individuals or organisations about their submission.

The personal and sensitive information collected as part of the submission process may be disclosed to and used by the following individuals or organisations:

- the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources or the ABCB Office, and the staff of the Department and the ABCB Office;
- the ABCB, its committees and any working groups established by the ABCB, and their staff and advisors;
- the Commonwealth Government, and State and Territory Ministers responsible for building regulation and policy, and their staff and advisors;
- other Commonwealth or State and Territory government departments and agencies;
- any consultant or contractor engaged by the ABCB for the purpose of undertaking work in respect of the subject matter of the submission process.
- any organisation for any authorised purpose with your express consent, for the purposes set out above.

Personal and sensitive information obtained will be stored and held in accordance with the ABCB's obligations under the *Archives Act 1983* (Cth). Further information about how the ABCB collects, uses and discloses personal information is set out in its **Privacy Policy** <<https://abcb.gov.au/Footer/Privacy>> .

If you have an enquiry or request relating to your personal information, please contact:

Privacy Contact Officer
Australian Building Codes Board
GPO Box 2013
Canberra ACT 2601

Confidential Information Statement

All submissions and comments will be published unless they are marked 'commercial-in-confidence'. However, any contact details you provide within your submission will be redacted prior to the submission being published.

In order to promote debate and transparency, the ABCB prefers that all submissions and comments be provided in a way that does not require confidentiality to be maintained. However, it recognises that in some circumstances you may want to provide information in confidence.

It is the responsibility of the person making the submission to ensure that any 'commercial-in-confidence' information is clearly identified. Please consider if you can structure your response to keep only some parts confidential. If only part of your submission is confidential, you can provide the confidential part as a separate submission so that the ABCB can publish the non-confidential part of the submission.

Where confidentiality is requested for an entire submission, it will not be published by the ABCB, nor will your name or organisation details; however, see the comments below regarding Regulation Impact Statements.

Please note that we may still disclose the confidential part of your submission to any of the above identified users of the information as part of the consultation process and we will use reasonable efforts to ensure that the recipients keep the submission confidential.

Submissions for Regulation Impact Statements will be made public in accordance with the Council of Australian Government's **Best Practice Regulation: A Guide for Ministerial Councils and National Standard Setting Bodies** <<https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/regulation/best-practice-regulation-guide-ministerial-councils-and-national-standard-setting-bodies>> . A summary of the views expressed in the submissions will be published as part of the Regulation Impact Statement.

The ABCB or the ABCB Office may also disclose confidential information in circumstances where:

- we are required or authorised by law disclose it;
- you agree to the information being disclosed; or
- someone other than you has made the confidential information public.

Your submission, comments, opinions and responses will not be published if the ABCB or the ABCB Office considers that your submission, comments, opinions and responses may contain potentially defamatory statements or other offensive comments.

By making a submission to this consultation you agree to the collection of the information you provide in your submission; and the use and disclosure of the information you provide in your submission as outlined above.

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Publish response
- Publish response anonymously (this will remove personal identifiers including, name and organisation)
- Do not publish

Personal Information

What is your name?

Name

What is your email address?

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

Email

On whose behalf are you making this submission?

Please select only one item

- I am making this submission on my own behalf I am making this submission on behalf of a business
 I am making this submission on behalf of an industry body
 I am making this submission on behalf of a government agency

What is your organisation's name (if relevant)?

Organisation name

Which best describes your industry sector?

Please select only one item

- Building - Commercial Building - Residential Building - Commercial and Residential
 Building and plumbing products Building certification/surveying Architecture and design
 Engineering Plumbing Compliance, testing and accreditation Legal and Finance
 Specialist - Disability access Specialist - Energy efficiency Specialist - Fire safety
 Specialist - Health Specialist - Hydraulic/plumbing Student/apprentice
 Trades and other construction service Education Community and Non-Government organisations
 Government General public Other

Please select your State or Territory

Please select only one item

- ACT NSW NT QLD SA Tas Vic WA Commonwealth

Introduction and career pathways

1 What further information should be provided in the Introduction of the draft guide to clarify its purpose, audience, structure or adoption?

2 Is information on the career pathway for building surveying work clear and complete?

Please select only one item

Yes No

How would you improve information on the career pathways in the draft guide?

3 What changes are needed to improve the high-level information in the draft guide on experience for registration under jurisdictional laws?

More information

Registrations requirements are established under state and territory laws. The draft guide provides a high-level summary of the usual components in registration laws, and an example based on the proposed National Registration Framework. It is anticipated this information would be updated to match the laws in the adopting jurisdiction prior to release.

Skills and knowledge

4 Is it appropriate to apply the proposed list of skills and knowledge to all registration levels?

Please select only one item

- Yes No

If not, how should they be differentiated for each registration level?

5 What changes are needed to make the proposed skills for building surveyors clear and complete?

More information

The draft guide proposes candidates demonstrate they have the following skills during their experience period:

1. assess building design proposals and plans for compliance with building laws
2. issue building approvals
3. inspect building work to assess compliance with the building approval
4. identify, resolve and report non-compliance with building laws and approvals
5. issue certificates for inspected building work that identifies compliance or non-compliance with building laws and approvals, and
6. issue approval to occupy buildings or parts of buildings, with or without conditions.

6 What changes are needed to make information on the practical application of knowledge by building surveyors clear and complete?

More information

The draft guide proposes candidates demonstrate they have the ability to apply the following knowledge during their experience period:

1. relevant state or territory legislation for planning, approving and constructing buildings
2. NCC Volume One and (where necessary) Volume Two, including referenced documents such as Australian and New Zealand Standards including the ability to identify and describe non-compliance
3. roles, practices and responsibilities of a registered building surveyor, such as understanding and avoiding conflict of interest, and complying with any code of conduct for building surveyors applicable in the state or territory
4. material and methods for planning, design and construction of buildings
5. risk management theory as it applies to managing risks associated with performance-based building laws, and
6. methods for communicating with clients and contemporaries, including problem solving involving multiple parties in a dynamic situations.

In some jurisdictions the following knowledge related to enforcement action may also need to be demonstrated:

1. building work that does not comply with building approvals and has not been rectified after being directed to do so
2. illegal building work in that it does not comply with building laws, or
3. unhealthy or unsafe conditions that require urgent or staged remedial action.

7 Are the proposed ways to document experience practical for candidates, supervisors and registration authorities?

	Yes	Unsure	No
Experience log with work examples <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Experience reports <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
References <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What alternatives do you suggest to document evidence of experience?

Experience log

8 Should candidates record all relevant work they undertake in the experience log?

Please select only one item

Yes No

If not, what do you think should be recorded in experience logs?

9 Are the examples of buildings and activities in Appendix A of the draft guide clear and complete?

Please select only one item

- Yes - The examples are clear and complete No - The examples are incomplete
 No - The examples are unclear No - The examples are both incomplete and unclear

What changes are needed to improve the examples of buildings and activities?

10 Should a quota be set for the number of work examples to be provided with log entries and what should they be?

More information

The draft guide does not set out the number of work examples that need to be provided with an experience log. Instead the draft guide proposes candidate use their judgement and provide sufficient examples.

Please select only one item

- No - The proposal is acceptable No - But what is proposed needs further work (please describe below)
 Yes - A quota should be set (please describe below)

How should the information on work examples be changed or improved?

11 What changes are needed to improve the experience log template at Appendix B of the draft guide?

Experience reports

12 What number and size of experience report will best allow candidates to demonstrate their ability to apply knowledge?

More information

The draft guide proposes a greater number of reports are provided for higher levels of registration. A word limit is not set, but a suggested size of 2000 words per report is included in the tips for completing an experience report.

The discussion paper mentions an alternative, where all levels provide the same number of reports, and a word limit is set that increases for higher levels of registration.

13 What changes are needed to improve the proposed experience report template at Appendix C of the draft guide?

14 What changes are needed to improve the tips for completing an experience report?

References and prior experience

15 Is the proposal for references in Section 2.3.4 of the draft guide sufficient to support an application for registration?

More information

Section 2.3.4 sets out how many references should be obtained, and who may provide them. A minimum of two references is suggested:

- one from the each registered building supervisor that supervises the candidates work (may be more than one if multiple people supervise the candidate), and
- one from an independant building practitioner in a related field with whom the candidate has worked during the experience period.

Please select only one item

Yes No

What changes or alternatives should be considered on who may provide references, and how many are needed?

16 Section 3.1.5 sets out what a reference should contain. Is the proposed content for references sufficient to support an application for registration?

Please select only one item

Yes No

What changes are needed to improve information on the content of references?

17 What changes are needed to improve the proposed reference template at Appendix D of the draft guide?

18 Is the guidance on recognition of previous experience in Section 2.4 of the draft guide clear?

Please select only one item

Yes No

What changes or alternatives are needed to improve information in the draft guide on recognising previous experience?

Supervision

19 What should be done to improve information in the draft guide on the supervisor's role?

20 Should the information on supervising candidates be included in the draft guide?

Please select only one item

- Yes - The information proposed is acceptable Yes - However the information provided needs improvement
 No - Please remove the information

What alternatives or changes could be made to improve the information on supervising candidates?

21 Are the suggested ways for supervisors to assist with identifying and arranging opportunities to obtain experience appropriate and clear?

Please select only one item

- Yes - The information is appropriate and clear No - The information is not appropriate
 No - The information is not clear No - The information is not appropriate or clear

What do you think should be added or changed to improve information on opportunities for experience?

22 Is information in the draft guide on balancing supervision and independent work practical and clear?

Please select only one item

- Yes - The information is practical and clear No - The information is not practical
 No - The information is not clear No - The information is not practical or clear

What should be added or changed to improve information on balancing supervision and independent work?

Assistance, glossary and other comments

23 Are there any other organisations that can advise candidates on options for registration which should be listed in the Assistance section?

Please provide details of the organisations.

24 What changes or additions are needed to improve the Glossary in the draft guide?

25 Do you have any other comments on the draft guide?

Uploading supporting documents

Supporting documentation

Please attach a copy of any documents you wish to include to this printout.

Please note: Supporting documentation will not be published. It should only be submitted as information to substantiate your comment such as diagrams, new or updated tables, research papers or other documentation.

Please provide supporting documentation in .doc, docx or PDF format.

Please attach a copy of any documents you wish to include to this printout.

File Upload 2

Please provide supporting documentation in .doc, docx or PDF format.

Please attach a copy of any documents you wish to include to this printout.

File Upload 3

Please provide supporting documentation in .doc, docx or PDF format.