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# Sole Proprietorship

## Limited Licence Holder

*It is a condition of every certificate of practice that is held by a limited licence holder, or under which a limited licence holder personally supervises and directs the practice of architecture, that the certificate is subject to the same terms, conditions and limitations to which the limited licence is subject.*



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## IMPORTANT

In order to offer or provide architectural services to the public in Ontario, as defined in the [Architects Act](#), an individual or entity must be the holder of a certificate of practice. The provision of architectural services, prior to the issuance of a limited licence and certificate of practice, may be prejudicial to the granting of a limited licence and/or a certificate of practice.

Until an application for a certificate of practice is approved by the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA), it is a contravention of the *Architects Act* to promote, offer, or provide architectural services in Ontario in the name of the new practice, and items such as letterhead, cheques, signs, etc., should not be ordered.

Architectural services provided under a certificate of practice must be personally supervised and directed by a member of the Association.

It is a condition of every certificate of practice that is held by a limited licence holder, or under which a limited licence holder personally supervises and directs the practice of architecture, that the certificate is subject to the same terms, conditions and limitations to which the limited licence is subject.

If personal supervision and direction of the practice of architecture performed under this certificate of practice will be provided by a limited licence holder, then the certificate of practice will be subject to the same terms, conditions and limitations to which the limited licence is subject. If architectural services performed by the certificate of practice are not restricted in accordance with the terms, conditions and limitations of the limited licence, then the holder of the certificate of practice, the limited licence holder, and any members of the Association who are involved in such practice may be subject to professional regulatory proceedings and/or other legal proceedings and liability.

The use of the term “certificate of practice” in this document shall at all times refer to a certificate of practice issued by the OAA unless otherwise stated.



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# General

## When filing an Application for Certificate of Practice, include the following:

1. \*Curriculum Vitae
2. \*Notification to Employer
3. \*Engineers – Certificate of Authorization
4. \*Business Registration
5. Payment of Applicable Fees

*\*submit copy*

1. Allow approximately **four to six weeks** of processing time from the date of receipt of the completed application and all required documentation. An incomplete application will be delayed as it may be returned for completion. **NOTE: ENSURE YOU HAVE ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS OR YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE DEEMED INCOMPLETE.**
2. All sections of the application are to be completed. The terms "Not Applicable" and "N/A" may be used where sections do not apply.
3. All documentation submitted will be verified.
4. To satisfy the currency requirement outlined in Subsection 17(2) of the *Architects Act*, the OAA member who is a principal of this practice and who is not currently a holder of a certificate of practice, must enclose an updated curriculum vitae with a chronological record of work experience covering at least the five years immediately preceding the date of this application.
5. **Notification to Employer – Regulation 27 Subsection 34(b):** The Licensed Technologist, who is a principal of this practice and is currently employed elsewhere must submit a copy of the notification provided to the employer (Notice) together with confirmation that the employer received the Notice. Confirmation can take the form of:
  - (a) an email to the employer attaching the notice and associated acknowledgement,
  - (b) a copy of the Notice signed by the employer, or
  - (c) such further and other evidence as deemed acceptable by OAA staff.
6. The **Standards of Practice** include, but are not limited to, Sections 47, 49 and 50 of Ontario GENERAL [Regulation 27](#) (the regulations), as amended.
7. **REAPPLICATION OR REINSTATEMENT REQUIREMENTS**
  - i. A former Licensed Technologist who has voluntarily surrendered their certificate of practice may submit an application to **reapply** for a certificate of practice.
  - ii. A former Licensed Technologist whose certificate of practice was cancelled may make application to **reinstate** the certificate of practice.
  - iii. Please note that the applicant **must**:
    - a) provide evidence to the Registrar that the person who will personally supervise and direct the practice of architecture has, before the date of the application, completed a cycle of Continuing Education that meets the requirements of the Continuing Education program established under Section 54 of the Regulation.



- b) file with the Registrar an Undertaking in which they affirm that they have not engaged in the practice of architecture in the Province of Ontario from the date of surrendering or cancellation of their certificate of practice, except as an employee of a holder of a certificate of practice or as an employee of an organization that did not offer architectural services to the public.
8. If this practice intends to provide **engineering services**, enclose a copy of the current Certificate of Authorization issued by the Association of Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) under the *Professional Engineers Act* of Ontario.
9. The **Business Names Act (BNA)** applies to all types of business that operate under a name other than the owner's name. For further details, contact the Companies and Personal Property Security Branch. If applicable, **enclose a copy of the Business Registration** from the Companies and Personal Property Branch, Ministry of Government Services.

If the business operating under a certificate of practice uses a business name other than that contained on the certificate of practice, the holder of the certificate of practice and all OAA members working under it must ensure compliance with the following:

- a) The Office of the Registrar of the OAA must be notified of all other names used, including names that are adopted after the date of this application; this includes informal or shortened forms of the name of the practice or acronyms.
  - b) The other business names must be registered with the OAA as "DBA" (Doing Business As).
  - c) The name of the holder of the certificate of practice must be included in all significant documents (e.g. contracts, invoices, letterhead, business cards, architectural drawings, etc.) so that the public can identify the official name of the entity with whom they are dealing.
  - d) Accuracy in the OAA Register is critical to allow the OAA to regulate the profession of architecture and protect the public interest. Failure to provide all names to the Office of the Registrar may result in proceedings for professional misconduct based on making misrepresentations in this application or failing to update a relevant particular in this application.
10. **Mobility of Architectural Practices to Ontario (Reciprocal Applicants):** In order to hold a certificate of practice, a Licensed Technologist in Ontario is subject to the requirements of the *Architects Act*, the regulations, and OAA Bylaws, including those relating to professional liability insurance coverage.
11. All documents prepared by a Licensed Technologist that govern a project's construction, alteration, or enlargement must be sealed with an OAA seal issued to that member by the OAA. For more information regarding OAA professional seals, visit the OAA Website [here](#).

### Applying for an OAA seal

- 1. An **applicant for a certificate of practice** may apply for a seal after their certificate of practice has been approved or have a seal when making application for the certificate of practice.
- 2. For an **employee of a holder of a certificate of practice** to be eligible for a seal, the holder of the certificate of practice must provide confirmation in writing to the OAA indicating that the seal will be used only for projects under that holder.
- 3. For an **employee of other than a holder of a certificate of practice** (e.g. federal or provincial government, banks, etc.) to be eligible, the employer must provide confirmation in writing to the OAA indicating the seal will be used only for projects owned by the employer; the entity that owns the projects must be the one and the same that employs the Licensed Technologist.

### Once you have a seal

- 1. The employer must notify the Office of the Registrar at [officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca](mailto:officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca) of any changes to the certificate of practice.



2. The employee must immediately notify the Office of the Registrar at [officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca](mailto:officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca) of any changes to their employment status.

Questions regarding the seal can be directed to the Office of the Registrar at [officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca](mailto:officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca).

Once complete, submit your application to the Office of the Registrar at [officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca](mailto:officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca). To accompany the issuance of a seal, the OAA will provide the applicant with high-resolution images of their seal to be used in conjunction with the official seal.

**OAA Seals must remain under the sole control of the limited licensee; they cannot be shared or delegated under any circumstances.**

12. All applicants for a certificate of practice with an office in Ontario must also submit an application for annual professional liability insurance coverage for the practice, unless the certificate of practice application represents a change in particulars of an existing holder of a certificate of practice with an office in Ontario.

Please contact [Pro-Demnity Insurance Company](#) for the appropriate forms.

All applicants for a certificate of practice with an office outside of Ontario or whose primary function is not to engage in the practice of architecture and whose certificate of practice was issued under Subsections 14(2) or 15(a)(ii) or Sections 18 or 19 of the *Architects Act* must submit an application for Exemption from annual professional liability insurance coverage with Pro-Demnity Insurance Company.

**Note:** If a holder of certificate of practice located outside of Ontario:

- a) moves to Ontario; or
- b) decides to open an office in Ontario;

the holder's office in Ontario is required to be insured under Pro-Demnity Insurance Company and an application for annual practice insurance must be submitted.

13. The **fees** for certificate of practice are set out on the Payment of Fees form.



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# Completion of the Application

## A. APPLICATION CATEGORIES

**New Practice** applies to an applicant who is not currently a holder of a certificate of practice, or who is currently a holder of a certificate of practice and this is a new and separate certificate of practice.

**Change in Particulars of Existing Practice** applies if the applicant is currently a holder of a certificate of practice and there is a change to the business structure or name of the certificate of practice.

If there are current projects for which architectural services are being provided by the existing practice, then:

- a) the certificate of practice for the existing practice must be maintained (*refer to page 1; item 6*) until completion of the architectural services; or
- b) these projects must be assigned to the holder of the new certificate of practice.

**Note:** Advise the OAA **in writing** whether a) or b) applies.

**Personal Supervision and Direction:** An OAA member in this practice must personally supervise and direct the practice of architecture on a Full-Time basis.

## B. IDENTIFICATION

### OTHER OFFICE

If it is the intention of the practice to have more than one office registered with the OAA (i.e. the principal and 'other office[s]'), each registered office must comply with the Standards of Practice (*General section; item 6*) and payment must be submitted for each 'other office' (*refer to the Payment of Fees form*).

## C. PRACTICE HISTORY

Identify any certificate of practice not currently in good standing and provide the particulars.

## D. PRACTICE STRUCTURE

In order for the Association to maintain a current Register of its Licensed Technologists and holders of certificates of practice, it is important to keep the practice structure correct and up to date. **Report all changes in writing to the Office of the Registrar.**

## E. DECLARATION

The solemn declaration serves as a formal attestation by the applicant that all the information provided is truthful and accurate. This verification helps ensure the integrity of the registration process by preventing the submission of false information. Additionally, it holds the applicant legally accountable, as providing misleading details can result in legal consequences.

The declaration underscores the seriousness and professionalism of the application process. By signing, applicants confirm their understanding of and commitment to adhering to the relevant laws, regulations, and ethical standards governing their profession once licensed.



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# Appendix 1 – List of Documents

## OAA Official Documents

Acquired **specific** knowledge:

1. The *Architects Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.A.26  
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90a26>
2. Ontario Regulation 27, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 27  
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900027>
3. [Bylaws of the Ontario Association of Architects](#)
4. Ontario Association of Architects Standard Form Contracts for Services

Acquired **general** knowledge:

5. [Regulatory Notices \(formerly Practice Bulletins\)](#)
6. [Practice Tips \(formerly Practice Bulletins\)](#)

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Acquired **general** knowledge of **Ontario Building Code Act 1992, 1992, S.O. 1992, c. 23 and the Building Code, O. Reg 332/12** and **provincial statutes, regulations, and codes** applicable to the design, construction, enlargement, or alteration of buildings, such as but not limited to:

- *Construction Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c .C. 30;
- *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13;
- *Occupational Health & Safety Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.1;
- *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, 1997, S.O. 1997, c.4 and the *Ontario Fire Code*, O. Reg 213/07;
- *Health Protection & Promotion Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter H.7;
- *Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.31; and
- *Technical Standards and Safety Act*, 2000, S.O. 2000, c. 16.

Note: All Provincial statutes, regulations, and codes are as amended.

The above documents are available for download at [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca) or may be purchased by contacting the **Ontario Government Bookstore** at College Park Building, 777 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M6G 2C8 (416) 326-5300 or through **ServiceOntario Publications** at [www.publications.serviceontario.ca](http://www.publications.serviceontario.ca)





| Fees                                                                      | Applications approved<br>between Jan 1 & Jul 31 | Applications approved<br>between Aug 1 & Dec 31 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Application fee ( <b>non-refundable</b> )                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$345.78               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$345.78               |
| Annual fee ( <i>based on number of OAA members within the practice</i> ): |                                                 |                                                 |
| practice with one Licensed Technologist (minimum fee); plus,              | <input type="checkbox"/> \$418.10               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$209.05               |
| fee for <b>each</b> additional OAA member within the practice             | ___ x \$294.93                                  | ___ x \$147.50                                  |
| Other Office                                                              | ___ x \$138.99                                  | ___ x \$138.99                                  |
| <b>Total</b>                                                              | \$                                              | \$                                              |

|                                      |                                         |                                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>NAME OF APPLICANT:</b>            |                                         |                                             |
| <b>PAYMENT METHOD:</b>               |                                         |                                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque      | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash           | <input type="checkbox"/> Interac e-Transfer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order | <input type="checkbox"/> Online Banking | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bank Draft  |                                         |                                             |

The fees listed above are in Canadian funds and include the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).

If you **already** have an OAA account/identification number, you may use online banking or Interac e-Transfers at this time.

**Online Banking:** Online banking bill payment is available for major Canadian banks (i.e. CIBC, RBC, Scotia, TD, BMO, Credit Union, and National). Note: You must use your OAA account/ID number to ensure the OAA receives the correct information from the bank to process your payment. Visit the OAA Website ([Methods of Payment](#)) for online banking instructions.

**Interac e-Transfer:** Interac e-Transfers can be sent to [OAAFees@oaa.on.ca](mailto:OAAFees@oaa.on.ca). Note: You must enter your OAA ID in the message box to ensure the OAA receives the correct information from the bank to process your payment. Visit the OAA Website ([Methods of Payment](#)) for Interac e-Transfer banking instructions.

**Credit Card:** Note: There is a 2.5% convenience fee for Credit Card payments that is non-refundable once the payment has been made.

1. Complete the application package and submit by email to [officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca](mailto:officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca).
2. Visit [secure.oaa.on.ca/store](https://secure.oaa.on.ca/store) to pay your certificate of practice application fee by credit card.
3. Once the application fee and form are received, the Office of the Registrar will begin the review process.
4. When your application has been reviewed, OAA Finance will provide a link to pay your certificate of practice fee.
5. Once the Office of the Registrar receives notification of payment from OAA Finance, a letter of approval will be issued in due course.



### A. BASIS OF APPLICATION *(please check the appropriate application category)*

- ☐ New Practice ☐ Reapplication *(Certificate of Practice previously surrendered)*  
☐ Change in Particulars of Existing Practice ☐ Reinstatement *(Certificate of Practice previously cancelled)*

### B. IDENTIFICATION *(Use supplementary sheets if necessary)*

1(a) Name of Practice: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(please print exactly how name should appear in OAA Register, including upper and lowercase)*

1(b) Other Name(s) used: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(please print any other name used in connection with the business of the practice)*

2. Principal Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ Suite No. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State/Territory \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Voice Mail: Yes ☐ No ☐

3. Other Office:  
(if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ Suite No. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State/Territory \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Voice Mail: Yes ☐ No ☐

4. Principal Residence Address of Licensed Technologist who is Personally Supervising and Directing (PSD) the holder's practice of architecture at each office *(items 2. and 3. above)*:

| Licensed Technologist's Name in Full | a) Office Location (city) where PSD | b) Licensed Technologist's Principal Residence Address and Telephone Number | Distance in km between a) & b) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (print)                              |                                     |                                                                             |                                |
| (signature)                          |                                     |                                                                             |                                |
| (print)                              |                                     |                                                                             |                                |
| (signature)                          |                                     |                                                                             |                                |
| (print)                              |                                     |                                                                             |                                |
| (signature)                          |                                     |                                                                             |                                |

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**C. PRACTICE HISTORY** *(Use supplementary sheets if necessary)*

1. Has the applicant previously held a certificate of practice issued by the OAA? Yes ☐ No ☐
2. Is the sole proprietor or any employee currently an owner or employee of another holder of a certificate of practice issued by the OAA or an organization that is not the holder of a certificate of practice? Yes ☐ No ☐
3. Is the sole proprietorship engaged in functions other than the practice of architecture? *(If this practice provides engineering services in ON, enclose a copy of the Certificate of Authorization issued under the Professional Engineers Act of Ontario.)* Yes ☐ No ☐
4. Has the sole proprietor or any employee ever been convicted of an offence in this or any other jurisdiction that may be relevant to whether the sole proprietorship will engage in the practice of architecture in accordance with the law and with honesty and integrity? Yes ☐ No ☐
5. Has the sole proprietor or any employee ever been found guilty of professional misconduct or incompetence in this or any other jurisdiction, or is their conduct or competence presently the subject of an investigation, inquiry, or proceedings? Yes ☐ No ☐

**If you have answered "yes" to any of the above questions, use a supplementary sheet to provide dates and details.**

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**D. PRACTICE STRUCTURE** *(This Practice only. Use supplementary sheets if necessary)*

1. List all OAA members and PEO professional engineers who will practise/provide architectural services under this certificate of practice. Check all appropriate categories.

| Name in Full <i>(please print)</i> | Full-time | Part-time | Licensed Technologist | PEO Engineer | Architect | Holds OAA Seal | Applying for Seal | Office Location <i>(city only)</i> |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                    |           |           |                       |              |           |                |                   |                                    |
|                                    |           |           |                       |              |           |                |                   |                                    |
|                                    |           |           |                       |              |           |                |                   |                                    |
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|                                    |           |           |                       |              |           |                |                   |                                    |
|                                    |           |           |                       |              |           |                |                   |                                    |



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## E. DECLARATION

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE:

THAT I am applying for a certificate of practice under the *Architects Act* of the Province of Ontario;

THAT in regard to the documents listed in the Guidelines for Completion of an Application for a certificate of practice, I have and will continue to maintain:

- a. the OAA Official Documents;
- b. unrestricted access to all other listed documents;
- c. general knowledge of the contents of the documents identified under "General Knowledge;" and
- d. specific knowledge of the contents of the documents identified as "documents OAA members must be familiar with;"

THAT I agree to comply with the *Architects Act*, the regulations and OAA ByLaws, all as amended from time to time;

THAT I understand that only a Licensed Technologist who is a holder of a limited licence who also has a certificate of practice, or is employed by a certificate of practice, is permitted to offer and/or provide to a member of the public a service that is part of the practice of architecture;

THAT I understand it is a condition of every certificate of practice that is held by a limited licence holder, or under which a limited licence holder personally supervises and directs the practice of architecture, that the certificate is subject to the same terms, conditions and limitations to which the limited licence is subject;

THAT the facts set out in this application for a certificate of practice are true and correct in every particular;

THAT I have an ongoing obligation to update the OAA if there have been any changes to the Good Character questions of this application and a failure to do so may constitute professional misconduct;

THAT I will respond within the timeframes specified by the OAA to any inquiries related to my limited licence or certificate of practice history and good character and I will cooperate with any investigation related thereto;

AND THAT I MAKE THIS solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath.

IN ADDITION, I consent and authorize other jurisdictions where I have been or continue to be authorized to practise architecture, to provide the OAA with all information and documents that relate to any past, current, or pending investigations or proceedings involving my conduct or competence;

AND, I consent and authorize the OAA to release and disclose to any other jurisdictions where I am seeking authorization to practise architecture, all information and documents that relate to any past, current, or pending investigations or proceedings involving my conduct, competence or good character.

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Signature of Sole Proprietor

Date

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Signature of Licensed Technologist who will Personally Supervise and Direct this practice

Date

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Signature of Licensed Technologist who will Personally Supervise and Direct other office

Date

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Ontario Association  
of Architects

111 Moatfield Drive 416-449-6898  
Toronto, ON M3B 3L6 oaamail@oaa.on.ca  
Canada oaa.on.ca

## Undertaking to the Ontario Association of Architects

This will confirm THAT as a former holder of a certificate of practice, I have not engaged in or held myself out as engaging in the practice of architecture in Ontario, except:

1. as an employee of a holder of a certificate of practice; or
2. as an employee of an organization that did not offer architectural services to the public.

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Name (*please print*)

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Date

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Signature