



# Practice Advisory

*Practice Advisory* brings to members' attention topics that have an impact on either management of the practice or management of the project.

## In This Issue

- [FAQs You May not have Asked Yet: May Edition](#)
- [CSA Standards Access Program: Renewed for Another Year](#)
- [Managing Great Client Expectations: A Conversation on Perfection in the Practice of Architecture](#)
- [Recent Legislative Changes at the National and Provincial Levels](#)
- [Update to Practice Tip PT. 03 Building Code Data Matrix](#)
- [CSA Group Accessible Housing Design Survey: Participate Now](#)
- [Pro-Demnity' s Latest Edition of Straight Line Available](#)
- [Practice Advisory Services and Hotline: Summer Hours](#)



## FAQs You May not have Asked Yet: May Edition

### Exploring OAA Resources on Payment

The [second installment](#) of this series in *Practice Advisory* highlights existing OAA resources in the [Practice Advisory Knowledge Base](#) that address common themes and issues raised with the Practice Advisors on the free [Hotline](#). This May edition continues to explore the theme of payment— both application and certification for payment.

Members are encouraged to review the following FAQs (i.e. Frequently Asked Questions):

## FAQs Topic

[FAQ.00](#) Index to Frequently Asked Questions

[FAQ.22](#) Client Wants to Accept Substandard Work

[FAQ.25](#) Certificates for Payment and Statutory Declarations

[FAQ.26](#) Reducing Previous Percent Complete on a Certificate for Payment

[FAQ.27](#) Questionable Wording on Form From Client's Lender

[FAQ.30](#) Statutory Declaration With Each Application for Payment

FAQs originated as questions asked in response to the OAA's Construction Contract Administration Committee's "Ask a Question, Get an Answer" efforts, posed by callers to the Hotline, and sent by email to the Practice Advisors. The responses are based on the limited information contained in the question as posted and may include assumptions made about the context and circumstances in order to frame the response. The responses and answers were reviewed by committee members, represent peer advice and are not to be taken as OAA policy.

The FAQs were current when they were written. With the advent of the 3rd edition of the [Canadian Handbook of Practice \(CHOP\)](#), several FAQs were revised to add references to the new document. In other cases, the answers may refer to the *Construction Lien Act* (CLA) as opposed to the newer *Construction Act* (CA). Since there are still projects underway under the CLA, such answers may not have been updated.

Readers are to use their judgement in applying the FAQ answers to the specifics of their own situations.



## CSA Standards Access Program: Renewed for Another Year

The OAA is pleased to announce it has renewed its access to critical CSA standards for Ontario's practices and licensed members through the CSA OnDemand program. Access begins **Tuesday, June 1**. For more on eligibility and how to register or renew, visit the OAA's [landing page](#).

From specifications to General Reviews, CSA standards are used to ensure design and construction meet regulatory, building code, and client requirements. In support of its mandate to serve the public interest, the OAA has arranged for free viewing access to all CSA standards referenced in the Ontario Building Code or National Building Code of Canada, including previous versions of the standards, and to both English and French versions where available.

This year's subscription includes three new additions:

- CSA A460:19 Bird-friendly Building Design;
- CSA A500:16 (R2021) Building Guards; and
- CSA Z250:21 Process for Delivery of Volumetric Modular Buildings.



## Managing Great Client Expectations: A Conversation on Perfection in the Practice of Architecture

The definitive definition of the professional standard of care remains "...in all the work done for the client, the architect or engineer owes a duty to exercise the skill, care, and diligence which may reasonably be expected of a person of ordinary competence, measured by the professional standard of the time," as quoted in *The Canadian Law of Architecture and Engineering* by Beverley M. McLachlin and Wilfred J. Wallace. Since this is the duty of care required at law, it is what a professional liability insurance policy covers. Agreeing to or requiring anything more than this may result in the exclusion of professional liability coverage.

[Click here](#) to read a short reflection in response to a call from a member on the OAA's Hotline.



## Regulatory Notices: Naming Conventions Updated on OAA Website

The OAA's series of [Regulatory Notices](#), which can be found in the [Practice Advisory Knowledge Base](#), are currently undergoing a change with respect to their naming conventions as part of a streamlining process for greater clarity and consistency. The documents have traditionally been titled as R.XX, but will now be referred to as RN.XX moving forward. For example, the first in the series is now Regulatory Notice RN.01 OAA Professional Seal-Application (Usage). While documents on the OAA Website will continue to be updated, if you see a Practice Tip or article referring to "R.10," you will be able to find the Notice under its new name of "RN.10."

# Ontario



## Recent Legislative Changes at the National and Provincial Levels

Over the recent months, the industry has seen a flurry of updates to codes and standards, both at the national and provincial levels.

After much anticipation, [the 2020 National Model Codes have been released](#). Changes include a tiered energy performance path as well as the introduction of whole-building airtightness testing in complying with air leakage requirements.

At the provincial level, there are multiple interim amendments to the [2012 Ontario Building Code](#), starting April 29, 2022. The government notified through various [CodeNews](#) of changes to provisions for temporary shelters and health facilities under the Temporary Health and Residential Facilities Emergency Order as well as a series of updates under the [More Homes for Everyone Act](#).

The [Electrical Safety Authority](#), in [Episode 6](#) of its *Grounded in Ontario* podcast, informed the public of the release of the 2021 update to the [Ontario Electrical Safety Code](#).

The OAA encourages members to make themselves aware of these changes, some of which are already in effect.

For further details on these updates, [click here](#).



## Update to Practice Tip PT.03 Building Code Data Matrix

The OAA's OBC Data Matrices are living documents that change over time in response to changes in the [Ontario Building Code](#) and to changes in practice. Revisions to the Part 3 Data Matrix have been uploaded for both the Word and the spreadsheet versions. The matrices are available as attachments to [Practice Tip PT.03](#).

The latest update corrected the locking of some cells in part 3.15, as well as updated the seismic supplement and notes in the Site Plan Approval (SPA) matrix.

For the complete list of Practice Tips available on the OAA Website, refer to the [PT. 00 Index to Practice Tips](#) located in [Practice Advisory Knowledge Base](#).

*Practice Tips provide guidance on issues affecting the daily practice of architecture. They support members by helping them apply 'best practices' to meet the standards of the profession. Practice Tips are available to any interested party to promote better understanding of the services architects and other members of the OAA offer and to generally help clarify the expectations of those who work with architects.*



## CSA Group Accessible Housing Design Survey: Participate Now

CSA Group is developing a new standard for accessible homes. As part of this initiative, it is working on an environmental scan that will inform the ways in which it can support the adoption of this new standard to help meet the needs of users. This includes a seven-question interview survey. To participate, email [Stephanie Singh](#) by **Thursday, June 2**.



## Pro-Demnity's Latest Edition of Straight Line Available

In [Issue #18](#) of *The Straight Line*, Pro-Demnity recommends a good way for OAA members to manage risk: by way of establishing a business relationship with a lawyer who understands practices and their objectives. The bulletin also includes a [list of lawyers, who have done work for Pro-Demnity](#), providing Architects and Licensed Technologists OAA with a resource of contacts.

The edition also promotes [Episode 2](#) of *Architects' Claims Stories* podcast and shares its [2022 Annual Update](#).



## Practice Advisory Services and Hotline: Summer Hours

Members are reminded that the OAA, including the Practice Advisory Services (PAS) [Hotline \(email and phone\)](#), are operating on summer hours starting June 3, 2022 until the first week of September. This means Monday to Thursday are regular business hours, and the OAA closes at noon on Fridays. Please note messages left via voicemail or email are typically returned within 24 to 72 business hours.

You are subscribed as **INSERT\_EMAIL**

[Click here](#) to unsubscribe or update your email preferences

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