

Guidance for Unapproved Companies or Partnerships

ARBV guidance for architects providing architectural services through an unapproved company or partnership.

Unregistered and uninsured persons cannot work as an architect in Victoria. The Architects Act 1991 (the Act) prohibits 'holding out' or representing unregistered persons or bodies to be an architect or as providing architectural services. Care must be taken when describing or presenting information about unregistered staff on websites, professional networking sites and on social media. Those who engage in prohibited conduct may be prosecuted by the ARBV.

For information on the Legal Framework please refer to our Fact Sheet **Guidance for Prohibited Conduct - Legal Framework**.

Scenario: I am an architect registered with the ARBV. I provide architectural services or undertake work as an architect through a company or partnership. I advertise my services on a website in the company or partnership's name. My clients enter into client-architect agreements with the company or partnership. Although I am registered, my company or partnership is not approved.

Am I representing that the company or partnership is an architect?

Should the company or partnership be approved by the ARBV?

Am I committing an offence if the company or partnership is not approved?

What do I need to do?

Am I representing that the company or partnership is an architect?

YES. You are representing that the company or partnership is an architect because, by providing the services of an architect through the company or partnership, you are representing that it provides the services of an architect.

Should the company or partnership be approved by the ARBV?

YES. The company or partnership is required to be approved by the ARBV. It does not matter that you are registered – the company or partnership must also be approved.

Am I committing an offence if the company or partnership is not approved?

YES. You are committing an offence if the company or partnership is not approved. What do I need to do?

What do I need to do?

You need to apply to the ARBV for approval of your company or partnership or cease operating your business via a company or partnership.