

## Guidance Note 6

# Automatic Mutual Recognition

---

### Purpose

This guidance note explains how Automatic Mutual Recognition (AMR) operates for architects in South Australia. It outlines who is eligible, how to notify the Board, and the ongoing obligations of architects working under AMR to ensure compliance with the Architectural Practice Act 2009 and relevant South Australian standards.

### Introduction

AMR commenced in South Australia on 1 July 2022. It allows individuals who are registered as architects in their 'home' jurisdiction to practise in participating Australian states and territories without the need to apply for registration or pay registration fees in the 'host' jurisdiction.

To practise under AMR in South Australia, architects must notify the Architectural Practice Board of South Australia (APBSA) and receive confirmation of their Automatic Deemed Registration (ADR) number before commencing any architectural work.

AMR only applies to architects registered in an Australian jurisdiction that has adopted AMR. It is not available to individuals registered overseas (e.g. in New Zealand or other countries). As of this update, Queensland is the only Australian jurisdiction that has not adopted AMR.

### Notification Requirements

Architects must submit a completed AMR Notification Form to the APBSA before they begin practising in South Australia. Once processed, the architect will:

- Be listed on the SA Register of Architects; and
- Receive an ADR number (e.g. s3456), which is valid only for practice in South Australia.

Architects must not commence work until they have received confirmation of their ADR number.

## Guidance Note 6

# Automatic Mutual Recognition

---

### Key Requirements and Responsibilities

- AMR applies only to individuals. It does not extend to architectural businesses such as companies or partnerships.
- If an architect intends to practise through a company or partnership, that entity must hold its own registration in South Australia.
- Architects must be registered, and continue to maintain registration, in their 'home' jurisdiction (i.e. where they reside or have their principal place of work).
- Architects must inform the APBSA if:
  - They cease to be registered in their home jurisdiction;
  - Their home jurisdiction registration becomes subject to conditions; **or**
  - They change their home jurisdiction.
- Queensland-based architects are not eligible for AMR in South Australia but may apply under Mutual Recognition.
- There are no fees for notifying under AMR in South Australia.
- Architects registered under AMR are not required to pay annual renewal fees in SA but must:
  - Log in during the renewal period to update their Professional Indemnity Insurance details; **and**
  - Confirm compliance with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements in their home jurisdiction; **and**
  - Submit an annual declaration confirming their fitness to practise.

### Professional Indemnity Insurance

Under section 59(1) of the Architectural Practice Act 2009, all practising architects must maintain Professional Indemnity Insurance to a level approved by the Board.

Architects practising under AMR must:

- Review APBSA Guidance Note 1 for the minimum PI Insurance requirements.

---

## Guidance Note 6

# Automatic Mutual Recognition

---

- Ensure their insurance remains compliant while practising in SA.
- Provide evidence annually by:
  - Uploading a current Certificate of Currency; **and**
  - Completing a declaration by 30 June each year.

More information: [www.archboardsa.org.au/assets/pdf-files/Guidance-Note-01-PIIv2.pdf](http://www.archboardsa.org.au/assets/pdf-files/Guidance-Note-01-PIIv2.pdf)

## Definition of 'Home' Jurisdiction

Under section 42A of the Mutual Recognition Act, an architect's 'home' jurisdiction is:

- The state or territory where they have their principal place of residence; or
- The state or territory where they have their principal place of work as an architect.

Architects must maintain registration in their home jurisdiction at all times. If moving permanently to South Australia, an architect must apply for registration via the usual Mutual Recognition or standard application process.

## Important Legal Obligations

1. It is an offence to use the title 'architect' (or its derivatives) in South Australia without registration. Failure to notify under AMR and receive an ADR number before commencing work may result in a breach of the Architectural Practice Act 2009.
2. Once registered in South Australia under AMR, an architect is subject to all provisions of the Architectural Practice Act 2009, including:
  - a. Being a 'fit and proper' person to practise
  - b. Maintaining compliant Professional Indemnity Insurance
  - c. Adhering to the Architectural Practice Act and the Architects' Code of Conduct
  - d. Being subject to disciplinary processes in South Australia
  - e. Complying with all South Australian laws and regulations

## Guidance Note 6

# Automatic Mutual Recognition

---

### Disciplinary Action and Impact on AMR

An architect's ability to practise in South Australia under AMR will cease if their registration in their home jurisdiction ends, or if they are subject to disciplinary action in their home jurisdiction or any other Australian jurisdiction where they are practising as an architect.

An architect's entitlement to practise under AMR may also be affected if they become subject to disciplinary action by the APBSA or any other Australian architect registration board. The APBSA is required to notify other architectural registration boards of any investigations or actions that may lead to disciplinary proceedings. This may impact a practitioner's home state registration, and in turn, other AMR entitlements elsewhere.

Practitioners will be informed by the APBSA if they are the subject of an investigation or action that may lead to disciplinary proceedings.

### Need help?

If you are unsure whether AMR applies to your situation, please contact the APBSA before commencing work in South Australia.