



BULLETIN 51: HOURLY RATE FEES – SERVICES OF PRINCIPALS OR STAFF

SECOND EDITION: NOVEMBER 2007

(This edition of Bulletin 51 replaces the first, January 1996 edition updated in December 2000. It provides significantly increased recommended billable time-based fees for principals undertaking principal-level services. It provides clarification concerning fees-for-service regarding sustainable design and building code implementation. It also contains occasional syntax and format adjustments. Substantive new or amended content is flagged by sidebar.)

Effective February 1, 2008, Council has approved updates to the AIBC's **Tariff of Fees for Architectural Services** under Section 24(e) of the *Architects Act* and Bylaw 29. Time-based fees for principals (applicable to principal-level services) are established to be billable at these recommended hourly rates:

- \$ 210.00: when performing the services of a principal, generally
- \$ 250.00: when performing architectural services requiring special expertise
- \$ 395.00: when performing services such as those of an arbitrator or expert witness, for which the architect is eminently qualified

Please note that “principal” rates are expected to apply to services which require principal-level skills and judgment. Other services should, or could, be delegated to staff and charged accordingly, notwithstanding their occasionally being performed by principals. Principals who themselves provide services at various principal and staff levels of skill and judgment may use correspondingly variable hourly rates for billing purposes, or use a single “blended” rate. Refer to AIBC Practice Note #8.

For staff, the recommended billable hourly rate is calculated by multiplying the person's nominal monthly salary (i.e. gross salary due, excluding benefits) by a factor of 2.3 percent. As an example, a staff member earning \$6000.00 per month (nominally) is billable at $(0.023 \times \$6000.00) = \138.00 per hour.

For reference, these rates update those shown in section 3.4 of the current (fourth) edition of the AIBC's **Tariff of Fees for Architectural Services** publication. They should be read in conjunction with Bylaw 34.16 and its corresponding rules and commentary in the AIBC "Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct".

Sustainable Design practices and implementation of the new (2006) BC Building Code are determined to be standard, integral aspects of architectural practice reasonably accounted for under the **Tariff of Fees for Architectural Services** current percentage-fee structures (or lump-sum equivalents); billable staff-salary multiplier; and by the billable principals' rates recommended above.

However, such services as those pertaining to (a) LEED™ and/or similar specialized "Green Building" services; as well as (b) building code equivalencies and/or multiple alternate solutions; are billable in addition to the Tariff's recommended percentage-fee structures or lump-sum equivalents.

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[April 2008]