



ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proposed Professional Standards

October 2025

Proposed New Professional Standards in the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct:

Competency

3.7 An Architect's services in preparation for construction must be sufficiently complete, correct, comprehensive, and coordinated for the purpose stated.

This Professional Standard is directed at helping make sure that construction documentation services are provided competently. This standard is not 'new', but reflects the historic and current standard for services in relation to documents in a more direct statement.

Completeness means documents that are thorough; correct means that they are as accurate as reasonably possible; comprehensive means they encompass the necessary information to render a complete representation of the design at the relevant stage; and coordinated means the work produced under the Architect's supervision and control is internally coordinated and integrated appropriately with other disciplines.

The goal of competently-prepared instruments of service is that they become a reliable foundation for successful construction projects, minimizing errors, reducing costs, and confirming that the completed building aligns with the original design intent and substantially complies with the applicable building regulations.

Field Review Services

7.8 An Architect must provide field services for all building design or building alteration commissions leading to construction to determine whether the work substantially complies with the instruments of service, including but not limited to the sealed for permit drawings, and with applicable building regulations.

This Professional Standard is intended to reinforce the expectation that field services, including field review as defined by building codes, are conducted on Projects under construction, regardless of size, complexity, or client preference. Field review requirements are not limited to Building Code or Letters of Assurance expectations; both building code Part 3 buildings and Part 9 buildings require field review.

For purposes of this standard, field review is as defined in the BC Building Code. Field services include field review, field review reports and other record keeping, and review of shop drawings. An Architect's field services may include more comprehensive services during construction, such as construction contract administration or enhanced site review for specific purposes; these services are not mandatory under this standard.

This standard does not diminish the Architect's discretion and professional responsibility in relation to the frequency, number, or extent of field review on each building commission. However, it is intended to emphasize

that field services are a basic service expectation. Whether an Architect has exercised appropriate professional judgment in providing field services is project-specific, but building ‘size’ does not eliminate this required service.

It is important to note that while field review reports must be sealed by an Architect, on-site attendance to conduct physical field review can be delegated to a competent employee or agent supervised by the Architect. Field review requires some physical attendance at a site; while tools such as video, drones, and robots can be of great assistance in review and documentation, the mere delivery and review of photos sent by a contractor, for example, does not constitute field review under this standard. For sealing field review reports, see AIBC Professional Standard 8.3(d) and Practice Guideline: Use of the Architect’s Seal.

The standard does not apply in circumstances where field services cannot be provided by the Architect, such as a design commission that does not lead to construction, or termination of the Client-Architect Contract prior to field review being carried out. Note: field review that has been committed to in a Letter of Assurance to an authority must be performed until the authority has been informed of the termination of the Client-Architect Contract, regardless of the date of termination of the Client-Architect Contract.