

ARIDO & OAA Direct Regulation Update October 2025

What is the Status of the Direct Regulation Model?

As reported at the 2025 Town Hall meeting and AGM, in 2023, the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) had a legal application filed against them in the Supreme Ontario Court of Justice. This legal application challenged OAA's authority to issue practice licenses for technologists via an OAA Council Policy.

The Ontario Superior Court of Justice issued an Order that the OAA had no lawful authority to issue licenses via the Licensed Technologist OAA policy.

With the Court decision, OAA worked with the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) for ways to reinstate public protection in relation to a license class for the technologist members.

This priority for the OAA put a pause on the work between OAA and ARIDO, and the Direct Regulation Order.

However, in response to the court ruling, the OAA amended the Architects Act. These amendments were included in Bill 157 which passed and received royal assent on March 6, 2024.

ARIDO expressed support, in writing, for these amendments and for the OAA to move forward with reissuing licenses to their technologist membership base.

For more information on this matter please visit the OAA website at <https://oaa.on.ca/publications/detail/e-communications-regarding-the-court-order-and-limited-licences>

How Do these Amendments Impact the Direct Regulation Model?

While this matter had nothing to do with ARIDO or the Direct Regulation Model, this new class of Limited License would have been required for ARIDO members in the new Direct Regulation Model.

Therefore these amendments to the Architects have resolved some of the legislated amendments that would have been required for the Direct Regulation Model.

What Work Remains for the Direct Regulation Model to Move forward?

Ontario has a renewed Provincial Leadership with the Conservatives and Doug Ford.

Doug Downey continues as the Attorney General and this means our work can continue with the same political leadership.

Next immediate priorities will include:

- Stakeholder consultations with those that may be impacted in their ability to practice interior design in large buildings.
- The ARIDO/OAA Joint Task Force will begin working on the remaining legislated amendments related to the exemption for Part 3 (Large) Buildings. This amendment secures a protected scope of practice of interior design for large buildings.
- Certain exemptions from the Architects Act will be removed which once passed will then require a licensed practitioner for large buildings.
- ARIDO and OAA will work with government on the drafting and introduction of legislative amendments.

What is the timeline to move these final pieces forward?

ARIDO and OAA are preparing to pick up the next phases of work forward in late fall 2025. As with all matters of a political nature, pace of progress depends on government priorities and where we can align amendments to legislation with government priorities. The Attorney General will also emphasize the importance of stakeholder consultations prior to any legislative amendments moving forward.