



FAQs

Interior Design Collaborative – Oregon

ARCHITECT

What do Interior Designers do that requires regulation?

Interior Designers work on projects that require knowledge of building and fire codes necessary for the safety of the building occupants. In addition to addressing fire and life safety codes, Interior Designers consider human needs including: security with respect to visibility and line of sight; accessibility and universal design; home healthcare needs; ergonomics; indoor air quality and non-toxic materials; and infection control in healthcare environments to safeguard building occupant health, safety, and welfare.



Why do Interior Designers need to be registered if Architects supervise the work?

Typically interior designers will not need to be registered if working under the supervision of a board-licensed architect. Due to rapid growth in the industry over the past 15 years, there has been an increase in design firms, freelance interior

designers, and interior designers working in commercial and healthcare facility groups as a result of the outgrowth of architecture firms.

Often interior remodel work, such as replacement of building finishes, does not require a building permit. Many independent practices are executing work on “finishes only” projects that require compliance with building, fire, and accessibility codes; however, these projects are being completed without board-licensed architect supervision or without any regulatory inspections. Qualified Interior Design professionals who are hired for projects will become liable for these

projects ensuring compliance with building, fire, accessibility, and sustainable design codes and industry defined best practices.

Are interior designers trying to practice Architecture?

No. The Oregon Architecture statute remains unchanged. Any structural or seismic work, projects over 4,000 square feet, or projects with changes in occupancy require a Registered Architect. Qualified Interior Designers work with architects and recognize the expertise of profession. The Interior Design profession will continue to value the more extensive education, experience, and examination process defined within the architecture profession to be qualified to practice Architecture in Oregon

As an Architect, I have practiced interior design for years. Will I need to become registered?

Architects can continue to practice if they are Oregon Registered Architects and therefore able to offer interior design services as defined by the profession. If an architect wants to become a Registered Interior Designer, the candidate must submit their credentials to the Oregon Interior Design Regulatory Board for review, pay a fee, and become registered.

As a Principal at an Architecture firm that provides interior design services, how will this affect my company?

The Interior Design Practice Act will not impact regulations of a company if there is a professional Oregon licensed architect or registered professional engineer on staff. Employee’s who are part of interior design departments within an architecture or engineering company have the option of registering. As an added benefit, Qualified Interior Designers may provide businesses and clients increased marketing strategies, specialty practice recognition, and economic competition.

The Oregon employment department recognizes an interior designer’s knowledge of building codes, health, and safety regulations.

