

1.0 Introduction

The Council of Architecture (CoA) is an autonomous statutory body of Ministry of Education, Government of India constituted under the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972 and came into force with effect from 1st September, 1972. The Act was enacted by the Parliament of India to provide for registration of Architects, standards of education, recognized qualifications and standards of professional conduct and etiquette to be complied with by the architects. The Council is vested with the responsibility of maintaining the register of architects on national basis as well as regulating the Architecture education and practice of Architecture profession throughout India. For this purpose, the Government of India has framed Rules and Council has framed Regulations as provided for in the Architects Act, with the approval of Government of India.

Any person desirous of carrying on the profession of Architecture and using the title and style of 'Architect' must have registration with Council of Architecture. For the purpose of registration, one must undergo the education in accordance with the Council of Architecture Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020 and possess the recognized qualification as appended to the Architects Act. If any person falsely represents or claims to be registered architect or uses any words or letters to suggest that she / he is an architect or misuses title and style of architect, such acts tantamount to committing of a criminal offence punishable under the Architects Act, 1972.

The practice of profession of an architect is regulated under the Architects (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 1989 (as amended in 2003), which prescribe the professional conduct, ethics and etiquette, conditions of engagement and scale of charges, architectural competition guidelines etc., Pursuant to the above Regulations, the Council has framed guidelines governing the various aspects of practice.

Presently, there are about 375 Institutions imparting architectural education in India leading to recognized qualifications. The minimum standards of education to be imparted in architectural institutions (constituent colleges / departments of universities, deemed universities, affiliated colleges / schools, IITs, NITs and autonomous institutions) are prescribed and monitored by Council of Architecture by way of Regulations and norms & standards prescribed from time to time, which set forth the requirement of eligibility for admission, course duration, standards of staff & accommodation, course content, examination etc.

The CoA oversees the maintenance of the standards periodically by way of conducting inspections. The CoA is required to keep the Central Government informed of the standards being maintained by the institutions and is empowered to make recommendations to the Government of India with regard to recognition and/or de-recognition of a qualification.