

INTERIOR DESIGN LEGISLATION INFORMATIONAL SUMMARY

What do commercial interior designers do?

Commercial interior designers provide interior space analysis, planning and design, non-bearing interior construction drawings, furniture and finish specifications, and management of interior construction and alteration projects in public and private buildings. They work in compliance with applicable building design, construction and life-safety codes, regulations and guidelines to obtain non-bearing construction permits and are qualified by education, experience and examination to provide these services.

What is the purpose of Interior Design Legislation?

Interior Design Legislation protects public life-safety in the design of building interior environments, creates professional registration for interior designers & regulates the practice of interior design.

What does Interior Design Legislation do?

It allows interior designers qualified by education, experience, and examination to independently perform the regulated scope of “registered interior design.” It defines the professional practice of interior design, requires registered interior designers to meet national certification criteria of education, training and passing a rigorous 3-part national exam. It provides registered interior designers stamp & seal privileges when required for non-bearing construction permit drawings, thus taking responsibility for their own work.

What is the benefit to the public? Is there economic benefit?

It provides another measure of public safety protection and risk-mitigation for types requiring involvement of qualified design professionals building, expands consumer choice of qualified design professionals, increases professional employment opportunities, creates Alaska-hire incentive for professional interior design, attracts high-quality design talent to Alaska, encourages small business, and Alaska students studying “outside” to return home for professional career opportunities.

Do ALL interior designers need to be registered? Do architects need this registration?

No. Only interior designers who wish to practice within the regulated scope of interior design must either become registered in Alaska, or work under direct supervision of a registered interior designer or architect. Registered architects are exempt; interior designers of single-family to 4-plex (with height restrictions) residential structures are exempt.

Can anyone become a Registered Interior Designer?

No. Only persons who meet qualifications of interior design education and experience required by the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) to sit for the 3-part national certification exam (NCIDQ Exam), and who pass the exam in full, may apply to the state for registration as commercial interior designers.

How will Interior Design Legislation be funded?

It is intended to be self-funded at low/no cost to the state through the existing Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors, within the same fee structure as the other design disciplines.

Do other states legally recognize interior design? Yes.

- 28 US states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and 7 Canadian provinces regulate interior design
- 27 US states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and 7 Canadian provinces require the NCIDQ Exam
- 14 US states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and 7 Canadian provinces have interior design stamp-sign and seal permitting privileges