

## PRACTICE ADVISORY

### USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN LIEU OF IN-PERSON REVIEWS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

Members of the Alberta Association of Architects (AAA) have been inquiring about using portable electronic devices in lieu of in-person reviews on construction sites of architectural and licensed interior design projects. The increased number of inquiries has been driven by concerns over site health and safety on construction sites related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AAA Practice Advisory Committee (PAC) supports the letter dated March 10, 2020, from the Alberta Construction Association to Premier Jason Kenney, stating:

*“Our industry has the capacity and ingenuity to safely operate during the COVID-19 outbreak...”*

and that the shutdown of construction activity in the province is not required nor warranted during the current unprecedented pandemic.

PAC is confident that the necessary health and safety measures will be adopted by the entire Alberta construction industry to safeguard the activity of all personnel—contractors, trades, consultants, clients—engaged in site construction and review activities. PAC recommends that portable devices should ONLY be used as supplementary tools and that architects / licensed interior designers should continue to provide conventional, in-person construction review services to fulfill their professional and contractual responsibilities even during these challenging times. Modifying the conventional approach by using portable devices should be used in exceptional circumstances only.

It remains the responsibility of all AAA members to ascertain that appropriate protocols have been adopted by general contractors and design builders, through the normal course of construction communications and if required, changes to contracts and scope of services.

The Practice Advisory Committee (PAC) provides advice to members of the Alberta Association of Architects’ (AAA) as well as members of the public, and issues advisories and bulletins pertaining to the practice of architecture and interior design as they relate to the *Architects Act*, *General Regulation* and Bylaws.

**Date:** March 27, 2020

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Practice Advisories are issued by the Alberta Association of Architects as a practice resource or as general interpretations of the requirements in the *Architects Act* (Act), the *General Regulation* (Regulation) under the Act, and the Bylaws. Advisories should be read in conjunction with the Act, Regulation and Bylaws and in no way supersede these documents. Advisories are not intended to be and are not legal advice to the members of the association or to the public / client. Members and the public should consult their own legal, income tax or financial advisors as to the application of the Act and Regulation in specific circumstances.