

ANNEX 7-A

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

General Provisions

1. Each Party may consult with relevant bodies in its Area (its relevant bodies) to seek to identify professional services sectors or subsectors where the Parties are mutually interested in establishing dialogue on issues related to the recognition of professional qualifications, licensing or registration.
2. Each Party shall encourage its relevant bodies to establish dialogues with the relevant bodies of the other Party, with a view to recognising professional qualifications and facilitating licensing or registration procedures.
3. Each Party shall encourage its relevant bodies to take into account existing plurilateral and multilateral agreements relating to professional services in the development of agreements on recognition of professional qualifications, licensing and registration.
4. Each Party may encourage its relevant bodies, if feasible, to consider taking steps to implement a temporary or limited licensing regime, such as project-specific licensing or registration, based on a foreign service supplier's home licence or recognised professional body membership (without the need for further examination). Such a temporary or limited licensing regime should not operate to prevent a foreign service supplier from gaining a local licence subsequent to satisfying the necessary local licensing requirements.

Business names

5. Subject to its laws and regulations, each Party shall:
 - (a) permit professional service suppliers of the other Party to use the business names that they are permitted to use in the Area of the other Party; and
 - (b) otherwise ensure that the use of business names is not arbitrarily restricted.

Engineering and Architectural Services

6. Further to paragraph 3, the Parties recognise their existing efforts in APEC including as part of the APEC Engineer and APEC Architect frameworks, and between the relevant bodies of each Party, to promote the mutual recognition of professional competence in engineering and architecture and facilitate the mobility of engineers and architects between their Areas.

7. Further to paragraph 2, each Party shall encourage its relevant bodies to consider improving and expanding existing mutual recognition arrangements with the relevant bodies of the other Party to minimise or streamline the recognition requirements for engineering and architectural services, with a view to facilitating trade between the Parties in these services sectors.

Future Work on Professional Services

8. The Parties shall meet within two years after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, under the auspices of the Joint Commission, to facilitate the fulfilment of the objectives of this Annex and determine the future direction of possible work between the Parties. Further meetings shall occur at a time agreed by the Parties.

9. The Parties shall liaise, as appropriate, to support their relevant professional and regulatory bodies in pursuing the activities outlined in this Annex. Such support could include providing relevant points of contact, facilitating meetings and providing information regarding each Party's regulation of professional services within its Area.

10. The Joint Commission shall consider any recommendations for initiatives to facilitate trade in professional services and make decisions with respect to those recommendations within a reasonable period of time. Based on the Joint Commission's decisions, each Party shall encourage its respective competent authorities, where appropriate, to implement the agreed recommendations within an agreed time.