

Cautionary Note No 11: Wrongfully taking employers' intellectual property

The Board is aware that within the industry, the practise of individuals using, without the employer's permission, intellectual property from the firm, is relatively common and is generally considered to be acceptable. The taking of documents or other intellectual property belonging to an employer, without their permission, is likely a breach of the law and may in turn be a breach of the Code of Minimum Standards of Ethical Conduct for Registered Architects.

While the Board always must consider each case on its merits, we wish to advise the profession that the expected standard of conduct is that, when leaving a firm or when undertaking activities outside your normal employment engagements, to take or make use of only the intellectual property that has been formally agreed upon in writing with the owner of the property.