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# ARE update



Hi there,

The Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) plays an important role in protecting the public by affirming candidates' ability to practice architecture safely and effectively. As a result, NCARB takes the security of exam content very seriously.

Recently, NCARB has become aware of an increase in the number of websites and social media posts offering to sell suspicious ARE prep materials they claim are real ARE questions. Many of these third parties are attempting to scam exam candidates by repackaging and selling NCARB's freely available practice exam materials, while others may sell content stolen from the actual ARE. Any attempt by a candidate to seek out or purchase content taken from the ARE is a violation of NCARB's [ARE Candidate Agreement](#) and is subject to serious career-altering and legal repercussions.

While NCARB does not recommend any specific third-party test prep providers, we encourage you to use caution when purchasing study materials that are not provided by NCARB. Reputable test prep provider recommendations can be found from your fellow candidates on the [ARE 5.0 Online Community](#).

Take steps to ensure that any test prep materials you use were sourced through legitimate means and do not violate the [ARE Candidate Agreement](#). Candidates who are found to have violated the candidate agreement by seeking or accessing exam content will face serious disciplinary and potential legal action. Protect your career and the career of those around you—when in doubt, please contact NCARB through the exam security tip line at [ARESecurity@ncarb.org](mailto:ARESecurity@ncarb.org).

[Learn More About Exam Security](#)

## About the Candidate Agreement

As a reminder, the [ARE Candidate Agreement](#) prohibits you from copying, using, seeking out, or sharing exam content before, during, or after taking the ARE. In addition, you agree to alert NCARB if you ever suspect that you've received exam

content, whether intentionally or accidentally. Candidates who fail to abide by the Candidate Agreement face loss of testing privileges, revoked exam scores, [public reprimands](#), and potential litigation, among other actions.

NCARB analyzes all exam results for unusual testing behavior, irregularities, or other abnormalities through the use of psychometric data forensics and will open an investigation should it suspect any testing misconduct.

## How to Report a Concern

Help us protect the integrity of the exam and validity of exam scores. If you see or hear anything that you reasonably believe to be a security violation—such as disclosure of exam content— please let us know by contacting us at [ARESecurity@ncarb.org](mailto:ARESecurity@ncarb.org). This includes conduct on online forums, in study groups, and at your firm.

NCARB will make every effort to treat a complainant's identity with an appropriate regard for confidentiality, with the understanding that the details of complaints may need to be shared with others in order to investigate such complaints properly.

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