



State of Idaho

Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses

Idaho Board of Architects and Landscape Architects

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GRADING AND DRAINAGE GUIDANCE

This letter serves to provide guidance regarding a landscape architect's legal authority to practice landscape architecture. The practice of landscape architecture includes the preparation and stamping/sealing of grading and drainage plans.

Pursuant to Idaho Code, a licensed landscape architect is entitled to perform "professional services such as consultations, investigation, reconnaissance, research, planning, design or responsible supervision in connection with the development of land and incidental water areas." [Section 54-3002\(2\), Idaho Code](#). These services include "the consideration and determination of inherent problems of the land relating to erosion, wear and tear." [Section 54-3002\(2\), Idaho Code](#).

The definition of landscape architecture further outlines that licensees are permitted to locate, design, and arrange site improvements, including tangible objects such as pools, walls, steps, trellises, canopies, and features which are incidental and necessary to the performance of professional services as outlined above. Idaho Code specifically excludes licensed landscaped architects from designing structures or facilities with separate and self-contained purposes for habitation or industry, or to render cadastral surveys or final land plats for purposes of official recording or approval.

Chapter 30, Title 54, Idaho Code, sets forth the qualifications for licensure of a landscape architect. Specifically, [Section 54-3003\(2\)\(c\)](#), Idaho Code, states one of the qualifications for licensure as a landscape architect is to pass an examination approved by the Board. The Board has designated the exam prepared by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards ([CLARB](#)). [IDAPA 24.01.01.100](#). The Landscape Architect Registration Examination ([LARE](#)) is the examination currently provided by CLARB. This examination specifically tests an applicant's skills and knowledge in four areas, all four of which need to be passed to receiving a passing score for the exam: (1) inventory, analysis, and project management; (2) planning and design; (3) construction documentation and administration; and (4) grading, drainage, and stormwater management.

The grading, drainage, and stormwater management section of the LARE is a three- and half-hour examination consisting of multiple choice, multiple response, and graphic related questions. This portion of the graded exam requires examinees to produce large-scale grading designs, produce detailed grading designs, determine watershed areas, determine stormwater management systems, identify pervious and impervious areas, develop erosion and sedimentation control plans, adhere to accessibility standards, and prepare, design, and review drainage plans, [among other topics](#).

Based on the above requirements, landscape architects who are licensed in Idaho are qualified to render a professional opinion and prepare plans regarding grading, drainage, and stormwater plans, calculations, and drainage reports. [Section 54-3003\(9\)\(b\)](#), Idaho Code, requires any drawing and title pages of specifications prepared by a licensed landscape architect or those under such landscape architect's supervision to be stamped with the landscape architect's seal.