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up a firm or joint venture in the United States, should most likely apply for an L-1 visa covering employee transfer. However, again, there is no uniform way of determining the nature of a "qualifying business relationship" required between the two firms or of defining what constitutes "managerial, executive or specialized knowledge capacities". Again, the RAIC and AIA are addressing this issue with respective governments by simplifying immigration procedures and establishing uniform definitions affecting architects.

In addition, there is a plethora of secondary regulations that must be met on federal work.

Another important set of regulatory constraints that firms should be aware of is the plethora of "secondary" regulations that must be conformed to in the conduct of federal or federally-funded work. These regulations concern minority and women's rights, and labour and safety issues. Although American firms must also comply with these requirements on federal contracts, they have had the benefit of time and experience in dealing with what are often time-consuming and onerous regulations.

Professional registration is another aspect to be considered in export planning.

The registration of architects is, similar to the situation in Canada, a responsibility of each individual state or district: State Boards of Registration issue licenses to practice architecture. To ensure some consistency among state registration practices, every jurisdiction is a member of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). The mandate of NCARB is to recommend to member states standards of professional practice, to administer a uniform set of registration examinations, and to administer a central certification procedure that facilitates inter-state licensing of architects.

There are nine divisions to the NCARB registration examinations. Ontario and British Columbia have adopted five of these nine as their provincial licensing examinations and several other provinces are likely to follow suit. However, NCARB refuses to accept applications of Ontario and B.C. architects for certification until these provinces administer the complete nine divisions and increase their marking levels to match those in the U.S.