

ADRIC-RICS Construction Adjudication Training Program

We have been asked whether the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, in collaboration with the ADR Institute of Canada, will grant full exemption from the ADRIC-RICS Adjudicator Training Program for people who have completed the existing ODACC training.

The answer in short is, no, not in full, but we have put in place an accommodation for people which we believe is reasonable and fair. To prevent people having to pay twice for training which contains a degree of overlap, those wishing to apply to join the ADRIC-RICS panel who have completed the ODACC training will be required to participate in the full ADRIC-RICS Training Program, but we will deduct from their fees an amount equivalent to that which they paid to be trained by ODACC. This means that financially they will be in the same position as other trainee adjudicators embarking on the ADRIC-RICS program without having undergone the ODACC training.

RICS does not exempt trainees lightly. Our dominant position in providing adjudication services in the UK is founded on the quality of our adjudicators, which in turn is a function of the high standard of training they receive. Together with ADRIC, our ambition is to create a similar standard here in Canada, and as such we make no excuses for taking a firm line on training requirements.

RICS does under specific circumstances offer exemptions, so for instance, where we are dealing with extended and long-established courses, such as the RICS Arbitration Diploma, which is broken into clear modules over a period of eighteen months; and where there has been a detailed exercise in cross-referencing between RICS and e.g. the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb), we have formal agreements in place for mutual recognition of qualifications, and exemptions from elements of the training are granted to reflect this.

This process takes a long time, and things are moving apace in Canada. Realistically, there is insufficient opportunity for us exhaustively to audit the ODACC training to the satisfaction of our Governance Body and the independent RICS Standards and Regulations Board.

Furthermore, on shorter courses, such as the present 42 hour ADRIC-RICS Adjudicator Training Program, it is much more difficult to create clear lines of division between elements of the course, as this training tend to be delivered holistically. In this program, where material covered in Module 2, which is designed for party representatives, will be covered again in greater depth for adjudicators in Module 3, the challenge is even greater. Elsewhere, in case like this, we have adopted a pragmatic approach aimed at being fair to people financially. So, for many years, using our Mediation Training Program as an example, we have exempted trainees who have trained at other recognised institutions within the last five years from paying for those elements of our program where a significant degree of overlap can reasonably be expected. However, they are not exempted from attendance, to ensure that they benefit from participating in the training as a whole and interacting with the other trainees.

These considerations are even more important where training goes to competencies rather than academic content. The bulk of the ADRIC-RICS program falls into this category, dealing as it does with the practicalities of and skills required to manage the adjudication process and write effective and enforceable adjudication decisions.