

PRACTICE DIRECTION NO. 3 OF 2010

PUBLIC PRACTICE PROGRAMME AS A REQUIREMENT FOR REGISTRATION AS A PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

1. This Practice Direction seeks to inform all applicants for registration as a public accountant with ACRA that they must, with effect from 16 September 2010, complete the Public Practice Programme conducted by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Singapore (ICPAS) for the purpose of registration as a public accountant (in place of the ICPAS Pre-admission Course).

Background

2. Every applicant for registration as a public accountant must fulfill the requirement for registration set out in the Second Schedule to the Accountants (Public Accountants) Rules¹. One of the requirements prescribed requires that *“Every applicant for registration as a public accountant must complete such course of instruction on ethics and professional practice subjects as may be determined by the Oversight Committee from time to time.”*

3. The Oversight Committee had previously determined that the course on instruction that must be completed by an applicant for registration as a public accountant under paragraph 5 of the abovementioned Second Schedule is the Pre-admission Course conducted by ICPAS. This was set out in paragraph 20 of Practice Direction No. 1 of 2005.

Public Practice Programme

4. With effect from 16 September 2010, the Oversight Committee has determined that all applicants for registration as a public accountant must complete the ICPAS’s Public Practice Programme instead of the ICPAS Pre-admission Course. While the ICPAS Pre-admission Course may no longer be a requirement for registration as a public accountant with ACRA with effect from 16 September 2010, the course may still continue to be a requirement for membership of ICPAS and interested persons should check with ICPAS as to its membership requirements.

5. The Public Practice Programme is a three day course specifically tailored to prepare prospective public accountants by providing practical insights on the commercial and public facets of public practice, including the importance of ethical and professional conduct, and will cover important areas such as:

- a. reinforcing professional ethics and the public interest element of public practice,

¹ See paragraph 5 of the Second Schedule to the Accountants (Public Accountants) Rules Cap. 2, R 1.

- b. dealing with the commercial realities of running a public accountancy practice, and
- c. putting in place the right processes and procedures to efficiently manage resources and ensure compliance with the high standards required of a public accountant and his or her firm.

6. The first Public Practice Programme will be held from 13 to 15 September 2010 and the course will thereafter be conducted by ICPAS on a quarterly basis. More courses may be provided in the latter part of 2010 to facilitate the registration process.

Implementation

7. For the purpose of registration as a public accountant, an applicant who submits his application to ACRA on or after 16 September 2010 must have completed the Public Practice Programme conducted by ICPAS and been issued evidence of completion by ICPAS.

Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Hours

8. Attendance at the Public Practice Programme conducted by ICPAS will not qualify for CPE hours *for the purpose of registration as a public accountant*. However, CPE hours will be granted to existing registered public accountants who take up the Public Practice Programme voluntarily as part of acquiring their structured learning hours.

Legal Provisions

9. The legal provisions relevant to and referred to in this Practice Direction are:
- a. Sections 10 of the Accountants Act Cap. 2;
 - b. Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Second Schedule to the Accountants (Public Accountants) Rules Cap.2, R 1; and
 - c. Third Schedule to the Accountants (Public Accountants) Rules, Cap.2, R 1.

Related Practice Directions

10. A related Practice Direction is [Practice Direction No. 1 of 2005 Application for Registration as a Public Accountant](#)². This Practice Direction supersedes paragraph 20 of that Practice Direction.

² <http://www.acra.gov.sg/NR/rdonlyres/5ED88FA4-245D-413B-8AA7-4877860AE753/9796/PracticeDirectionNo1of2005.pdf>

Further Clarification

11. Further enquiries can be sent through http://appiqs.acra.gov.sg/iqs/ask_acra.asp.

Issued on 10 August 2010

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