

CEO Roadshow Americas region – 22 July 2020

The questions below (in bold) were raised by members who reside in the Americas region at the CEO Roadshow that took place on 22 July 2020.

The answers were given by the relevant SAICA managers at the event.

- 1. Please give an update for the reciprocity process from CA(SA) to CPA(USA)? Does this work for CAs(SA) who qualified years ago, for example those who wrote the Board exams in the late 1990s? It seems that the information only refers to recent qualifying exams?**

If you completed the SAICA professional exams, irrespective of what they were called or are called now or the time you qualified, your qualification is relevant. The criterion is that you should have passed the SAICA professional qualifying exams.

- 2. Is the requirement for 12 months of relevant work experience after sign-off or 12 months of relevant work experience after registering with SAICA?**

Prospective members who qualify to register with SAICA sometimes choose not to register with SAICA immediately for a variety of reasons. NASBA and the AICPA is not looking for experience you gained between qualifying to be a CA(SA) and registering as a CA(SA). Instead, they are looking for the experience you gained after registering with SAICA.

- 3. Why do some states not recognise the IQEX at all, for example North Carolina?**

A complicated relationship exists between NASBA and each state board, which has its own statutory requirements with its own legislation, who do not necessarily subscribe to NASBA requirements. SAICA encourages NASBA to work with each state in order to get its requirements recognised, but ultimately SAICA does not have control or influence over these processes.

- 4. Are the state-specific recognition criteria available on the NASBA website?**

Yes, they are. Each state board has its own website which is linked from NASBA's site and will provide members with the relevant information on conversion requirements.

- 5. Are CPD requirements the same for people in the auditing profession versus people in commerce? I am a CFO in the hospitality industry? Could you please elaborate on how members need to prove compliance to the CPD policy?**

All SAICA members are required to undertake take relevant CPD activities on an annual basis. The new CPD policy is an output based approach and SAICA no longer recognises the recording of hours, unless you are registered with another regulatory body that still requires hours to be tracked.

The members' responsibility is to keep track of their CPD activities on a reflective plan, which has to be kept for up to a maximum of three calendar years. Each member's reflective plan will be unique, given that each member's role and career ambition – and therefore learning interventions to achieve this ambition – is unique.

Regarding compliance, members will be requested to submit an annual declaration (which is sent out by SAICA and needs to be completed by members. On this declaration, members need to state that they are compliant with the CPD policy. A monitoring sample will be selected from those members that have submitted their annual declarations, after which the members chosen for monitoring will have to submit their reflective plan as evidence of having applied the CPD policy.

In summary, not all members will have to submit their reflective plans annually, but only those who have been selected for monitoring. But keep in mind that all members need to declare their compliance with the CPD policy on an annual basis.

There is a template for the reflective plan on the [dedicated CPD microsite](#). However, we don't want members to feel limited by this template, so members are encouraged to only use it as a guideline. Members are therefore welcome to adapt the template to suit their personal needs. There is also a completed example of the template for members to refer to.

SAICA encourages members to read the information on the dedicated CPD microsite. We will also be sharing some more Frequently Asked Questions to this site soon and members are always welcome to send an email to newcpdpolicy@saica.co.za if they need more assistance regarding the new CPD policy.

Furthermore, to help members prepare for the future world of work, the new Pathways to Relevance framework identifies competencies and career paths that are relevant for the future accountant. Members can then use this information to evaluate their own particular competencies against their identified learning gaps.

The aim of the new CPD policy is to ensure that SAICA members remain professionally competent and relevant for the future world of work. Members can find more information on the Pathways to Relevance framework [here](#).

Members who have questions regarding the CPD policy or the reflective plan can go to the [dedicated CPD microsite](#) for more information or send an email to newcpdpolicy@saica.co.za.

6. Is the IQEX exam currently available to be written (during the pandemic)?

The company that is contracted by NASBA to run the IQEX exam is called Prometric. They opened their testing window on 30 June 2020 and they have now introduced year-round testing as opposed to limited testing windows. However, it seems like they are accepting fewer candidates for testing to allow for social distancing at the test centres. There is also a website where candidates can check the status of a specific testing centre in the US:

<https://www.prometric.com/closures>

7. The MRA and reciprocity requirements are really black and white with no considerations for individuals' personal circumstances. A number of people have passed the qualifying exams but may have only registered with SAICA later on, which means that even though requirements were met but registration fees weren't paid, people are excluded from qualifying under the MRA.

Unfortunately, NASBA and the AICPA are very clear that the MRA applies from the date on which you register with SAICA as a CA(SA) and not from the date you passed your SAICA qualifying exams.

8. Is there a timeline to register with a state board after the passing the APEX exam?

SAICA is not familiar with all state boards' detailed requirements, but to our knowledge some of the larger states have no timelines for registration. SAICA encourages members to read the detailed information of the state boards depending on which state they live in.

9. I'm a CPA Canada member, residing permanently in Canada. Is it still acceptable to simply declare compliance with SAICA's CPD requirements by being in compliance with local requirements?

Yes, you will need to fill in your annual declaration, which is sent out by SAICA. The declaration will include a question on whether you are complying with another professional body's requirements.

10. Is California one of the states that allows CAs(SA) to reciprocity/IQEX exam? Which were the 4 states that were problematic?

The IQEX handbook has a handy map which shows you which states do not accept CAs(SA). California does accept CAs(SA) while North Carolina, Mississippi, Alaska and Hawaii don't accept CAs(SA).

11. Are there plans to offer more CPD opportunities specific to SAICA members in Canada in future?

Members who reside in Canada have access to all CPD events run by SAICA, the majority of which are webcast and are available on the Click2Start platform on the SAICA website or on the SAICA events page (www.saicaevents.co.za).

Members who live in Canada can contact Bruce Freer (Regional Executive: International Members, who is based in the UK) by emailing brucef@saica.co.za and let him know what their specific needs are in terms of seminars and events. If these events are feasible to roll out, SAICA will definitely do so. However, face-to-face events are difficult to roll out sustainably due to Canadian members being geographically dispersed.

SAICA's international members have a number of international sites where members can obtain CPD resources.

- Canadian members can take advantage of SAICA's membership of the Global Accounting Alliance (GAA), and can attend the local institute (CPA Canada) events. SAICA members can access all CPA Canada seminars and events at the same rate as CPA members without being a member of CPA Canada. This benefit is enabled by the GAA Passport. For more information, visit <https://www.globalaccountingalliance.com/> Other benefits through the GAA Passport include CPA Canada's magazine, its newsletters and technical support.

SAICA members are encouraged to contact CPA Canada to utilise these benefits without having to become a member of the institute: toll free: 1-800-268-3793 or email: member.services@cpacanada.ca

- Members can also utilise the Chartered Accountants Worldwide website to obtain CPD opportunities.

12. **I am a full CPA Canada member, permanently residing in Calgary, Canada as well as a SAICA member. As such, I currently pay my membership fees to both SAICA and CPA Alberta. It was encouraging to learn about the pending appointment of the Americas sub-region representative to the National Council as well as the intention to set-up SAICA committees in the various countries in the Sub-region. In light of this, my questions are:**

- 1. Will the successfully appointed candidate be communicated to us as members residing in the Sub-region?**
- 2. Will Canada be specifically included in the SAICA committees being set up?**
- 3. Who will serve on these committees and what is the purpose of these committees?**
- 4. The big focus is on the USA – are there any plans for Canada-specific initiatives as well?**
- 5. Are there plans to offer more CPD opportunities specific to SAICA members in Canada in future?**

1. Two nominations were received for the Americas sub-region. An email containing their biographies were circulated in the first week of August, asking members to vote for their preferred candidate. The results will be communicated via email to all members in the sub-region.
2. We have looked into the possibility of having a Canadian sub-committee for the Americas sub-region. We do not have a plan for a Canadian sub-committee at this time, but will continue to evaluate the feasibility of such a committee.
3. The committees consist of volunteers that are CAs(SA). The purpose of having the in-country committees is to better understand member requirements in these specific regions and how SAICA can support these members. The in-country committees will be represented on the Americas regional committee, the chair of which will be voted for by members and who will represent the Americas on National Council. This structure now replicates the district and regional structures in South Africa, ensuring there is adequate representation of as many international members as practically possible.
4. The fourth and fifth questions have been answered in question 11 above. Besides the services provided by the GAA Passport, as well as the information provided by Chartered Accountants Worldwide, SAICA is happy to support initiatives that members feel still need to be rolled out. As such, members are encouraged to get in contact with Bruce Freer via email brucef@saica.co.za. Bruce is the Regional Executive for International Members and resides in the UK.