

MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT

Recommended by

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia

and

The U.S. International Qualifications Appraisal Board

Representing

**The National Association of State
Boards of Accountancy**

and

**The American Institute of
Certified Public Accountants**

NASBA

AICPA

Mutual Recognition Agreement

Introduction

The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) have jointly established the United States International Qualifications Appraisal Board (U.S. IQAB) to eliminate impediments to reciprocity by serving as the link between the accounting profession in the United States and the accounting profession in countries seeking mutual recognition of accounting qualifications.

The U.S. IQAB and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (ICAA) have achieved consensus on principles of reciprocity to be recommended to the ICAA and to the individual U.S. State Boards of Accountancy. The recommendations which follow have been approved by the Boards of Directors of NASBA, the AICPA, and the ICAA.

The ICAA is empowered to issue the Chartered Accountant (CA) designation to qualified applicants. The United States has 55 jurisdictions, and their State Boards of Accountancy or their equivalents in each jurisdiction are legislatively empowered to grant the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation and license to practice accountancy, subject to the laws and regulations in each jurisdiction. To promote reciprocity, the U.S. IQAB and the ICAA recommend the adoption of the following principles for the mutual recognition of the CA and the CPA designations.

Basis of Recognition

Education, examination, and experience are the principal elements considered in granting the CA and CPA designations to perform the attest function. In Australia, qualifications as a Chartered Accountant include the candidate's completion of (A) an approved tertiary degree in commerce, economics, or business studies with an accounting major; or a recognized non-accounting degree plus completion of one of the following: 1. an accredited graduate "conversion" course to enable non-accounting graduates to gain adequate coverage of the required subjects or 2. additional accredited university subjects as specified by the ICAA; (B) the CA Program (the part-time postgraduate courses administered by the ICAA) which is completed while working under the supervision of a Chartered Accountant; and (C) three years of supervised experience with a Chartered Accountant in an accredited organization. In the United States, the educational and experience requirements vary among jurisdictions, with all jurisdictions requiring the successful completion of the Uniform CPA Examination.

The U.S. IQAB has reviewed the educational requirements, the required body of knowledge and the required standards of professional practice with respect to the granting of the CA designation in Australia. The ICAA has reviewed the educational requirements, the required body of knowledge and the required standards of professional practice with respect to the granting of the CPA designation in the United States. The following paragraphs set forth the equivalency in each of the three areas of education, examinations, and experience.

Education

The Parties agree that Australian CAs who hold a three-year baccalaureate degree with an approved major in accounting or a three-year baccalaureate non-accounting degree with completion of an approved graduate conversion course in accounting, either qualification having been obtained at a university accredited by the ICAA, plus completion of the Professional Year Programme (PY), or the CA Program (after 2000), shall be considered to have satisfied an education requirement equivalent to the 150-hour education requirement as defined in the Uniform Accountancy Act, Article 5, Rules 5-1 and 5-2, Fourth Edition. The Parties further agree that CPAs who have successfully completed a baccalaureate degree at an accredited institution combined with a concentration in accounting or a 150-hour educational requirement as defined by the current Uniform Accountancy Act be considered to have satisfied the educational requirements for full reciprocity in Australia.

Examinations

The Parties agree that CAs who have successfully completed the CA Program and CPAs who have successfully completed the U.S. Uniform CPA Examination should not be required to complete the other jurisdiction's examinations in order to achieve the professional designation of the jurisdiction into which entry is being sought.

All applicants for reciprocity shall, however, be required to pass an examination or examinations designed to assure that applicants have satisfactory knowledge of relevant local and national legislation, standards and practices in the jurisdiction being entered.

The U.S. IQAB or such other body as the U.S. IQAB may designate from time to time, should periodically review the ICAA's modules including the body of knowledge to be tested, the policies and procedures for its construction, administration, security and oversight to provide assurance to State Boards of Accountancy that the CA Program assessments can be relied upon as an appropriate test of the qualifications of CA candidates. The ICAA's CA Program and Admissions Committee (CAPAC) or such other body as may be designated from time to time, should complete similar reviews of the U.S. Uniform CPA Examination including the body of knowledge to be tested, the policies and procedures for its construction, administration, security and oversight to provide a similar assurance to the ICAA that the Uniform CPA Examination is an appropriate test of the qualifications of CPA candidates.

Experience

The Parties agree that the completion of a minimum period of accounting experience within the U.S.A. as a requirement for original CPA qualification or within Australia as a requirement for original CA qualification will be prescribed as a condition for receiving reciprocity in the Australian or U.S. jurisdiction(s) into which entry is sought.

Ordinarily, the amount and nature of accounting experience completed within the country of the jurisdiction granting the original designation must be equivalent to the experience requirement of the jurisdiction granting the reciprocal designation and must have been obtained under the supervision or direction of a CA or CPA in the original jurisdiction. If either the amount or nature of the accounting experience acquired by an applicant in the jurisdiction of original designation does not meet the requirements of the jurisdiction granting the reciprocal designation, the applicant may be permitted to complete prescribed supervised relevant accounting experience in the jurisdiction into which entry is sought before becoming eligible to receive the applicable CA or CPA designation.

Expiration

This agreement shall be in force for a period of five years from the date of consummation and may be renewed or extended through mutual agreement of the Parties.

Termination

The Parties may withdraw their consent to this agreement for just cause.


On behalf of the U.S. International
Qualifications Appraisal Board

14 Nov. 2006
Date


On behalf of The Institute of
Chartered Accountants in Australia

14-Nov 2006
Date