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NASBA

Statement on Standards for CPE Programs

*Ted Lodden – Chair, NASBA CPE
Advisory Committee*



Topics

- Background
- Revision Process
- Overview of Exposure Draft
- Next Steps



Background

- Last revised in 2002
- How were implementation questions handled?
 - Presented to the NASBA CPE Advisory Committee
 - Published in the FAQ document along with general-type questions
- Sponsor Open Forum in May 2010
 - Resulted in development of a Task Force to help review, analyze and implement suggestions and changes that arose from the Open Forum
 - Also resulted in a moratorium of the FAQ document

Development of CPE Task Force

- NASBA selected 13 Task Force participants based on experience in:
 - development of group live, self study and group internet based courses
 - instructional design of courses
 - development of education for internal use
 - development of technical courses
 - higher education (college/university)
 - the administration of CPE from a State Society and AICPA perspective
- Task Force included representation from State Boards as well as NASBA's board
- Task Force members are geographically dispersed

Overview of the Process Undertaken by Task Force

The following were reviewed and considered by the Task Force:

- Sponsor Forum feedback, including EDMAX comments
- Existing AICPA/NASBA CPE Standards, including Commentary
- Interpretations to the Standards as published in the FAQs document
- Additional interpretations to the Standards published in Dec. 2007 and Sept. 2009
- Registry and QAS applications
- NASBA reviewer checklists

Outcomes of the Task Force

- Recommended revisions to the AICPA/NASBA CPE Standards Committee
- Disposition of all FAQs and additional requirements or interpretations
- Creation of Best Practices document
- Revisions to NASBA applications and reviewer checklists (including reference to Standards)
- Recommendation for future clarifications to CPE Standards

Standards Revision Process

- Joint AICPA/NASBA CPE Standards Committee reviewed the recommendations of the CPE Task Force and made its recommendation to respective AICPA and NASBA Board of Directors
- AICPA and NASBA Board of Directors approved the revised CPE Standards for comment
- CPE Standards were posted on August 15, 2011 for a 60-day commentary period
- Commentary period has now been extended through December 1, 2011

Overview of the Exposure Draft

- Innovation
 - Provided for flexibility in learning techniques
- Group Study
 - Standard added for group-internet-based delivery method, including requirements around participation monitoring
- Program Evaluation
 - Streamlined required topics—focus on learner
- In-House Training
 - Streamlined requirements for descriptive materials and evaluations for internal training
- Self Study
 - Pilot testing: representative completion time
 - Alternative method to pilot testing based on word count formula
 - Review and final exam questions
 - Granting credits

Next Steps

- Joint AICPA/NASBA CPE Standards Committee to review and consider the comments received during the commentary period
- Joint AICPA/NASBA CPE Standards Committee to make its final recommendation to respective AICPA and NASBA Board of Directors
- AICPA and NASBA Board of Directors to final approve at respective meetings in January 2012
- Anticipated effective date of CPE Standards-March 1, 2012