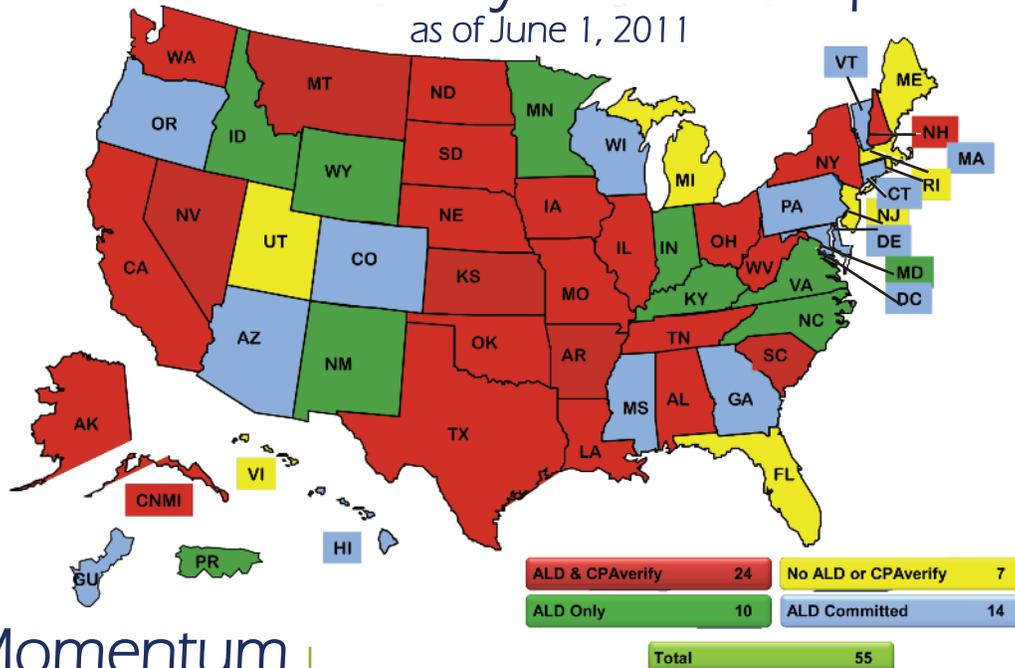


ALD and CPAVerify State Participation

as of June 1, 2011



The Momentum is Amazing . . .

A total of 34 states are now participating in the ALD, with more expected to join shortly. Our goal is to have 40 states (if not more) participating by the end of 2011. With the increased interest, this goal is sure to be met. Of the 34 states currently participating in the ALD, 24 states are also participating in the public version of the ALD called CPAVerify. Soon, the public will be able to access a single source for CPA licensure information just like the State Boards of Accountancy do now through ALD. Also in this issue, readers will learn more about the ALD and CPAVerify from the perspectives of the Executive Directors of the New York and California Boards of Accountancy.



Exploring Benefits of the ALD

*Patti Bowers, Executive Officer,
California Board of Accountancy*

When the California Board of Accountancy (CBA) began participating in the Accountancy Licensee Database (ALD) in 2010, we looked forward to the nationwide licensee information that a central registry would provide. While we anticipate the day when all jurisdictions will participate, the CBA has already found ALD to be a helpful tool in assisting in our licensing and enforcement processes.

Our licensing staff finds the ALD useful in a number of ways. With a few clicks, staff is able to access information about a CPA applicant's licensure status in other jurisdictions as well as some information regarding any disciplinary action the applicant may have had. Additionally, staff can use ALD to access the licensure status for out-of-state supervisors who certify work experience for applicants, which is helpful in processing applications more quickly.

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ALD & CPAverify . . . from an Executive Director's Perspective

Daniel J. Dustin, CPA
Executive Secretary, New York State Board for
Public Accountancy

The Accountancy Licensee Database (ALD) is poised to become a significant tool for use by the staff of the New York State Board for Public Accountancy when licensing and regulating CPAs in New York.

Today, out-of-state licensed CPAs, whose principal place of business has become New York, must obtain a New York license through the endorsement (reciprocal license) of their out-of-state license. In the past, this meant that the CPA had to submit a New York form to his/her original state of licensure to verify date of licensure and license status. At times, applicants failed to submit the necessary paperwork to his/her state of licensure, thereby delaying the licensing process.

State board staff verifies license status for endorsement applicants by searching individual state board Web sites to obtain and confirm license status information. As we reach the tipping point with ALD, with respect to the number of participating states, ALD will become the one trusted source of out-of-state license information. Using ALD to verify licensing information will provide significant efficiencies to board office staff.

Investigators will also be aided by access to one central repository of information about licensed CPAs. State board investigative staff will be able to efficiently determine state of licensure and licensure status when investigating complaints filed against out-of-state licensed CPAs. State boards will be also able to efficiently share information on disciplinary actions taken against CPAs.

Similarly, federal and state regulators often find that identifying a CPA's state(s) of licensure can be a somewhat arduous task if the investigator does not capture all relevant licensure information at the outset of an investigation. By creating CPAverify (the public Web site), NASBA has developed a valuable tool that federal and state regulators can use to quickly access a CPA's state(s) of licensure and/or principal place of business. These investigators may then appropriately notify state boards of accountancy of findings and sanctions related to unprofessional conduct in the practice of public accountancy, thereby enhancing the oversight activities of state boards of accountancy. Public protection will be significantly enhanced through use of this powerful new tool.

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Exploring Benefits of ALD
Patti Bowers, Executive Officer,
California Board of Accountancy

ALD has also proved valuable to our Enforcement Division. When our Enforcement staff receive a complaint, they access the ALD to determine if the individual mentioned in the complaint is licensed in other jurisdictions and whether there has been any disciplinary action taken against their license. Staff can also verify the same information for petitioners applying to reinstate a revoked license.

Of course, the more current and comprehensive its information, the more valuable the ALD becomes. If all jurisdictions were to participate, the ALD has the potential to significantly streamline the application process and assist enforcement efforts for all state boards of accountancy.

Regulating the largest single group of CPAs in the nation is a huge task. We must be mindful of our mission to protect consumers while always looking for better, more efficient ways to accomplish that goal. The ALD certainly has been a useful tool for the CBA as we seek to fulfill our mission and be good stewards of our resources.

CONTACT US

The *ALD News* is the premier source for news and information regarding the Accountancy Licensee Database. For questions or comments, contact:

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