

Accountants (Public Accountants) Rules 2004

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No. S 164

**ACCOUNTANTS ACT 2004
(ACT 4 OF 2004)**

**ACCOUNTANTS
(PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS)
RULES 2004**

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 64 of the Accountants Act 2004, the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority, with the approval of the Minister for Finance, hereby makes the following Rules:

PART I
PRELIMINARY

Citation and commencement

1. These Rules may be cited as the Accountants (Public Accountants) Rules 2004 and shall come into operation on 1st April 2004.

Definitions

2. In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires —

“approved principal” means a public accountant who —

- (a) has at least 5 years’ post-qualifying experience in public practice or in any other organisation recognised by the Oversight Committee; and
- (b) undertakes the supervision of pupils in accordance with the Second Schedule,

and includes —

- (i) the Commissioner of Inland Revenue or any senior officer designated by him, in relation to structured practical experience in taxation;
- (ii) the Accountant-General or any senior officer designated by him, in relation to structured practical experience in accounting; and
- (iii) the Auditor-General or any senior officer designated by him, in relation to structured practical experience in auditing;

“public practice” means practice as a public accountant in the capacity of a sole proprietor, a partner in an accounting firm or a corporate practitioner in an accounting corporation;

“pupil” means a person who is under the supervision of an approved principal for the purpose of acquiring structured practical experience;

“Register” means the Register of Public Accountants;

“structured practical experience” means experience gained under an approved principal in the Accounting Service, the Auditing Service, the Inland Revenue Service, in a public accountant’s office or in any other organisation recognised by the Oversight Committee.

PART II

REGISTRATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Applications for registration

3.—(1) An applicant for registration as a public accountant shall provide the Oversight Committee with —

- (a) such documentary proof of the qualifications entitling him to be registered under the Act; and
- (b) such other information or particulars as may be required by the Oversight Committee.

(2) Unless otherwise required by the Oversight Committee, every application for registration as a public accountant shall be circulated to the members of the Oversight Committee or placed before a meeting of the Oversight Committee for consideration without undue delay.

(3) The decision of the Oversight Committee on any application shall be communicated to the applicant in writing by the Registrar.

Fees

4. The fees specified in the second column of the First Schedule shall be payable to the Authority in respect of the matters set out in the first column of that Schedule.

Requirements for registration

5. A person shall be entitled, on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the First Schedule, to be registered as a public accountant if he satisfies the Oversight Committee that —

- (a) he has fulfilled the requirements for registration set out in the Second Schedule;
- (b) he is carrying on or is about to carry on the public practice of accountancy in Singapore by placing his services as an accountant at the disposal of the community, but not entirely at the disposal of any one individual, firm or corporation;
- (c) he is maintaining or is about to maintain an office or place at which his services may be engaged; and
- (d) he is available or is about to make himself available to undertake work on

behalf of any member of the public.

Oversight Committee to decide whether person is engaged in public practice of accountancy

6.—(1) Any question as to whether or not a person is engaged in the public practice of accountancy shall be referred to the Oversight Committee for decision.

(2) Any person who is aggrieved by the decision of the Oversight Committee may, within 30 days of the decision, appeal to the Minister whose decision shall be final.

PART III

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

Duplicate certificate of registration

7.—(1) Where a certificate of registration is lost, defaced or destroyed, the holder of the certificate may apply to the Oversight Committee for a duplicate certificate which may be granted by the Oversight Committee on payment of the appropriate fee specified in the First Schedule.

(2) An application to the Oversight Committee under paragraph (1) shall be supported by a statutory declaration that the certificate of registration has been lost, defaced or destroyed.

(3) The certificate of registration or any duplicate thereof shall be surrendered to the Oversight Committee when the holder thereof ceases to be registered as a public accountant under the Act.

Renewal of certificate of registration

8.—(1) An application for the renewal of a certificate of registration shall be made in such form as the Oversight Committee may determine and shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee specified in the First Schedule.

(2) For the purpose of section 13(3)(a) and (c) of the Act, a public accountant shall not be entitled to have his certificate of registration renewed if the Oversight Committee finds that he has failed —

- (a) to meet the required standard of professional conduct and practice as determined by the Authority; or
- (b) to satisfy the requirements relating to continuing professional education in