

**ACCOUNTANCY EXAMINING BOARD[193A]**

[Prior to 7/13/88, see Accountancy, Board of[10]]

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## CHAPTER 1 DEFINITIONS

[Prior to 7/13/88, see Accountancy, Board of[10]]

**193A—1.1(542) Definitions.** The following definitions shall be applicable to the rules of the board of accountancy.

“*Act*” means the Accountancy Act of 2001 as amended by 2008 Iowa Acts, chapter 1106.

“*AICPA*” means the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

“*Attest*” or “*attest service*” means providing any of the following services:

1. An audit or other engagement to be performed in accordance with the statements on auditing standards.

2. A review of a financial statement to be performed in accordance with the statements on standards for accounting and review services.

3. Any engagement to be performed in accordance with the statements on standards for attestation engagements.

4. Any engagement to be performed in accordance with the auditing standards of the PCAOB.

The standards specified in the definition of “attest” are those standards adopted by the board, by rule, by reference to the standards developed for general application by the AICPA, the PCAOB, or other recognized national accountancy organization.

“*Attest engagement team*” means the team of individuals participating in attest service, including those who perform concurring and second partner reviews. The “attest engagement team” includes all employees and contractors retained by the firm who participate in attest service, irrespective of their functional classification.

“*Audit*” means the procedures performed in accordance with applicable auditing standards for the purpose of expressing or disclaiming an opinion on the fairness with which the historical financial or other information is presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, another comprehensive basis of accounting, or basis of accounting described in the report.

“*Board*” means the accountancy examining board established by Iowa Code section 542.4.

“*Bureau*” means the professional licensing and regulation bureau of the division of banking of the department of commerce.

“*Certificate*” means the certificate of a certified public accountant granted under Iowa Code section 542.6 or 542.19 or a certificate issued under prior corresponding law.

“*Client*” means a person or entity that agrees with a licensee or licensee’s employer to receive a professional service.

“*Commission*” means any form of compensation in a fixed or variable amount or percent received for selling, recommending or referring any product or service of another. “Commission” includes a referral fee.

“*Compensation*” means anything of value received by a CPA or LPA while practicing public accounting for selling, recommending or referring a product or service of another.

“*Compilation*” means presenting in the form of a financial statement information that is the representation of any other person without the undertaking to express any assurance on the statement.

“*Contingent fee*” means a fee established for the performance of any service pursuant to an arrangement in which no fee will be charged unless a specified finding or result is attained, or in which the amount of the fee is otherwise dependent upon the finding or result of such service. “Contingent fee” does not mean a fee fixed by a court or other public authority or a fee related to any tax matter which is based upon the results of a judicial proceeding or the findings of a governmental agency.

“*CPA*” means certified public accountant.

“*Examination of prospective financial information*” means an evaluation by a CPA of a forecast or projection, the support underlying the assumptions in the forecast or projection, whether the presentation of the forecast or projection is in conformity with AICPA presentation guidelines, and whether the assumptions in the forecast or projection provide a reasonable basis for the projection or forecast.

“*FASB*” means the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

“*Financial statement*” means a presentation of financial data, including accompanying notes derived from accounting records and intended to communicate an entity’s economic resources or obligations at a point in time or the changes therein for a period of time in conformity with a comprehensive basis of accounting, but does not include incidental financial data included in management advisory services reports to support recommendations to a client, nor does it include tax returns and supporting documents.

“*Firm*” means a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, professional corporation, professional limited liability company, limited liability partnership or any other form of organization issued a permit to practice as a firm under Iowa Code section 542.7 or 542.8 or the office of the auditor of state, state of Iowa, when the auditor of state is a certified public accountant.

“*Forecast*” means prospective financial statements that present, to the best of the responsible party’s knowledge and belief, an entity’s expected financial position, results of operations, and changes in financial position or cash flows that are based on the responsible party’s assumptions reflecting conditions it expects to exist and the course of action it expects to take.

“*GASB*” means the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

“*Home office*” means the location specified by the client as the address to which an attest or compilation service is directed, which may be a subunit or subsidiary of an entity or the principal office of an entity.

“*IASB*” means International Accounting Standards Board.

“*IFRS*” means International Financial Reporting Standards.

“*IRS*” means the Internal Revenue Service, United States Department of the Treasury.

“*License*” means a certificate issued under Iowa Code section 542.6 or 542.19, a permit issued under Iowa Code section 542.7 or a license or permit issued under Iowa Code section 542.8 or a certificate, permit or license issued under corresponding prior law.

“*Licensed public accountant*” means a person licensed by the board pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.8 who does not hold a certificate as a certified public accountant under this chapter. A “licensed public accountant” is not authorized to perform attest services, but may offer to perform or perform for the public any of the following public accounting services:

1. Recording financial transactions in books of record.
2. Making adjustments of financial transactions in books of record.
3. Making trial balances from books of record.
4. Preparing internal verification and analysis of books or accounts of original entry.
5. Preparing financial statements, schedules, or reports.
6. Devising and installing systems or methods of bookkeeping, internal controls of financial data, or the recording of financial data.
7. Preparing compilations.

“*Licensed public accounting firm*” means a sole proprietorship, corporation, professional corporation, partnership, professional limited liability company, limited liability partnership or any other form of organization issued a permit to practice as a firm of licensed public accountants under Iowa Code section 542.8.

“*Licensee*” means the holder of a license.

“*LPA*” means licensed public accountant.

“*Managing partner,*” “*managing shareholder,*” or “*managing member*” means the designated individual with ultimate responsibility for the operation of a firm’s practice.

“*NASBA*” means the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy.

“*NSA*” means the National Society of Accountants.

“*Office*” means any Iowa workspace identified or advertised to the general public as a location where public accounting services are performed.

“*Owner*” means any person who has equity ownership interest in a CPA or LPA firm.

“*PCAOB*” means Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. The PCAOB is a private-sector, nonprofit corporation, created by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, to oversee the auditors of public companies in order to protect the interests of investors and further the public interest.



*“Peer review,”* as used in Chapters 11 and 12 of these rules, means a study, appraisal, or review of one or more aspects of the professional work of a licensee or firm that issues attest or compilation reports, by a licensed person or persons not affiliated with the licensee or firm being reviewed. “Peer review” does not include a peer review conducted pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 272C in connection with a disciplinary investigation.

*“Person,”* unless the context indicates otherwise, means individuals, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships or other forms of entities.

*“Person associated with a CPA or LPA”* means any owner, partner, shareholder, member, employee, assistant, or independent contractor of a CPA or LPA firm.

*“Practice of public accounting”* means the performance or the offering to perform, by a person holding oneself out to the public as a certified public accountant or a licensed public accountant, one or more kinds of professional services involving the use of accounting, attest, or auditing skills, including the issuance of reports on financial statements, or of one or more kinds of management advisory, financial advisory, or consulting services, or the preparation of tax returns or the furnishing of advice on tax matters. However, with respect to licensed public accountants, the “practice of public accounting” shall not include attest or auditing services or the rendering of an opinion attesting to the reliability of any representation embracing financial information.

*“Practice privilege”* means an authorization to practice public accounting in Iowa or for clients with a home office in Iowa without licensure under this chapter, as provided in Iowa Code section 542.20.

*“Principal place of business”* means the primary location from which public accounting services are performed. A person or firm may only have one principal place of business at any one time. Persons who perform public accounting services at multiple or rotating locations, such as CPAs who perform attest services on assignment as needed in multiple jurisdictions, may designate as their principal place of business the location that most often serves as the person’s home base of operations.

*“Projection”* means prospective financial statements that present, to the best of the responsible party’s knowledge and belief given one or more hypothetical assumptions, an entity’s expected financial position, results of operations, and changes in financial position or cash flows that are based on the responsible party’s assumptions reflecting conditions it expects would exist and the course of action it expects would be taken given such hypothetical assumptions.

*“Report,”* when used with reference to any attest or compilation services, means a report, opinion, or other form of a writing that states or implies assurance as to the reliability of the attested information or compiled financial statements and that includes or is accompanied by a statement or implication that the person or firm issuing the report has special knowledge or competence in accounting or auditing. Such statement or implication of special knowledge or competence may arise from use by the issuer of the report of names or titles indicating that the person or firm is an accountant or auditor, or from the language of the report itself. “Report” includes any form of language which disclaims an opinion when such form of language is conventionally understood to imply a positive assurance as to the reliability of the attested information or compiled financial statements referred to or special knowledge or competence on the part of the person or firm issuing the language, and any other form of language that is conventionally understood to imply such assurance or such special knowledge or competence.

*“Respondent”* means any person against whom a formal statement of charges has been filed or any person whose legal right provided for in Iowa Code chapter 542 shall be determined or affected.

*“Review”* means to perform inquiry and analytical procedures that permit a CPA to determine whether there is a reasonable basis for expressing limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles or, if applicable, with another comprehensive basis of accounting.

*“SAS”* means statements on auditing standards.

*“SEC”* means the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

*“SSARS”* means the statements on standards for accounting and review services.

“*State*” means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or Guam.

“*Substantial equivalency*” means a determination by the board that the education, examination, and experience requirements contained in the statutes and administrative rules of another jurisdiction are comparable to, or exceed, the education, examination, and experience requirements contained in these rules or that an individual licensee’s education, examination, and experience qualifications are comparable to or exceed the education, examination, and experience requirements contained in Iowa Code section 542.6.

“*Year*,” when used in the context as a time measurement of experience in accounting work, means a period of 365 days.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 542.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 9483B, IAB 5/4/11, effective 6/1/11; ARC 9482B, IAB 5/4/11, effective 6/8/11; ARC 9676B, IAB 8/10/11, effective 7/22/11; ARC 0174C, IAB 6/13/12, effective 7/18/12; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17]

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CHAPTER 2  
ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

[Prior to 7/13/88, see Accountancy, Board of<sup>[10]</sup>]

**193A—2.1(542) Description.**

**2.1(1)** The purpose of the accountancy examining board is to administer and enforce the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 542 with regard to the practice of accountancy in the state of Iowa including the examining of candidates; issuing of certificates and licenses; granting of permits to practice accountancy; investigating violations and infractions of the accountancy law; disciplining certificate holders, licensees or permit holders; regulating individuals or firms exercising a practice privilege; and imposing civil penalties against nonlicensees. To this end, the board has promulgated these rules to clarify the board's intent and procedures.

**2.1(2)** The primary mission of the board is to protect the public interest. All board rules shall be construed as fostering the guiding policies and principles described in Iowa Code section 542.2. The board and its licensees shall strive at all times to protect the public interest by promoting the reliability of information that is used for guidance in financial transactions or accounting for or assessing the financial status or performance of commercial, noncommercial, and governmental enterprises.

**2.1(3)** All official communications, including submissions and requests, should be addressed to the board at 200 E. Grand Avenue, Suite 350, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 2719C, IAB 9/28/16, effective 11/2/16]

**193A—2.2(542) Advisory committees.** The board chair may appoint advisory committees of not less than two nor more than four members of the board for the purpose of making recommendations to the board concerning the board's responsibilities as to examinations, licensing, continuing education, professional conduct, discipline, and other board matters.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—2.3(542) Annual meeting.** The annual meeting of the board shall be the first meeting scheduled after April 30. At this meeting the chair and vice-chair shall be elected to serve until their successors are elected. The newly elected officers shall assume the duties of their respective offices at the conclusion of the meeting at which they were elected.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—2.4(542) Other meetings.** In addition to the annual meeting and subsequent meetings, the time and place of which may be fixed by resolution of the board, a meeting may be called by the chairperson of the board or by joint call of a majority of its members.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—2.5(542) Board administrator's duties.**

**2.5(1)** The board administrator shall ensure that complete records are kept of all applications for examination and registration, all certificates, licenses and permits granted, and all necessary information in regard thereto. The board administrator is the lawful custodian of the board records.

**2.5(2)** The board administrator shall determine when the legal requirements for licensure have been satisfied with regard to issuance of certificates, licenses or registrations; and the board administrator shall submit to the board any questionable application.

**2.5(3)** The board administrator shall keep accurate minutes of the meetings of the board. The board administrator shall keep a list of the names of persons issued certificates as certified public accountants, persons issued licenses as licensed public accountants, and all firms issued permits to practice.

**2.5(4)** The board administrator shall perform such additional administrative duties as are requested by the board or otherwise authorized by this chapter or the rules of the professional licensing and regulation division.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—2.6(542) Disclosure of confidential information.**

**2.6(1)** Iowa Code section 542.4(5) prohibits members of the board from disclosing a final examination score to persons other than the one who took the examination. Persons who take the examination may consent to the publication of their names on a list of passing candidates.

**2.6(2)** Information relating to the examination results, including the specific grades by subject matter, shall be given only to the person who took the examination, except that the board may:

*a.* Disclose the specific grades by subject matter to the regulatory authority of any other state or foreign country in connection with the candidate's application for a reciprocal certificate or license from the other state or foreign country, but only if requested by the applicant.

*b.* Disclose the specific grades by subject matter to educational institutions, professional organizations, or others, provided the names of the persons taking the examination are not provided in conjunction with the scores.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—2.7(17A,21,22,272C,542) Uniform bureau rules.** Administrative and procedural rules which are common to all boards in the bureau can be found in the rules of the professional licensing and regulation bureau.

**2.7(1)** Persons seeking waivers or variances from board rules should review the uniform rules at 193—Chapter 5.

**2.7(2)** Rules outlining procedures regarding investigatory subpoenas can be found at 193—Chapter 6.

**2.7(3)** Rules regarding contested cases appear at 193—Chapter 7.

**2.7(4)** Rules regarding denial of issuance or renewal of license or license suspension or revocation for nonpayment of child support, debts owing to the state, or student loans appear at 193—Chapter 8.

**2.7(5)** Rules outlining procedures for petitions for rule making are at 193—Chapter 9.

**2.7(6)** Rules regarding procedures to be followed when seeking declaratory orders can be found at 193—Chapter 10.

**2.7(7)** Rules regarding sales of goods and services by board or commission members appear at 193—Chapter 11.

**2.7(8)** Rules regarding impaired licensee review committees appear at 193—Chapter 12.

**2.7(9)** Rules covering public records and fair information practices appear at 193—Chapter 13.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 21, 22, 272C and 542.

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CHAPTER 3  
CERTIFICATION OF CPAs  
[Prior to 7/13/88, see Accountancy, Board of<sup>[10]</sup>]

**193A—3.1(542) Qualifications for a certificate as a certified public accountant.**

**3.1(1)** A person of good moral character who makes application pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.6 may be granted a certificate as a certified public accountant if the person satisfies all of the following qualifications:

- a.* Satisfactory completion of the educational requirements of Iowa Code section 542.5(7) and rule 193A—3.2(542);
- b.* No less than one year of verified experience including the types of services described in Iowa Code section 542.5(12) and rule 193A—3.12(542); and
- c.* Successful completion of the examination described in Iowa Code section 542.5(8) and rule 193A—3.5(542) and the ethics course and examination outlined in 193A—3.13(542).

**3.1(2)** An application may be denied if the applicant:

- a.* Has been convicted of a crime described in Iowa Code section 542.5(2);
- b.* Has had a professional license of any kind revoked in this or any other jurisdiction, as provided in Iowa Code section 542.5(3);
- c.* Makes a false statement of material fact on an application for a certificate or is otherwise implicated in the submission of a false application as provided in Iowa Code section 542.5(4);
- d.* Has violated a provision of Iowa Code section 542.20 or has been assessed penalties pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.14 or 193A—Chapter 17;
- e.* Is the subject of a notice of noncompliance as provided in 193—Chapter 8;
- f.* Demonstrates a lack of moral character in a manner which the board reasonably believes will impair the applicant's ability to practice public accountancy in full compliance with the public interest and state policies described in Iowa Code section 542.2. While it is not possible to itemize all actions or behaviors which may demonstrate a lack of moral character, the following nonexclusive list of factors will guide the board in making its determination:

- (1) A pattern and practice of making false or deceptive representations, or of omitting material facts, while providing the public any of the services described in Iowa Code section 542.3(20);
  - (2) Fraud or dishonesty while advertising or selling goods or services to the public;
  - (3) Willful or repeated failure to timely file tax returns or other mandatory submittals due a governmental body;
  - (4) Fiscally irresponsible behavior in the absence of mitigating circumstances;
- g.* Is subject to discipline on any ground that would form the basis for discipline against a licensee;

or

- h.* Has had a practice privilege revoked in this or another jurisdiction.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—3.2(542) Colleges or universities recognized by the board.** Iowa Code section 542.5, in providing for educational qualifications for a certificate as a certified public accountant, refers to colleges or universities “recognized by the board.” For such purpose, the board recognizes educational institutions accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and the regional accrediting bodies listed in the current publication of the Accredited Institutions of Post Secondary Education, which listing is made a part of these rules by reference.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 542.5.

[ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15]

**193A—3.3(542) Accounting concentration.**

**3.3(1)** A candidate will be deemed to have met the educational requirement if, as part of the 150 semester hours of education as outlined in Iowa Code section 542.5, the candidate has met one of the following four conditions:

*a.* Earned a graduate degree with a concentration in accounting from a program that is accredited in accounting by an accrediting agency recognized by the board.

*b.* Earned a graduate degree in business from a program that is accredited in business by an accrediting agency recognized by the board and completed at least 24 semester hours in accounting including courses covering the subjects of financial accounting, auditing, taxation, and management accounting. Such accounting hours shall not include elementary accounting or principles of accounting, internships or life experience.

*c.* Earned a baccalaureate degree in business or accounting from a program that is accredited in business by an accrediting agency recognized by the board and completed at least 24 semester hours in accounting courses covering the subjects of financial accounting, auditing, taxation, and management accounting. Such accounting hours shall not include elementary accounting or principles of accounting, internships or life experience.

*d.* Earned a baccalaureate or higher degree and completed the following hours from an accredited institution recognized by the board:

(1) At least 24 semester hours in accounting courses above elementary accounting or principles of accounting covering the subjects of financial accounting, auditing, taxation, and management accounting, not including internships or life experience; and

(2) At least 24 additional semester hours in business-related courses, not including internships or life experience. Elementary accounting hours that do not qualify under subparagraph 3.3(1) “*d*”(1) above may apply toward business-related courses.

Quarter hours will be accepted in lieu of semester hours at a 3:2 ratio; that is, three quarter hours is equivalent to two semester hours. Internships and life experience hours may apply toward the total 150 hours’ requirement.

**3.3(2)** The board will consider correspondence study and study in other schools not meeting the above requirements on an individual basis if the candidate can provide evidence that such study would be acceptable for credit by a college or university recognized by the board; provided, however, that at least 18 of the required hours in accounting and at least 16 of the required hours in business-related subjects must be obtained in a college or university recognized by the board.

**3.3(3)** The applicant’s claim to college or university credits must be confirmed by an official transcript of credit issued by the institution in question. The applicant shall be responsible for having such transcripts sent to the board’s test administrator at the time of making application. The applicant shall also be responsible for having any institution not listed under rule 193A—3.2(542) furnish the board evidence that it meets the accreditation requirements of the board.

**3.3(4)** Graduates of foreign colleges or universities shall have their education evaluated by a foreign credentials evaluation advisory service specified by the board.

### **193A—3.4(542) Examination applications.**

**3.4(1)** An individual desiring to take the certified public accountant examination as an initial candidate should apply to the board’s test administrator. An application shall not be approved until complete in all respects. A complete application includes a completed application form, the designated fee, and all applicable college transcripts.

**3.4(2)** To be eligible to make application for the examination, a candidate shall fulfill the requirements of rule 193A—3.3(542).

**3.4(3)** A candidate for the examination who has been convicted in a court of competent jurisdiction in this state, or another state, territory, or a district of the United States, or in a foreign jurisdiction of forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses, theft, extortion, conspiracy to defraud, or other similar offense, or of any crime involving moral character or dishonesty may be denied admittance to the examination by the board on the grounds of the conviction. For purposes of this subrule, “conviction” means a conviction for an indictable offense and includes a guilty plea, deferred judgment from the time of entry of the deferred judgment until the time the defendant is discharged by the court without entry of judgment, or other finding of guilt by a court of competent jurisdiction.

**3.4(4)** A candidate for examination who has had a professional license of any kind revoked in this or any other jurisdiction may be denied admittance to the examination by the board on the grounds of the revocation.

**3.4(5)** A candidate who makes a false statement of material fact on an application for examination for a certificate, or who causes to be submitted or has been a party to preparing or submitting a false application for a certificate, may be denied a certificate by the board on the grounds of the false statement or submission.

**3.4(6)** A candidate may be considered as a reexamination applicant regardless of whether or not the candidate sat for the examination once initially approved. Reexamination applicants may apply by telephone to the board's test administrator or may apply on-line if the technology is available.

**3.4(7)** A nonrefundable proctoring fee shall be collected from a candidate who wishes to be proctored in Iowa.

**193A—3.5(542) Content and grading of the examination.**

**3.5(1)** The board may make use of the uniform certified public accountant's examination prepared by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or another nationally recognized organization under a plan of cooperation with the boards of all states and territories of the United States.

**3.5(2)** The board may also make use of the advisory grading service provided by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or another nationally recognized organization under a plan of cooperation with the boards of all states and territories of the United States.

**3.5(3)** A grade of at least 75 in each subject shall be considered passing.

**193A—3.6(542) Conditional requirements.**

**3.6(1)** Effective with the implementation of the computer-based examination, a candidate may take the required test subjects individually and in any order. Except as provided in rule 193A—3.7(542), credit for any subjects passed shall be valid for 18 months from the actual date the candidate sat for the subject, without the candidate's having to attain a minimum score on any failed subject(s) and without regard to whether the candidate sat for any other subjects. The candidate shall also be subject to the following:

*a.* The candidate must pass all four subjects of the examination within a rolling 18-month period that begins on the date that the first subject is passed. If all four subjects are not passed within the 18-month period, credit for any subject taken outside the 18-month period shall expire.

*b.* If a candidate fails a subject, the candidate cannot retake the same failed subject in an examination window. An examination window refers to a three-month period in which a candidate has the opportunity to take the examination (comprised of two months when the examination is offered and one month when the examination will not be offered while routine maintenance is performed and the item bank is refreshed). Thus, the candidate will be able to sit for the examination two out of three months within an examination window.

**3.6(2)** A candidate shall be deemed to have passed the examination once the candidate holds, at the same time, valid credit for passing each of the four subjects of the examination. For purposes of this rule, credit for passing a subject of the examination is valid from the actual date of the testing event for that subject, regardless of the date the candidate actually received notice of the passing score.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 542.5.  
[ARC 9482B, IAB 5/4/11, effective 6/8/11]

**193A—3.7(542) Extension of conditional status.**

**3.7(1)** The time limit within which a candidate is required to pass all subjects under these rules shall not include any period during which the candidate was serving in the armed forces of the United States. This exception does not apply if the candidate takes an examination while so serving. The board may extend the time limit in particular instances on a case-by-case basis.

**3.7(2)** The time limit within which a candidate is required to pass all subjects under these rules may be extended for hardship cases, such as when the applicant for the examination is prevented from

attending for such reasons as unexpected illness, verified by a medical doctor, or a death in the family, verified in writing.

**3.7(3)** The time limit within which a candidate is required to pass all subjects under these rules may be extended if circumstances occur which prevent the score from an examination from reaching the candidate in a reasonable period of time. Such circumstances would allow the candidate the opportunity to retake a failed subject.

**193A—3.8(542) Transfer of credit from another jurisdiction.**

**3.8(1)** A candidate requesting transfer of grades from any other jurisdiction will be subject to the same provisions of these rules as an Iowa candidate, provided that the examination given by the licensing authority in the other state was an examination approved by the Iowa board.

**3.8(2)** A candidate requesting transfer of grades from any other jurisdiction who does not meet the provisions of these rules, but who meets all of the requirements for issuance of an original certificate in the examining state other than residency, may, at the board's discretion, be required to take at least one section of the examination designated by the board.

**193A—3.9(542) Examination procedures.**

**3.9(1)** At the examination, a candidate must provide evidence of identification with two forms of official documentation such as a driver's license, student identification, service identification, or passport that contains the candidate's photograph and signature.

**3.9(2)** The candidate may be photographed by the test administrator at each appearance for the examination. The test administrator may collect from the candidate a fee for the processing of the photograph.

**3.9(3)** Scratch paper and supplies furnished by the board's test administrator shall remain the administrator's property and must be returned whether used or not.

**3.9(4)** In the event that a computer malfunction or failure occurs while the examination is being conducted, the liability of the board or its test administrator will be limited to the fee paid by the applicant for the examination.

**193A—3.10(542) Conduct of the examination.**

**3.10(1)** Any individual who subverts or attempts to subvert the examination process may, at the discretion of the board, have the individual's examination scores declared invalid for the purpose of certification in Iowa, be barred from accountancy licensing and certification examinations in Iowa, or be subject to the imposition of other sanctions the board deems appropriate.

**3.10(2)** Conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert the examination process includes, but is not limited to:

*a.* Conduct which violates the security of the examination materials, such as removing from the examination room any of the examination materials; reproducing or reconstructing any portion of the licensing examination; aiding by any means in the reproduction or reconstruction of any portion of the licensing examination; selling, distributing, buying, receiving, or having unauthorized possession of any portion of a future, current, or previously administered licensing examination.

*b.* Conduct which violates the standards of test administration, such as communicating with any other examination candidate during the administration of the licensing examination; communicating with others outside of the examination site during the administration of the examination; copying answers from another candidate or permitting one's answers to be copied by another candidate during the administration of the examination; having in one's possession during the administration of the licensing examination any books, notes, written or printed materials or data of any kind, other than the examination materials distributed.

*c.* Conduct which violates the examination process, such as falsifying or misrepresenting educational credentials or other information required for admission to the licensing examination; impersonating an examination candidate or having an impersonator take the licensing examination on one's behalf.



**3.10(3)** Any examination candidate who wishes to appeal a decision of the board under this rule may request a contested case hearing. The request for hearing shall be in writing, shall briefly describe the basis for the appeal, and shall be filed in the board's office within 30 days of the date of the board decision being appealed. Any hearing requested under this subrule shall be governed by the rules applicable to contested case hearings under 193—Chapter 7.

**193A—3.11(542) Refunding of examination fees.** Examination fees shall not be refunded except in hardship cases, such as when the candidate for the examination is prevented from attending for such reasons as unexpected illness, verified by a medical doctor, a death in the family, or a call to active military service, 50 percent of the fee may be returned. Written documentation including evidence of the hardship shall be provided to the board's test administrator.

**193A—3.12(542) Experience for certificate.**

**3.12(1)** Experience shall include providing any type of service or advice involving the use of accounting, attest, compilation, management advisory, financial advisory, tax or consulting skills. Experience may be gained through employment in government, industry, academia, or public practice.

**3.12(2)** One year of experience shall consist of full- or part-time employment that extends over a period of no less than one year and no more than three years and includes no fewer than 2,000 hours of performance of services outlined in subrule 3.12(1). Experience may be gained in more than one employment situation, including an internship.

**3.12(3)** An applicant seeking qualification as an attest CPA shall have at a minimum two years of experience as more fully described in 193A—subrule 6.3(1).

**3.12(4)** All experience shall be verified by a licensee with direct supervisory control over the applicant or by a licensee who can attest that the experience gained by the applicant meets the requirements of subrule 3.12(1) if the applicant is not supervised by a licensee.

**3.12(5)** Teaching experience shall be in the employment of an institution of higher education and shall include teaching a minimum of 24 semester hours of accounting courses for which the course participants receive credit on an official transcript. Teaching of noncredit continuing education courses shall not qualify under this rule.

**193A—3.13(542) Ethics course and examination.** A successful candidate shall also be required to pass an examination covering the code of ethical conduct prior to issuance of the certificate.

**193A—3.14(542) Obtaining the certificate.**

**3.14(1)** A candidate who successfully passes the examination, completes the ethics course and examination and meets all of the requirements outlined in rule 193A—3.1(542) shall make application for the certificate on a form which may be obtained on the board's website. An applicant for a certificate may be denied the certificate for reasons outlined in subrule 3.4(3), 3.4(4), or 3.4(5) regardless of when the incident occurred.

**3.14(2)** A candidate who meets the requirements for a certificate outlined in rule 193A—3.1(542) shall file an application for a certificate within three years of the date of passing the examination. If the candidate does not file an application for a certificate within the required time frame, the candidate must comply with the basic continuing education requirements outlined in rule 193A—10.5(542) prior to filing an application. The required continuing education hours shall include a minimum of eight hours of continuing education every three years devoted to financial statement presentation, such as courses covering the statements on standards for accounting and review services (SSARS) and accounting and auditing updates.

[ARC 9482B, IAB 5/4/11, effective 6/8/11; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—3.15(542) Use of title.**

**3.15(1)** Only a person who holds an active, unexpired certificate and who complies with the requirements of 193A—Chapters 5 and 10 or a person lawfully exercising a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20 may use or assume the title "certified public accountant" or the abbreviation

“CPA” or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card, or device tending to indicate that such person is a certified public accountant.

**3.15(2)** Rules regarding the use of the title “CPA” in a firm name are found in the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct as adopted by reference in 193A—Chapter 13.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 9482B, IAB 5/4/11, effective 6/8/11; ARC 3230C, IAB 8/2/17, effective 9/6/17]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 542 and Iowa Code section 546.10.

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[Filed ARC 4243C (Notice ARC 3988C, IAB 9/12/18), IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

CHAPTER 4  
LICENSURE OF LPAs

[Prior to 7/13/88, see Accountancy, Board of<sup>[10]</sup>]

**193A—4.1(542) Qualifications for a license as a licensed public accountant.**

**4.1(1)** A person of good moral character who makes application pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.8 may be granted a license as a licensed public accountant if the person satisfies all of the following qualifications:

- a. Satisfactory completion of the educational requirements of Iowa Code section 542.8(1) and rule 193A—4.2(542);
- b. No less than one year of verified experience including the types of services described in Iowa Code section 542.8(8) and rule 193A—4.12(542); and
- c. Successful completion of the examination described in Iowa Code section 542.8(3) and rule 193A—4.7(542) and the ethics course and examination outlined in 193A—4.13(542).

**4.1(2)** An application may be denied if the applicant:

- a. Has been convicted of a crime;
- b. Has had a professional license of any kind revoked in this or any other jurisdiction;
- c. Makes a false statement of material fact on an application for a license or is otherwise implicated in the submission of a false application;
- d. Has been assessed penalties pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.14 or 193A—Chapter 17;
- e. Is the subject of a notice of noncompliance as provided in 193—Chapter 8;
- f. Demonstrates a lack of moral character in a manner that the board reasonably believes will impair the applicant's ability to practice public accountancy in full compliance with the public interest and state policies described in Iowa Code section 542.2. While it is not possible to itemize all actions or behaviors which may demonstrate a lack of moral character, the following nonexclusive list of factors will guide the board in making its determination:

- (1) A pattern and practice of making false or deceptive representations, or of omitting material facts, while providing any accounting services to the public;
  - (2) Fraud or dishonesty while advertising or selling goods or services to the public;
  - (3) Willful or repeated failure to timely file tax returns or other mandatory submittals due a governmental body;
  - (4) Fiscally irresponsible behavior in the absence of mitigating circumstances; or
  - g. Is subject to discipline on any ground that would form the basis for discipline against a licensee.
- [ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—4.2(542) Examination application.**

**4.2(1)** An individual desiring to take the examination to qualify for a license as a licensed public accountant shall apply to the board's test administrator.

**4.2(2)** To be eligible to take the examination, the applicant must meet the requirements of Iowa Code section 542.8(1) "b" at the time of filing the application.

**4.2(3)** A candidate for the examination who has been convicted in a court of competent jurisdiction in this state, or another state, territory, or a district of the United States, or in a foreign jurisdiction of forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses, theft, extortion, conspiracy to defraud, or other similar offense, or of any crime involving moral character or dishonesty may be denied admittance to the examination by the board on the grounds of the conviction. For purposes of this subrule, "conviction" means a conviction for an indictable offense and includes a guilty plea, deferred judgment from the time of entry of the deferred judgment until the time the defendant is discharged by the court without entry of judgment, or other finding of guilt by a court of competent jurisdiction.

**4.2(4)** A candidate for examination who has had a professional license of any kind revoked in this or any other jurisdiction may be denied admittance to the examination by the board on the grounds of the revocation.

**193A—4.3(542) Major in accounting.** In determining whether the requirement in Iowa Code section 542.8(1) “b”(2) as to a “major in accounting” has been met, the board will follow the rules associated with a “concentration in accounting” outlined in 193A—paragraph 3.3(2) “c.”

**193A—4.4(542) Transcripts required.** The applicant’s claim to college, university, business school, or correspondence school credit must be confirmed by an official transcript issued by the institution. The applicant shall be responsible for having such transcripts sent to the board at the time of making application. The applicant shall also be responsible for having the institution furnish the board evidence that the institution meets the accreditation requirements of the board. The applicant is also responsible for all such material being in possession of the board by the deadline for filing the application; otherwise, the application shall be considered incomplete and disapproved by the board.

**193A—4.5(542) Deadline for filing applications.** Rescinded **ARC 4243C**, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19.

**193A—4.6(79GA,ch55) Admittance prior to completing educational requirements.** Rescinded IAB 2/16/05, effective 3/23/05.

**193A—4.7(542) Content and grading of the examination.**

**4.7(1)** The board may use the examination prepared by the Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation. The examination shall not include any questions regarding auditing or attest functions.

**4.7(2)** The board may use the grading services provided by the Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation.

**4.7(3)** The identity of the person taking the examination shall be concealed until after the examination papers have been graded. Absent a showing of good cause, the board shall accept the passing grade established by the Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation.

**4.7(4)** Alternatively, an applicant may satisfy the examination requirement of this rule by passing the Financial Accounting and Reporting-Business Enterprises and Accounting and Reporting-Taxation, Managerial, Governmental and Not-for-Profit Organization sections of the CPA examination provided by the AICPA.

**193A—4.8(542) Conditioning requirements.**

**4.8(1)** An applicant must take all subjects at one sitting unless the applicant becomes a conditional candidate or passes all subjects.

**4.8(2)** If an applicant receives a passing grade in any of the subjects and obtains a grade of not less than 50 in the subject or subjects failed, the applicant shall be considered a conditional candidate entitled to receive credit for the subject or subjects passed and be reexamined in the subject or subjects not passed during the next six succeeding examinations upon payment of the required fee.

**4.8(3)** The time limit within which an applicant is required to pass all subjects under this rule shall not include any period during which the applicant was serving in the armed forces of the United States, unless the applicant takes an examination while so serving, in which case such time shall be included in computing the time limitation.

**4.8(4)** The time limit within which a candidate is required to pass all subjects under this rule may be extended for hardship cases, such as when the applicant for the examination is prevented from attending for such reasons as unexpected illness, verified by a medical doctor, or a death in the family, verified in writing.

**193A—4.9(542) Examination procedures.** The examination procedures to be followed by a candidate for the certified public accountants’ examination as outlined in rule 193A—3.8(542) shall also apply to a licensed public accountant examination candidate.

**193A—4.10(542) Refunding of examination fees.** Examination fees will not be refunded except as provided by the rules concerning the refunding of examination fees to an examination candidate for a certified public accountant certificate outlined in 193A—3.10(542).

**193A—4.11(542) Credit for an examination taken in another state.** A candidate who has partially passed an examination in another state will be given credit for the part or parts passed, provided the candidate meets the conditioning requirements of the board and further provided the examination given by the licensing authority in the other state was an examination prepared and graded by the Board of Examiners of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or the Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation.

**193A—4.12(542) Experience for license.**

**4.12(1)** Experience shall include providing any type of service or advice involving the use of accounting, compilation, management advisory, financial advisory, tax or consulting skills. Experience may be gained through employment in government, industry, academia, or public practice.

**4.12(2)** One year of experience shall consist of full- or part-time employment that extends over a period of no less than one year and no more than three years and includes no fewer than 2,000 hours of performance of services outlined in subrule 4.12(1). Experience may be gained in more than one employment situation, including an internship.

**4.12(3)** All experience shall be verified by a licensee with direct supervisory control over the applicant or by a licensee who can attest that the experience gained by the applicant meets the requirements of subrule 4.12(1) if the applicant is not supervised by a licensee.

**4.12(4)** Teaching experience shall be in the employment of an institution of higher education and shall include teaching a minimum of 24 semester hours of accounting courses for which the course participants shall receive credit on an official transcript. Teaching of noncredit continuing education courses shall not qualify under this rule.

**193A—4.13(542) Ethics course and examination.** A successful candidate shall also be required to pass an examination covering the code of ethical conduct prior to issuance of the license.

**193A—4.14(542) Statements on standards for accounting and review services (SSARS) education.** An LPA license applicant shall complete a minimum of seven hours of continuing education devoted to statements on standards for accounting and review services (SSARS) prior to issuance of the license. An LPA license applicant is exempt from this requirement if the applicant has passed the CPA examination provided by the AICPA.

**193A—4.15(542) Obtaining the license.** A candidate who successfully passes the examination and completes the requirements outlined in rules 193A—4.12(542), 193A—4.13(542) and 193A—4.14(542) shall make application for licensure on a form available through the online application process. An applicant shall list on the application all states in which the applicant has applied for or holds a certificate, license or permit and shall also list any past denial, revocation, suspension, refusal to renew, or voluntary surrender to avoid disciplinary action of a certificate, license or permit. An applicant shall notify the board in writing within 30 days after the occurrence of any issuance, denial, revocation, suspension, refusal to renew, or voluntary surrender to avoid disciplinary action of a certificate, license or permit by another state. An applicant for licensure may be denied the license for reasons outlined in subrule 4.1(2) regardless of when the incident occurred.

[ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—4.16(542) Licensure by reciprocity.**

**4.16(1)** The examination required by Iowa Code section 542.8 will be waived for an applicant who has passed the examination required under the laws of another state, provided the examination given by the licensing authority of the other state was an examination prepared and graded by the Board of

Examiners of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or the Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation.

**4.16(2)** For the purpose of Iowa Code section 542.8, the title by which such other state designates its accountants shall not be controlling, but the matter shall be controlled by substantive requirements, whether such accountants be called licensed public accountants, public accountants, accounting practitioners or any other similar title.

**4.16(3)** A person desiring a license as a licensed public accountant in this state on the basis of a licensed public accountant license issued by another state must apply through the online application process. The burden is on the applicant to obtain information satisfactory to the board that the applicant's license in such other state is in full force and effect and that the requirements for obtaining such license were substantially equivalent to those of this state to obtain a license as a licensed public accountant.

**4.16(4)** An applicant shall list on the application all states in which the applicant has applied for or holds a certificate, license or permit and shall also list any past denial, revocation, suspension, refusal to renew or voluntary surrender to avoid disciplinary action of a certificate, license, or permit. An applicant shall notify the board in writing within 30 days after the occurrence of any issuance, denial, revocation, suspension, refusal to renew or voluntary surrender to avoid disciplinary action of a certificate, license or permit by another state.

**4.16(5)** An applicant shall affirm that all information provided on the form is true and correct. Providing false information shall be considered prima facie evidence of a violation of Iowa Code chapter 542. A nonrefundable application fee will be charged each applicant.  
[ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—4.17(542) Use of title.** Only a person holding a license as a licensed public accountant shall use or assume the title “licensed public accountant” or the abbreviation “LPA” or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card, or device tending to indicate that such person is a licensed public accountant.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 542.8.

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CHAPTER 5  
LICENSURE STATUS AND RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES

[Prior to 7/13/88, see Accountancy, Board of[10]]

[Prior to 5/1/02, see 193A—Chapter 6]

**193A—5.1(542) Licensure status and practice privilege.**

**5.1(1)** Licenses issued by the board pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.6, 542.8, or 542.19 may be in active, inactive, or lapsed status, as follows:

*a.* An initial license is issued in active status with an expiration date. Maintaining active status requires periodic renewal as provided in rule 193A—5.3(542). Renewal in active status requires satisfaction of continuing education as provided in 193A—Chapter 10.

*b.* A license may be renewed in inactive status as provided in rule 193A—5.9(272C,542) if the licensee does not satisfy the continuing education required for renewal in active status. A renewal license issued in inactive status shall lapse if not timely renewed pursuant to rule 193A—5.3(542). An inactive license may be reinstated to active status at any time pursuant to subrule 5.9(7).

*c.* An active or inactive license that is not timely renewed shall be in lapsed status. A lapsed license may be reinstated to active or inactive status at any time pursuant to subrule 5.6(3).

**5.1(2)** An individual holding an active license is authorized to use the title “CPA” or “LPA,” as applicable, in the individual’s practice of public accounting in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa.

**5.1(3)** An individual holding an inactive or lapsed license is not authorized to practice public accounting in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa using the title “CPA” or “LPA.”

**5.1(4)** Practicing public accounting in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa while holding an inactive or lapsed license is a ground for discipline under Iowa Code section 542.10 and may also or alternatively provide grounds for the regulatory actions described in Iowa Code section 542.14.

**5.1(5)** Out-of-state individuals holding an inactive or lapsed Iowa CPA certificate and out-of-state individuals to whom an Iowa CPA certificate has never been issued under Iowa Code chapter 542 or prior law may exercise a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20 if they hold an active CPA certificate in the jurisdiction in which they maintain their principal place of business and otherwise satisfy all of the conditions described in Iowa Code section 542.20 and 193A—Chapter 20.

**5.1(6)** Exercising a practice privilege in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa while holding an inactive or lapsed Iowa CPA certificate places a special burden on the individual to ensure that the public is informed about the individual’s licensure status in Iowa and in the jurisdiction of active licensure, as provided in 193A—paragraphs 20.8(2) “*b*” and 20.8(3) “*b*.” As a practical matter, an individual’s failure to clarify licensure status in Iowa and in the jurisdiction of the individual’s principal place of business may confuse the public. However, the public may consult CPAverify, a comprehensive national data bank, to verify an individual’s licensure in another jurisdiction. CPAverify may be accessed at [www.cpaverify.org](http://www.cpaverify.org). A client contacting the board or consulting the board’s website will be informed of the individual’s licensure status in Iowa.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 9482B, IAB 5/4/11, effective 6/8/11; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15]

**193A—5.2(542) Renewal of license that expires on or before June 30, 2010.** Rescinded IAB 5/4/11, effective 6/8/11.

**193A—5.3(542) License renewal.** Licenses issued pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.6 (CPA certificates), 542.8 (LPA licenses), or 542.19 (CPA certificates by substantial equivalency) shall be renewed on an annual basis and shall expire on June 30 of each year. Licenses shall be renewed through the online renewal process. An annual renewal fee will be charged.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 8691B, IAB 4/21/10, effective 3/26/10; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—5.4(542) Notices.**

**5.4(1)** The board typically sends, by electronic means, a notice to licensees in the May preceding license expiration, but neither the failure of the board to send nor a licensee's failure to receive a renewal notice shall excuse the requirement to timely renew a license.

**5.4(2)** A licensee shall notify the board within 30 days of any change of address or firm affiliation. [ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—5.5(542) Renewal procedures.**

**5.5(1)** A licensee shall submit an electronic online renewal application with the board by the June 30 deadline in the renewal year. An application shall be deemed filed on the date of electronic renewal.

**5.5(2)** An applicant for renewal under this chapter shall disclose on the application all background and character information requested by the board including, but not limited to:

*a.* All states or foreign jurisdictions in which the applicant has applied for or holds a CPA certificate or license, an LPA license, or a substantially equivalent designation from a foreign country;

*b.* Any past denial, revocation, suspension, or refusal to renew a CPA certificate, license or permit to practice, or LPA license, or voluntary surrender of a CPA certificate, license or permit or LPA license to resolve or avoid disciplinary action, or similar actions concerning a substantially equivalent foreign designation;

*c.* Any other form of discipline or other penalty imposed against a CPA certificate, license or permit, LPA license, or a substantially equivalent foreign designation, or a practice privilege;

*d.* The conviction of any crime; and

*e.* The revocation of a professional license of any kind in this or any other jurisdiction.

**5.5(3)** A licensee who performs compilation services for the public other than through a certified public accounting or licensed public accounting firm shall submit a certification of completion of a peer review conducted in accordance with 193A—Chapter 11 no less often than once every three years.

**5.5(4)** Within the meaning of Iowa Code section 17A.18(2), a timely and sufficient renewal application shall be:

*a.* Received by the board in electronic form on or before the date the license is set to expire or lapse;

*b.* Certified as accurate through the online renewal process;

*c.* Fully completed, including continuing education, if applicable; and

*d.* Accompanied with the proper fee. The fee shall be deemed improper if, for instance, the amount is incorrect, the fee was not included with the application, the credit card number provided by the applicant is incorrect, the date of expiration of a credit card is omitted or incorrect, the attempted credit card transaction is rejected, or the applicant's check is returned for insufficient funds or a closed account.

**5.5(5)** The administrative processing of an application to renew an existing license shall not prevent the board from subsequently commencing a contested case to challenge the licensee's qualifications for continued licensure if grounds exist to do so.

**5.5(6)** If grounds exist to deny a timely and sufficient application to renew, the board shall send written notification to the applicant by restricted certified mail, return receipt requested. Grounds may exist to deny an application to renew if, for instance, the licensee failed to satisfy the continuing education as required as a condition for licensure. If the basis for denial is pending disciplinary action or disciplinary investigation which is reasonably expected to culminate in disciplinary action, the board shall proceed as provided in 193—Chapter 7. If the basis for denial is not related to a pending or imminent disciplinary action, the applicant may contest the board's decision as provided in 193—subrule 7.39(1).

**5.5(7)** When a licensee appears to be in violation of mandatory continuing education requirements, the board may, in lieu of proceeding to a contested case hearing on the denial of a renewal application as provided in rule 193—7.39(546,272C), offer a licensee the opportunity to renew in inactive status or to sign a consent order. While the terms of the consent order will be tailored to the specific circumstances at issue, the consent order will typically impose a penalty between \$50 and \$250, depending on the severity of the violation; establish deadlines for compliance; and may impose additional educational



requirements on the licensee. A licensee is free to accept or reject the offer. If the offer of settlement is accepted, the licensee will be issued a renewed license and will be subject to disciplinary action if the terms of the consent order are not complied with. If the offer of settlement is rejected, the matter will be set for hearing, if timely requested by the applicant pursuant to 193—subrule 7.39(1). A licensee who falsely reports continuing education to the board shall be subject to additional sanctions including, when appropriate, suspension or revocation.

**5.5(8)** A certificate or license holder who continues to practice public accounting as a CPA or an LPA in Iowa after the certificate or license has expired shall be subject to disciplinary action. Such unauthorized activity may also be grounds to deny a licensee's application for reinstatement.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

#### **193A—5.6(542) Failure to renew.**

**5.6(1)** A license or certificate holder who fails to renew the certificate or license by the expiration date, but does so within 30 days following its expiration date, shall be assessed a penalty as provided in rule 193A—12.1(542).

**5.6(2)** If the holder fails to renew the certificate or license within the 30-day grace period outlined in subrule 5.6(1), the certificate or license will lapse and the licensee shall be required to reinstate in accordance with subrule 5.6(3). The licensee is not authorized to practice during the period of time that the certificate or license is lapsed, including the 30-day grace period.

**5.6(3)** The board may reinstate a lapsed certificate or license upon the applicant's submission of an application to reinstate and completion of all of the following:

- a. Paying a penalty as provided in rule 193A—12.1(542); and
- b. Paying the current renewal fee; and
- c. Providing evidence of completed continuing education outlined in rule 193A—10.5(542), if the licensee wishes to reinstate to active status; and
- d. Providing a written statement outlining the professional activities of the applicant during the period in which the applicant's license was lapsed. The statement shall describe all services performed which constitute the practice of accounting including, but not limited to, those professional practice activities described in subrule 5.9(2). Such statement shall state whether the applicant exercised a practice privilege in the period during which the license was lapsed and, if so, the jurisdiction of the applicant's principal place of business and status of out-of-state licensure.

**5.6(4)** A licensee holding a lapsed CPA certificate is not authorized to perform attest or compilation services or to otherwise practice public accounting using the title "CPA" in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa. A licensee holding a lapsed LPA license is not authorized to perform compilation services or to otherwise practice public accounting in Iowa using the title "LPA." A licensee holding a lapsed CPA certificate or LPA license shall not use the title "CPA" or "LPA" in any context unless the licensee discloses that the certificate or license has lapsed. Additionally, a person holding a lapsed Iowa CPA certificate and who is actively licensed as a CPA in another jurisdiction in which the person maintains the principal place of business may be eligible to exercise a practice privilege pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.20 and 193A—Chapter 20.

**5.6(5)** Practicing public accounting on a lapsed license is a ground for discipline. The board may find probable cause to file charges if the individual continues to offer services defined as the practice of public accounting while using the title "CPA" or "LPA" during the period of lapsed licensure. In addition to the disciplinary sanctions described in rule 193A—16.3(272C,542), individuals found to have practiced public accounting on a lapsed license will be required to notify clients upon such terms as the board shall order.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 9482B, IAB 5/4/11, effective 6/8/11]

**193A—5.7(272C,542) Certificates and licenses—property of the board.** Every certificate or license granted by the board shall, while it remains in the possession of the holder, be preserved by the holder but shall, nevertheless, always remain the property of the board. In the event that the certificate or license is revoked or suspended, or is not renewed in the manner prescribed by Iowa Code chapter 542 or 272C, it shall, on demand, be delivered by the holder to the board. However, a person shall be entitled to

retain possession of a lapsed certificate or license which has not been revoked, suspended or voluntarily surrendered in a disciplinary action as long as the person complies with all provisions of Iowa Code sections 542.10 and 542.13. A lapsed certificate or license may be reinstated to active or inactive status at any time pursuant to subrule 5.6(3).

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—5.8(542) Licensee’s continuing duty to report.** An active or inactive licensee shall notify the board in writing of the licensee’s conviction of a crime within 30 days of the date of conviction. “Conviction” is defined in Iowa Code section 542.5(2). Licensees shall also notify the board in writing within 30 days of the date of any issuance, denial, revocation, or suspension of a certificate, license or permit by another state.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—5.9(272C,542) Inactive status.**

**5.9(1) General purpose.** This rule establishes a procedure under which a person issued a certificate as a certified public accountant or a license as a licensed public accountant may apply to the board for licensure in inactive status. Inactive licensure under this rule is available to a certificate or license holder residing within or outside the state of Iowa who is not engaged in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa in any practice for which an active certificate or license is required. A person eligible for inactive status may, as an alternative, allow the person’s certificate or license to lapse. The board will continue to maintain a database on licensees in inactive status, including information which may not routinely be maintained after a certificate or license has lapsed through failure to renew. An inactive licensee will accordingly receive board newsletters and other mass communications from the board.

**5.9(2) Eligibility.** A person holding a lapsed or active certificate or license which has not been revoked or suspended may apply to renew in inactive status through the online application process if the person is not engaged in the state of Iowa or for clients with a home office in Iowa in any practice for which an active certificate or license is required, including:

- a. Supervising or performing any attest services, such as audits, reviews or agreed-upon procedures (which may only be performed by a CPA within a CPA firm that holds a permit to practice);
- b. Supervising or performing compilation services or otherwise issuing compilation reports (which may only be performed by a CPA or LPA); or
- c. Performing any accounting, tax, consulting, or financial or managerial advisory services for any client, business, employer, government body, or other entity while holding oneself out as a CPA or LPA, or otherwise using titles restricted in Iowa Code section 542.13.

**5.9(3) Affirmation.** The application form shall contain a statement in which the applicant affirms that the applicant will not engage in any of the practices in Iowa listed in subrule 5.9(2) without first complying with all rules governing reinstatement to active status. A person in inactive status may reinstate to active status at any time pursuant to subrule 5.9(7).

**5.9(4) Renewal.** A person licensed in inactive status may renew the person’s certificate or license on the schedule described in rule 193A—5.1(542). Such person is exempt from the continuing education requirements and will be charged a reduced renewal fee as provided in rule 193A—12.1(542). An inactive certificate or license shall lapse if not timely renewed.

**5.9(5) Permitted practices.** A person may, while registered as inactive, perform for a client, business, employer, government body, or other entity those accounting, tax, consulting, or financial or managerial advisory services which may lawfully be performed by a person to whom a certificate or license has never been issued as long as the person does not in connection with such services use the title “CPA” or “LPA,” or any other title restricted for use only by CPAs or LPAs in Iowa Code section 542.13 (with or without additional designations such as “inactive”). Restricted titles may only be used by active CPAs or LPAs who are subject to continuing education requirements to ensure that the use of such titles is consistently associated with the maintenance of competency through continuing education. Additionally, individuals who are actively licensed as CPAs in another jurisdiction in which they maintain their principal place of business may be eligible to exercise a practice privilege pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.20 and 193A—Chapter 20.

**5.9(6) Prohibited practices.** A person who, while licensed in inactive status, engages in any of the practices described in subrule 5.9(2) or violates any provision of rule 193A—14.2(17A,272C,542) is subject to disciplinary action. A person in inactive status is not authorized to verify the experience of an applicant for a CPA certificate under Iowa Code section 542.5(12) or an applicant for an LPA license under Iowa Code section 542.8(8).

**5.9(7) Reinstatement to active status.** A person licensed in inactive status shall, prior to engaging in any of the practices in Iowa listed in subrule 5.9(2) or for a client with a home office in Iowa, apply to the board to reinstate to active status. Such person shall pay the applicable renewal fee for active status, but shall be given credit for renewal fees previously paid for inactive status if the person applies for reinstatement at a date other than the person's regular renewal date. Such person must demonstrate compliance with all applicable continuing education and peer review requirements. A person who has engaged in the practice of public accounting as an active licensee of another jurisdiction while licensed as inactive in Iowa will be deemed to have satisfied the continuing education required for reinstatement if the person demonstrates that the person has satisfied substantially equivalent continuing education in the other jurisdiction.

**5.9(8) Retired status.** A person holding an inactive license who does not reasonably expect to return to the workforce in any capacity for which an active certificate or license is required due to bona fide retirement or disability may use the title "CPA, retired" or "LPA, retired," as applicable, in the context of non-income-producing personal activities.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 272C and 542 and Iowa Code section 546.10.

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CHAPTER 6  
ATTEST AND COMPILATION SERVICES

**193A—6.1(542) Who may perform attest services.**

**6.1(1)** Only a CPA may perform audit, review, or other attest services, as defined in Iowa Code section 542.3(1).

**6.1(2)** CPAs who perform attest services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa must hold an active Iowa CPA certificate or exercise a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20. CPAs are cautioned, however, that the auditor of state, the department of agriculture and land stewardship, another governmental official or body, or a client may require that an individual be licensed in Iowa as a condition of performing attest services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa, whether or not the individual may otherwise satisfy the conditions for a practice privilege. Iowa licensure as a certified public accountant is required, for example, to perform certain audit services described in Iowa Code chapter 11.

**6.1(3)** CPAs performing attest services, whether the CPAs are certified in Iowa or exercising a practice privilege, must do so in a CPA firm that holds a permit to practice pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.7 or in an out-of-state CPA firm exercising a practice privilege in compliance with Iowa Code sections 542.20(5) and 542.20(6) and associated rules and the peer review and ownership provisions of Iowa Code section 542.7.

**6.1(4)** CPAs who are responsible for supervising attest services for a CPA firm or who sign or authorize someone to sign the accountant's report on behalf of a CPA firm shall satisfy the experience or competency requirements established by nationally recognized professional standards that are applicable to the attest services performed and shall, at a minimum, satisfy the experience requirements of rule 193A—6.2(542).

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 0413C, IAB 10/31/12, effective 12/5/12; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17]

**193A—6.2(542) Attest experience required.**

**6.2(1)** A CPA who is responsible for supervising attest services or who signs or authorizes someone to sign the accountant's report on behalf of a firm shall have two years of full-time or part-time equivalent experience that extends over a period of no less than two years and includes no fewer than 4,000 hours, at least 2,000 of which shall be in providing attest services under the supervision of one or more CPAs responsible for supervising attest services on behalf of a CPA firm that holds a permit to practice in Iowa or an equivalent form of CPA firm licensure in another jurisdiction.

**6.2(2)** Experience shall include all of the following:

*a.* Experience in applying a variety of auditing procedures and techniques to the usual and customary financial transactions recorded in accounting records.

*b.* Experience in the preparation of audit working papers covering the examination of the accounts usually found in accounting records.

*c.* Experience in the planning of the program of audit work including the selection of the procedures to be followed.

*d.* Experience in the preparation of written explanations and comments on the findings of the examinations and on the content of the accounting records.

*e.* Experience in the preparation and analysis of reports and financial statements together with explanations and notes thereon.

**6.2(3)** Verification of attest experience shall be provided by the applicant and by a CPA who supervised the applicant or, if a supervising CPA is unavailable, by a CPA or CPA firm with sufficient factual documentation to verify the applicant's attest qualification.

**6.2(4)** Any applicant or CPA who has been requested to submit to the board evidence of an applicant's attest experience and has refused to do so shall, upon request by the board, explain in writing or in person the basis for the refusal. The board may require any applicant or CPA who furnished the evidence of an applicant's experience to substantiate the information provided. An applicant may be

required to appear before the board to supplement or verify evidence of experience. The board may inspect documentation relating to an applicant's claimed experience.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15]

### **193A—6.3(542) Attest qualification.**

**6.3(1)** Attest qualification is required before a CPA may perform attest services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa. "Attest qualification" or "attest qualified" means that the CPA has satisfied the experience requirements of rule 193A—6.2(542).

**6.3(2)** All CPAs who held an individual permit to practice in Iowa at any point prior to July 1, 2002, are deemed to be attest qualified. Under Iowa law prior to July 1, 2002, CPAs were only issued an individual permit to practice if they verified qualification to perform attest services. Individual permits to practice were discontinued under Iowa law effective July 1, 2002.

**6.3(3)** CPAs who did not hold a permit to practice prior to July 1, 2002, may attain or establish attest qualification as follows:

*a.* Applicants may apply for attest qualification when initially applying for a certificate as an Iowa CPA under Iowa Code section 542.6 or when applying for reciprocal Iowa certification under Iowa Code section 542.19.

*b.* Iowa CPA certificate holders may apply for attest qualification at any time at which they are qualified to do so.

*c.* Out-of-state CPAs performing attest services while exercising a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20 are not required to individually apply to the board for attest qualification. However, if:

(1) CPAs perform attest services in an Iowa CPA firm, the Iowa CPA firm shall affirm when applying for an initial or renewal firm permit to practice that the CPAs who supervise attest services for the firm or who sign or authorize someone to sign the accountant's report on behalf of the firm, as such attest services are or will in the following year be performed in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa, have been qualified to perform attest services in Iowa or another jurisdiction.

(2) CPAs perform attest services through an out-of-state CPA firm exercising a practice privilege, the out-of-state CPA firm shall affirm upon request from the board that the CPAs who supervise attest services for the firm or who sign or authorize someone to sign the accountant's report on behalf of the firm, as such attest services are or will in the following year be performed in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa, have been qualified to perform attest services in Iowa or another jurisdiction.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17]

### **193A—6.4(542) Compilation services.**

**6.4(1)** Only a CPA licensed under Iowa Code section 542.6 or 542.19, an LPA licensed under Iowa Code section 542.8, or a person exercising a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20 shall issue a report in standard form upon a compilation of financial information or otherwise provide compilation services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa.

**6.4(2)** An individual described in subrule 6.4(1) may perform compilation services through a CPA firm which holds a permit to practice under Iowa Code section 542.7, an LPA firm which holds a permit to practice under Iowa Code section 542.8, a CPA firm exercising a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20, or, if both the individual and business comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 542.13(13), through any other form of business.

**6.4(3)** All individuals described in subrule 6.4(1) who are responsible for supervising compilation services or who will sign or authorize someone to sign the accountant's compilation report on financial statements, as such compilation services will be performed in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa, shall comply with the nationally recognized professional standards that are applicable to compilation services, including SSARS.

**6.4(4)** All individuals described in subrule 6.4(1) shall satisfy peer review requirements, individually or through the peer review of a CPA or LPA firm holding a permit to practice pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.7 or 542.8 or a CPA firm exercising a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20.  
[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

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CHAPTER 7  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRMS  
[Prior to 5/1/02, see 193A—Chapter 8]

**193A—7.1(542) When licensure is required.**

**7.1(1)** Except as provided in subrule 7.1(6), a sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or any other form of organization shall apply for a permit to practice as a firm of certified public accountants prior to:

- a.* Performing or offering to perform audit, review or other attest services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa; or
- b.* Establishing an office in Iowa at which the firm uses the title “CPAs,” “CPA firm,” “certified public accountants,” or “certified public accounting firm.”

**7.1(2)** A firm which is not subject to subrule 7.1(1) may practice public accounting in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa without a permit issued by the board in conformance with Iowa Code section 542.20 and 193A—Chapter 21.

**7.1(3)** Unless individual Iowa licensure is required by the auditor of state, the department of agriculture and land stewardship, other governmental official or body, or a client, the public accounting services provided by a CPA firm holding an Iowa permit to practice may be performed in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa by Iowa CPAs or wholly by persons exercising a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20.

**7.1(4)** If a CPA firm that is issued a permit to practice by the board has one or more offices in Iowa, the public accounting services performed at each such office must be supervised by an Iowa CPA with an unexpired certificate issued under Iowa Code section 542.6 or 542.19.

**7.1(5)** A CPA firm issued a permit to practice by the board is accountable to the board and subject to discipline by the board for the acts of its owners or other agents, pursuant to 193A—subrule 14.2(4), whether or not such persons are individually licensed by the board. In order to ensure public accountability, all CPA firms issued a permit to practice under Iowa Code section 542.7 shall:

- a.* Designate an Iowa CPA or a nonlicensee owner who is responsible for the proper licensure of the firm and the firm’s compliance with all applicable laws and rules of the state;
- b.* Designate an Iowa CPA or Iowa CPAs who are responsible for the proper registration of each Iowa office and each office’s compliance with all applicable laws and rules of this state;
- c.* Designate an Iowa CPA or person with a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20 who is responsible for supervising attest services or who will sign or authorize someone to sign the accountant’s report on behalf of the firm, as such attest services will be performed in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa; and
- d.* Designate an Iowa CPA or LPA or person with a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20 who is responsible for supervising compilation services or who will sign or authorize someone to sign the accountant’s compilation report on financial statements, as such compilation services will be performed in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa.

**7.1(6)** An out-of-state CPA firm exercising a practice privilege may perform attest services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa without first obtaining a firm permit to practice in Iowa as long as the firm is validly licensed in the state of its principal place of business, complies with Iowa Code sections 542.20(5) and 542.20(6) and associated rules, and complies with the peer review and ownership provisions of Iowa Code section 542.7.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 0413C, IAB 10/31/12, effective 12/5/12; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17]

**193A—7.2(542) Application process.**

**7.2(1)** All applications shall be submitted through the board’s online application process. The board shall only process fully completed applications accompanied by the proper fee. A nonrefundable application fee shall be charged.

**7.2(2)** Fraud or deceit, by commission or omission, in obtaining a firm permit to practice is a ground for discipline, including permanent revocation of the firm's permit to practice, the individual certificate of an Iowa CPA, or an individual's practice privilege, as applicable to the entity or persons responsible.

**7.2(3)** An initial or renewal application for a firm permit to practice may be denied:

*a.* Upon any ground that would form a basis for discipline against the firm pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.10 or 193A—Chapter 14; or

*b.* Based on the firm's failure to comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 542.7 including, but not limited to, a failure to make the designations described in subrule 7.1(5) or a failure to sustain the simple majority of ownership required by Iowa Code section 542.7(3); or

*c.* Based on a regulatory or disciplinary action or criminal conviction described in subrules 7.3(14) and 7.3(15) against any of the firm's licensed or unlicensed owners.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—7.3(542) Application contents.** Applicants for a firm permit to practice shall provide such information as the board may require, including:

**7.3(1)** The lawful name of the firm.

**7.3(2)** The legal form and jurisdiction of the firm's organization.

**7.3(3)** Contact information for the principal place of business of the firm and each Iowa office.

**7.3(4)** All jurisdictions in which the firm is licensed or has applied for licensure.

**7.3(5)** The names, licensure, and contact information for all persons described in subrule 7.1(5).

**7.3(6)** The highest level of public accounting services offered by the firm, such as compilation or attest.

**7.3(7)** Evidence of satisfactory completion of the last firm peer review, when applicable.

**7.3(8)** Sufficient information from which the board can determine that a simple majority of owners hold a CPA certificate under Iowa Code section 542.6 or 542.19 or hold a CPA certificate in another state and are eligible to exercise a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20. The board reserves the right to require at any time a full list of owners, or a targeted sublist, such as a list of those persons who perform services from an Iowa office or those who perform attest or compilation services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa.

**7.3(9)** The affirmation described in 193A—paragraph 6.3(3) "c."

**7.3(10)** Affirmation that all CPAs who are responsible for supervising attest services for the CPA firm or who sign or authorize someone to sign the accountant's report on behalf of the CPA firm satisfy the experience or competency requirements established by nationally recognized professional standards that are applicable to the attest services performed in Iowa or for clients with a home office in Iowa.

**7.3(11)** Affirmation that all CPAs or LPAs who are responsible for supervising compilation services or who sign or authorize someone to sign the accountant's compilation report on behalf of the firm comply with nationally recognized professional standards that are applicable to the compilation services performed in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa.

**7.3(12)** Affirmation that all nonlicensee owners are active participants in the firm or affiliated entity.

**7.3(13)** Affirmation that the firm and its licensed or unlicensed owners will comply with all applicable Iowa laws and rules, including rules of professional conduct, when practicing in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa.

**7.3(14)** Details of any past denial, cancellation, revocation, suspension, refusal to renew, or voluntary surrender of a professional license of any kind, authority to practice, or practice privilege by the board or another state agency in any jurisdiction, a federal agency, or the PCAOB, regarding the firm and the firm's current owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members).

**7.3(15)** Details of any past felony conviction or the conviction of any crime, any element of which is dishonesty or fraud, as provided in Iowa Code section 542.5(2), under the laws of any state or the United States, regarding the firm and the firm's current owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members).

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17]

**193A—7.4(542) Annual renewal of permit.** Permits to practice must be renewed annually and shall expire on June 30 of each year. Applications to renew a permit to practice may be obtained through electronic online renewal. While the board generally sends, by electronic means, a renewal notice in the May preceding permit expiration, neither the board's failure to send a notice nor a permit holder's failure to receive a notice shall excuse the requirement to timely renew and pay the renewal fee.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—7.5(542) Renewal procedures.**

**7.5(1)** The permit holder shall submit an electronic online renewal by the June 30 deadline each year. Applications shall be deemed filed on the date of electronic renewal.

**7.5(2)** The permit holder shall list on the renewal application all states in which the applicant has applied for or holds a permit as a certified public accounting firm and list any past denial, revocation, suspension, refusal to renew or voluntary surrender to avoid disciplinary action of a permit to practice or practice privilege. Renewal applications may request such additional information as the board requires, including all of the information described in rule 193A—7.3(542).

**7.5(3)** Within the meaning of Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C and 542, a timely and sufficient renewal application shall be:

- a. Received by the board in electronic form on or before the date the permit is set to expire or lapse;
- b. Certified as accurate through the online renewal process;
- c. Fully completed and accompanied with the proper fee. The fee shall be deemed improper if, for instance, the amount is incorrect, the fee was not included with the application, the credit card number provided by the applicant is incorrect, the date of expiration of a credit card is omitted or incorrect, the attempted credit card transaction is rejected, or the applicant's check is returned for insufficient funds or a closed account.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—7.6(542) Failure to renew permit.**

**7.6(1)** A firm that fails to renew the permit by the expiration date, but does so within 30 days following the expiration date, shall be assessed a penalty as provided in rule 193A—12.1(542).

**7.6(2)** If the firm fails to renew the permit within the 30-day grace period outlined in subrule 7.6(1), the permit will lapse and the firm shall be required to reinstate in accordance with subrule 7.6(3). The firm is not authorized to practice during the period of time that the permit is lapsed, including the 30-day grace period.

**7.6(3)** The board may reinstate the permit upon payment of the proper renewal fee and a penalty as provided in rule 193A—12.1(542). The board shall also require a written statement outlining the firm's professional activities during the period of lapsed licensure, including a list of Iowa clients and the services performed.

**7.6(4)** The board may find probable cause to file charges for unlicensed practice if the firm engaged in any activity that required licensure pursuant to subrule 7.1(1) during the period of lapsed licensure. In addition to the disciplinary sanctions described in rule 193A—16.3(272C,542), firms found to have practiced public accounting in violation of subrule 7.1(1) on a lapsed license will be required to notify clients upon such terms as the board shall order.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 9482B, IAB 5/4/11, effective 6/8/11]

**193A—7.7(542) Notices required.** A holder of or applicant for a permit shall notify the board in writing within 30 days after an occurrence of any of the following:

**7.7(1)** A change in the number or location of offices within this state.

**7.7(2)** A change in the identity of a person in charge of such offices.

**7.7(3)** The denial, revocation, suspension, refusal to renew, or voluntary surrender of a permit to practice, other professional license of any kind, authority to practice, or practice privilege by another state, a state agency in any jurisdiction, a federal agency, or the PCAOB, regarding the firm or any of the firm's owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members).

**7.7(4)** A change of physical or mailing address of the primary office of the firm or of any office located in Iowa, or of any person designated by the firm pursuant to subrule 7.1(5).  
[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15]

**193A—7.8(542) Firms not in compliance with requirements.** A firm that, after receiving or renewing a permit, is not in compliance with Iowa Code section 542.7 as a result of a change in firm ownership or personnel shall take corrective action to bring the firm back into compliance as quickly as possible or apply to modify or amend the permit. The board may grant a reasonable period of time, usually 90 days, for a firm to take such corrective action. Failure to comply within a reasonable period as deemed by the board shall result in the suspension or revocation of the firm permit.  
[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—7.9(542) Peer review required.** As a condition of renewal of a permit to practice as a certified public accounting firm, the firm shall undergo, at least once every three years, a peer review conducted under the provisions outlined in 193A—Chapter 11.  
[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C and 542 and Iowa Code section 546.10.

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[Filed ARC 4243C (Notice ARC 3988C, IAB 9/12/18), IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

CHAPTER 8  
LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRMS  
[Prior to 7/13/88, see Accountancy, Board of[10]]

**193A—8.1(542) Initial permit to practice.**

**8.1(1)** A sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or any other form of organization shall apply for a permit to practice under Iowa Code section 542.8 and these rules as a firm of licensed public accountants in order to use the title “LPAs” or “LPA firm.” A nonrefundable application fee shall be charged.

**8.1(2)** The application shall be completed and submitted through the online application process and shall provide sufficient information from which the board can determine that a simple majority of owners hold licenses issued under Iowa Code section 542.8 or certificates issued under Iowa Code section 542.6 or 542.19, are eligible to practice under practice privilege pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.20, or otherwise hold a license or certificate to practice public accounting in another state. At least one owner must be licensed under Iowa Code section 542.8.

**8.1(3)** The application shall list the name, licensure, and contact information for each licensee or practice privilege practitioner who is responsible for supervising compilation services and who signs or authorizes someone to sign the accountant’s report on financial statements on behalf of the firm. The application shall affirm that any licensee listed meets the competency requirements set forth in SSARS and holds a valid license or certificate issued under Iowa Code section 542.6, 542.8, or 542.19 or is eligible to exercise a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20.

**8.1(4)** The application shall list the physical location and contact information for all offices within this state and the licensee in charge of each such office.

**8.1(5)** Persons in charge of an office located in Iowa shall be licensed in Iowa under Iowa Code section 542.6, 542.8, or 542.19.

**8.1(6)** The application shall designate an individual who holds a valid license or certificate issued under Iowa Code section 542.6, 542.8 or 542.19 or who is eligible to exercise a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20 as the person responsible for ensuring that the firm has complied with all of the requirements for a permit to practice, and shall provide contact and licensure information for such individual.

**8.1(7)** The application shall affirm that all nonlicensee owners are of good moral character as defined in 193A—paragraph 4.1(2) “f” and active participants in the firm or an affiliated entity.

**8.1(8)** The application shall affirm that all nonlicensee owners shall comply with all applicable rules of professional conduct.

**8.1(9)** The application for initial issuance of a permit shall list all states in which the applicant or any of the individuals described in subrules 8.1(2) to 8.1(5) have applied for or hold a permit as a licensed public accounting firm, certified public accounting firm, or individual license or certificate, and list any past denial, revocation, surrender, or suspension of a permit, license or certificate by another state.

**8.1(10)** The application shall list the names of any licensed or unlicensed owner who has been convicted of a felony or other crime described in Iowa Code section 542.5(2) or has had a professional license of any kind revoked in this or any other jurisdiction.

**8.1(11)** Fraud or deceit, by commission or omission, in obtaining a firm permit to practice is a ground for discipline, including permanent revocation of the firm’s permit to practice, the individual certificate of an Iowa LPA or CPA, or an individual’s practice privilege, as applicable to the entity or persons responsible.

**8.1(12)** An initial or renewal application for a firm permit to practice may be denied:

*a.* Upon any ground that would form a basis for discipline against the firm pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.10 or rule 193A—14.3(17A,272C,542) including, but not limited to, the regulatory and disciplinary actions and criminal convictions described in subrules 8.1(9) and 8.1(10);

*b.* Based on the firm’s failure to comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 542.8 including, but not limited to, a failure to make the designations described in subrules 8.1(3), 8.1(4),

and 8.1(6), or a failure to sustain the simple majority of ownership required by Iowa Code section 542.8(12)“a”; or

c. Based on a regulatory or disciplinary action or criminal conviction described in subrules 8.1(9) and 8.1(10) against any of the firm’s owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members).

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—8.2(542) Annual renewal of permit.** A permit issued under the provisions of Iowa Code section 542.8 shall be renewed annually by June 30. Applications to renew a permit to practice shall be completed and submitted through the online renewal process. While the board generally sends, by electronic means, a renewal notice in the May preceding permit expiration, neither the board’s failure to send a notice nor a permit holder’s failure to receive a notice shall excuse the requirement to timely renew and pay the renewal fee.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—8.3(542) Renewal procedures.**

**8.3(1)** The permit holder shall submit an online renewal with the board by the June 30 deadline each year. Applications shall be deemed filed on the date of renewal.

**8.3(2)** The permit holder shall list on the renewal application all states in which the applicant has applied for or holds a permit as a licensed public accounting firm and list any past denial, revocation, suspension, refusal to renew or voluntary surrender to avoid disciplinary action of a permit. Permit holders shall notify the board in writing within 30 days after the occurrence of any issuance, denial, revocation, suspension or refusal to renew or voluntary surrender to avoid disciplinary action of a permit to practice as a licensed public accounting firm by another state. Renewal applications may request such additional information as the board requires of initial applicants.

**8.3(3)** Within the meaning of Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C, and 542, a timely and sufficient renewal application shall be:

a. Received by the board in electronic form on or before the date the permit is set to expire or lapse;

b. Certified as accurate through the online renewal process;

c. Fully completed and accompanied with the proper fee. The fee shall be deemed improper if, for instance, the amount is incorrect, the fee was not included with the application, the credit card number provided by the applicant is incorrect, the date of expiration of a credit card is omitted or incorrect, the attempted credit card transaction is rejected, or the applicant’s check is returned for insufficient funds or a closed account.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—8.4(542) Failure to renew permit.**

**8.4(1)** A firm that fails to renew the permit by the expiration date, but does so within 30 days following the expiration date, shall be assessed a penalty of 25 percent of the annual renewal fee.

**8.4(2)** If the firm fails to renew the permit within the 30-day grace period outlined in subrule 8.4(1), the permit will lapse and the firm shall be required to reinstate in accordance with subrule 8.4(3). The firm is not authorized to practice as an LPA firm during the period of time that the permit is lapsed, including the 30-day grace period.

**8.4(3)** The board may reinstate the permit upon payment of the proper renewal fee and a penalty as provided in rule 193A—12.1(542). The board shall also require a written statement outlining the firm’s professional activities during the period of lapsed licensure.

**8.4(4)** The board may find probable cause to file charges for unlicensed practice if the firm continues to offer services defined as the practice of accounting while using the title “LPAs” or “LPA firm” during the period of lapsed licensure.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—8.5(542) Notices required.** A holder of or an applicant for a permit shall notify the board in writing within 30 days after an occurrence of any of the following:

**8.5(1)** A change in the identity of an owner (e.g., partner, shareholder, or member) who performs professional services in this state or for clients with a home office in this state. This is a statutory requirement the board will enforce consistent with the disclosures and affirmations required on initial and renewal application forms.

**8.5(2)** A change in the number or location of offices within this state.

**8.5(3)** A change in the identity of a person in charge of such offices.

**8.5(4)** The issuance, denial, revocation, suspension, refusal to renew, or voluntary surrender of a permit to practice, other professional license of any kind, authority to practice, or practice privilege by another state, or a state or federal agency in any jurisdiction, regarding the firm or any of the persons described in subrule 8.1(3), 8.1(4), or 8.1(6).

**8.5(5)** A change of physical or mailing address of the primary office of the firm or of any office located in Iowa or of any person designated by the firm pursuant to subrule 8.1(3), 8.1(4), or 8.1(6).  
[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—8.6(542) Firms not in compliance with requirements.** A firm which, after receiving or renewing a permit, is not in compliance with Iowa Code section 542.8 as a result of a change in firm ownership or personnel shall take corrective action to bring the firm back into compliance as quickly as possible or apply to modify or amend the permit. The board may grant a reasonable period of time, usually 90 days, for a firm to take such corrective action. Failure to comply within a reasonable period as deemed by the board shall result in the suspension or revocation of the firm permit.  
[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—8.7(542) Peer review required.** As a condition for renewal of a permit to practice as a licensed public accounting firm, the firm shall undergo, at least once every three years, a peer review conducted under the provisions outlined in 193A—Chapter 11.  
[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C and 542 and Iowa Code section 546.10.

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CHAPTER 9  
RECIPROCITY AND SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCY

**193A—9.1(542) Iowa CPA certificate required.** A person who holds a certificate or license to practice as a CPA in another state or a substantially equivalent designation from a foreign jurisdiction may apply to the board for an Iowa CPA certificate and must do so if the person plans to establish the person's principal place of business as a CPA in Iowa.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—9.2(542) Application forms.** Application forms shall be completed and submitted through the online application process. An applicant shall attest that all information provided on the form is true and accurate. An application may be denied based on a false statement of material fact. A nonrefundable fee shall be charged each applicant as provided in 193A—Chapter 12.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—9.3(542) Background and character.**

**9.3(1)** An applicant for a CPA certificate under this chapter shall disclose on the application all background and character information requested by the board including, but not limited to:

*a.* All states or foreign jurisdictions in which the applicant has applied for or holds a CPA certificate or license, or a substantially equivalent designation from a foreign country;

*b.* Any past denial, revocation, suspension, or refusal to renew a CPA certificate, license or permit to practice, or voluntary surrender of a CPA certificate, license or permit to resolve or avoid disciplinary action, or similar actions concerning a substantially equivalent foreign designation;

*c.* Any other form of discipline imposed against the holder of a CPA certificate, license or permit, or a substantially equivalent foreign designation;

*d.* The conviction of any felony or any crime described in Iowa Code section 542.5(2);

*e.* The revocation of a professional license of any kind in this or any other jurisdiction; and

*f.* Such additional information as the board may require to determine if grounds exist to deny certification under 193A—subrule 3.1(2).

**9.3(2)** The board may deny an application based on prior discipline imposed against the holder of a CPA certificate, license or permit, or a substantially equivalent foreign designation, or on any of the grounds listed in 193A—subrule 3.1(2).

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—9.4(542) Verification of state licensure.** An applicant holding a CPA certificate or license from another state or states shall submit verification that the applicant's CPA certificate or license is valid and in good standing in the state in which the applicant's principal place of business is located. An applicant applying for a CPA certificate under the substantial equivalency provisions of Iowa Code section 542.19(1) "a" and paragraph 9.5(1) "a" may attach a letter of good standing to the application. Such letter of good standing shall be prepared by the state in which the applicant's principal place of business is located and shall be dated within six months of the date of the application. To expedite the application process, the board will accept verification from another state's board by facsimile or email. The board reserves the right to request an original verification document directly from another state board.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—9.5(542) Qualifications for a CPA certificate.**

**9.5(1)** A person who holds in good standing a valid CPA certificate or license from another state shall be deemed qualified for an Iowa CPA certificate if the person satisfies one of the following three conditions:

*a. Substantially equivalent state.* The licensing standards on education, examination and experience of the state which issued the applicant's CPA certificate or license were, at the time of licensure, comparable or superior to the education, examination and experience requirements of Iowa Code chapter 542 in effect at the time the application is filed in Iowa. The board may accept

the determination of substantial equivalency made by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy or may make an independent determination of substantial equivalency.

*b. Individual substantial equivalency.* The applicant's individual qualifications on education, examination and experience are comparable or superior to the education, examination and experience requirements of Iowa Code chapter 542 in effect at the time the application is filed in Iowa.

*c. "Four-in-ten rule."* The applicant satisfies all of the following:

(1) The applicant passed the examination required for issuance of the applicant's certificate or license with grades that would have been passing grades at the time in this state.

(2) The applicant has had at least four years of experience within the ten years immediately preceding the application which occurred after the applicant passed the examination upon which the CPA certificate or license was based and which in the board's opinion is substantially equivalent to that required by Iowa Code section 542.5(12).

(3) If the applicant's CPA certificate or license was issued more than four years prior to the filing of the application in this state, the applicant has fulfilled the continuing professional education requirements described in Iowa Code section 542.6(3) and 193A—Chapter 10.

**9.5(2)** A person who holds in good standing a certificate, license or designation from a foreign authority that is substantially equivalent to an Iowa CPA certificate shall be deemed qualified for an Iowa CPA certificate if the person satisfies all of the provisions of Iowa Code section 542.19(3). The burden is on the applicant to demonstrate that such certificate, license or foreign designation is in full force and effect and that the requirements for that certificate, license or foreign designation are comparable or superior to those required for a CPA certificate in this state. Original verification from the foreign authority which issued the certificate, license or designation shall be required to demonstrate that such certificate, license or designation is valid and in good standing. If the applicant cannot establish comparable or superior qualifications, the board shall require that the applicant pass the uniform certified public accountant examination designed to test the applicant's knowledge of practice in this state and country. If the applicant is a Canadian Chartered Accountant, Australian Chartered Accountant, Hong Kong CPA, Ireland Chartered Accountant, Mexico Contador Público Certificado (CPC), New Zealand Chartered Accountant, or Scottish Chartered Accountant, the applicant may be required to take the International Uniform CPA Qualification Examination (IQEX) in lieu of the uniform certified public accountant examination.

**9.5(3)** An applicant seeking an Iowa CPA certificate based on the provisions of 9.5(1) "b," 9.5(1) "c" or 9.5(2) shall submit such supporting information on education, examination or experience as the board deems reasonable to determine whether the applicant qualifies for licensure in Iowa.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 2719C, IAB 9/28/16, effective 11/2/16; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—9.6(542) Continuing requirements.** A person issued a CPA certificate under this chapter is subject to all laws and rules governing persons holding CPA certificates issued in this state including, without limitation, those concerning continuing education, peer review, and notification of crimes and professional discipline. However, a person issued a CPA certificate under this chapter who maintains the principal place of business in a different state and who maintains in good standing a valid CPA certificate or license in that state shall be deemed to have satisfied the continuing education and peer review requirements described in 193A—Chapters 10 and 11 if the person satisfies similar requirements in the state in which the principal place of business is located.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—9.7(542) Expedited application processing.** A person applying for a CPA certificate under the substantial equivalency provisions of Iowa Code section 542.19(1) "a" often desires expedited application processing to facilitate cross-border practice. Applications by such persons are especially suitable for rapid processing given the substantially equivalent standards previously enforced in another state. Unless such application reveals grounds to deny the application under subrule 9.3(2), the board is otherwise aware of such grounds, or the application is unaccompanied by the proper fee, the board's administrator shall approve an application which qualifies under Iowa Code section 542.19(1) "a" as

rapidly as feasible and shall deem the effective date of approval to practice in Iowa to be the date the board received the completed application with timely letter of good standing in a substantially equivalent state.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 542.19.

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CHAPTER 10  
CONTINUING EDUCATION  
[Prior to 7/13/88, see Accountancy, Board of[10]]

**193A—10.1(542) Scope.** The right to use the title “Certified Public Accountant” and “Licensed Public Accountant” is regulated in the public interest and imposes a duty on accounting professionals to maintain public confidence and current knowledge, skills, and abilities in all areas of services. CPAs and LPAs must accept and fulfill their ethical responsibilities to the public and the profession regardless of their fields of employment.

**10.1(1)** The development of professional competence involves a continued commitment to learning and professional improvement. A CPA and an LPA performing professional services must have a broad range of knowledge, skills and abilities. A program that promotes professional competence in the practice of accountancy is defined as one that refers to the process, methods, or principles of accounting or is directly related to the CPA’s and LPA’s employment and is above the level of the CPA’s and LPA’s current knowledge.

**10.1(2)** Acceptable subjects for continuing professional education include accounting, assurance/auditing, consulting services, specialized knowledge and applications, management, taxation, and ethics. Other subjects, including nontechnical professional skills, may be approved by the board if they maintain or improve CPAs’ and LPAs’ competence in their current employment.

[ARC 9002B, IAB 8/11/10, effective 1/1/11]

**193A—10.2(542) Definitions.** The following definitions shall be applicable to the rules of this chapter.

“*Continuing professional education (CPE)*” means education that is acquired by a licensee in order to maintain, improve, or expand skills and knowledge present at initial licensure or to develop new and relevant skills and knowledge.

“*Firm meeting*” means a formally arranged gathering/assembly of staff or management groups or both to inform them of administrative matters.

“*Formal program*” means a structured learning activity based on clearly defined learning objectives and outcomes that articulate achievable knowledge, skills and abilities.

“*In-house or on-site training*” means a formally organized professional educational program sponsored by the employer.

“*Live instruction*” means an educational program delivered in a classroom setting or through videoconferencing whereby the instructor and student carry out essential tasks while together. Examples include distance learning and Webcasts.

“*Nontechnical professional skills*” means formal programs of learning which contribute to the professional competence of a certificate holder or license holder in fields of study that indirectly relate to the holder’s field of business. “Nontechnical professional skills” includes, but is not limited to, the following programs or courses:

1. Communication;
2. Interpersonal management;
3. Leadership and personal development;
4. Client and public relations;
5. Practice development;
6. Marketing;
7. Motivational and behavioral; and
8. Speed reading and memory building.

“*Qualified instructor*” means an individual whose training and experience adequately prepares the individual to carry out specified training assignments.

“*Self-study*” means a computer-generated program, such as CD-ROM, or written materials or exercises intended for self-study which do not include simultaneous interaction with an instructor but do include tests transmitted to the provider for review and grading.

“*Technical professional skills*” means formal programs of learning which contribute to the professional competence of a certificate holder or license holder in fields of study that directly relate

to the holder's field of business. "Technical professional skills" includes, but is not limited to, the following programs or courses:

1. Auditing standards or procedures;
2. Compilation and review of financial statements;
3. Financial statement preparation and disclosures;
4. Attestation standards and procedures;
5. Projection and forecast standards or procedures;
6. Accounting and auditing;
7. Management advisory services;
8. Personal financial planning;
9. Taxation;
10. Management information systems;
11. Budgeting and cost analysis;
12. Asset management;
13. Professional ethics;
14. Specialized areas of industry;
15. Human resource management;
16. Economics;
17. Business law;
18. Mathematics, statistics and quantitative applications in business;
19. Business management and organization;
20. General computer skills, computer software training, information technology planning and management;
21. Operations management, inventory, and production; and
22. Negotiation or dispute resolution.

[ARC 9002B, IAB 8/11/10, effective 1/1/11]

**193A—10.3(542) Applicability.** Each active certificate holder or license holder, including persons working in private industry or education, is required to comply with the continuing professional education requirements as a condition precedent to the renewal of the certificate or license.

[ARC 9002B, IAB 8/11/10, effective 1/1/11]

**193A—10.4(542) Cost of continuing professional education.** All costs of complying with the continuing professional education requirements of the board are the responsibility of the certificate holder or license holder wishing to maintain registration in this state.

[ARC 9002B, IAB 8/11/10, effective 1/1/11]

**193A—10.5(542) Basic requirement.**

**10.5(1)** Except as provided in subrules 10.5(2) to 10.5(7), an applicant for renewal shall have completed 120 hours of qualifying continuing professional education during the three-year period ending on the December 31 or June 30 preceding the July 1 renewal date of the certificate or license. The following conditions shall apply:

*a.* On each renewal, a CPA or LPA shall self-select December 31 or June 30 as the date by which continuing education requirements must be satisfied in order to be eligible to renew the certificate or license.

*b.* A CPA or LPA applying to renew a certificate or license may declare a continuing education deadline of December 31 in one renewal cycle and a continuing education deadline of June 30 in a subsequent renewal cycle, and vice versa.

*c.* Licensees shall maintain continuing education records in a manner that corresponds with the self-selected continuing education deadline of December 31 or June 30.

*d.* When declaring a June 30 continuing education deadline, licensees must be cautious to ensure that the continuing education is fully completed on or prior to the date the renewal application is submitted to the board.

*e.* Licensees who renew with penalty during the 30-day grace period following June 30 must declare either December 31 or June 30 as the continuing education deadline and may not extend the deadline beyond June 30.

**10.5(2)** At the first annual renewal date of July 1 that is less than 12 months from the date of filing of the initial application for the certificate or license, the certificate holder or license holder shall not be required to report continuing professional education.

**10.5(3)** At the annual renewal date of July 1 that is 12 months or more than 12 months, but less than 24 months, from the date of filing of the initial application for the certificate or license, the certificate holder or license holder shall report 40 hours of continuing professional education earned in the one-year period ending December 31 or June 30 prior to the July 1 renewal date.

**10.5(4)** At the annual renewal date of July 1 that is 24 months or more than 24 months, but less than 36 months, from the date of filing of the initial application for the certificate or license, the certificate holder or license holder shall report 80 hours of continuing professional education earned in the two-year period ending December 31 or June 30 prior to the July 1 renewal date.

**10.5(5)** A licensee shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this rule if, for the period that the licensee is a resident of another state or district having a continuing professional education requirement, the licensee met the resident state's mandatory requirement.

**10.5(6)** The board shall have authority to make exceptions for reasons of individual hardship including health, certified by a medical doctor, military service, foreign residency, retirement, or other good cause. No exceptions shall be made solely because of age. Applicants entitled to a full or partial exception under the provisions of Iowa Code section 272C.2, subsection 4, for active military service or government service outside of the United States may request an exception by submitting acceptable documentation as applicable to the exception requested. Applicants seeking an exception on other grounds of undue hardship must submit an application for waiver or variance as provided in 193—Chapter 5.

**10.5(7)** Licensees who apply to reinstate a lapsed or inactive certificate or license to active status pursuant to 193A—subrule 5.6(3) or 5.9(7) shall satisfy the basic requirement of 120 hours of continuing professional education earned in the preceding three-year period prior to the date of the application, including all required mandatory education described in rule 193A—10.7(542). Once the certificate or license is reinstated, the basic requirement shall apply at each subsequent renewal. The 120-hour requirement described in this subrule shall be modified as needed to incorporate the phase-in schedule for initial licensees described in subrules 10.5(2) to 10.5(4).

[ARC 9002B, IAB 8/11/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 1360C, IAB 3/5/14, effective 4/9/14; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—10.6(542) Measurement standards.** The following standards will be used to measure the hours of credit to be given for qualifying continuing professional education programs completed by individual applicants:

**10.6(1)** Credit is measured with one 50-minute period equaling one contact hour of credit. Half-hour credits may be allowed (equal to not less than 25 minutes) after the first hour of credit has been earned.

**10.6(2)** Only class hours or the equivalent, and not student hours devoted to preparation, will be counted.

**10.6(3)** Credit expressed as continuing education units (CEUs) shall be counted as ten contact hours for each continuing professional education unit. (.1 CEU = 1 CPE)

**10.6(4)** Service as lecturer or discussion leader of continuing professional education programs will be counted to the extent that this service contributes to the applicant's professional competence.

[ARC 9002B, IAB 8/11/10, effective 1/1/11]

**193A—10.7(542) Mandatory education required.**

**10.7(1)** Every CPA certificate holder or LPA license holder who is responsible for supervising compilation services or who signs or authorizes someone to sign the accountant's compilation report on behalf of a firm shall complete, as a condition of certificate or license renewal, a minimum of eight hours of continuing professional education devoted to financial statement presentation, such as courses

covering the statements on standards for accounting and review services (SSARS) and accounting and auditing updates. When required, the financial statement presentation continuing education shall be completed within the three-year period ending on the December 31 or June 30 preceding the application for certificate or license renewal. For credit to be claimed for a course covering multiple topics, a minimum of one hour as outlined in subrule 10.6(1) shall be devoted to financial statement presentation. For example, if a seminar or presentation is conducted for a total of four hours and only one hour is devoted to financial statement presentation, then only one hour shall be claimed toward meeting the requirement of this subrule.

**10.7(2)** Every CPA certificate holder or LPA license holder shall complete a minimum of four hours of continuing education devoted to ethics and rules of professional conduct during the three-year period ending December 31 or June 30, prior to the July 1 annual renewal date. For a course to qualify to meet this requirement, the course description shall clearly outline the subject matter covered as professional or business ethics. If credit is to be claimed for a course covering multiple topics, a minimum of one hour as outlined in rule 193A—10.6(542), measurement standards, specifically in subrule 10.6(1), shall be devoted to business or professional ethics. For example, if a seminar or presentation is conducted for a total of four hours and only one hour is devoted to business or professional ethics, then only one hour shall be claimed toward meeting the requirement of this subrule. Ethics courses, which are defined as courses dealing with regulatory and behavioral ethics, shall be limited to courses on the following:

- a. Professional standards;
- b. Licenses and renewals;
- c. SEC oversight;
- d. Competence;
- e. Acts discreditable;
- f. Advertising and other forms of solicitation;
- g. Independence;
- h. Integrity and objectivity;
- i. Confidential client information;
- j. Contingent fees;
- k. Commissions;
- l. Conflicts of interest;
- m. Full disclosure;
- n. Malpractice;
- o. Record retention;
- p. Professional conduct;
- q. Ethical practice in business;
- r. Personal ethics;
- s. Ethical decision making; and
- t. Corporate ethics and risk management as these topics relate to malpractice and relate solely to the practice of certified public accounting.

[ARC 9002B, IAB 8/11/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17]

### **193A—10.8(542) Programs that qualify and CPE limitations.**

**10.8(1)** The overriding consideration in determining whether a specific program qualifies as acceptable continuing education is that it be a formal program of learning which contributes directly to the professional competence of an individual certified or licensed in this state. It will be left to each individual certificate holder or license holder to determine the technical or nontechnical professional skills courses of study to be pursued. Thus, the auditor may study accounting and auditing, the tax practitioner may study taxes, and the management advisory services practitioner may study subjects related to such practice. Job-related continuing professional education shall qualify as acceptable provided the courses selected from nontechnical professional skills contribute to the professional competence of the certificate holder or license holder.



**10.8(2)** Program standards:

- a.* Learning activities must be based on clearly defined, relevant learning objectives and outcomes that clearly articulate the knowledge, skills, and abilities that can be achieved by participants.
- b.* Learning activities must be developed in a manner consistent with the prerequisite education, experience, and advanced preparation of the participants.
- c.* Activities, materials, and delivery systems must be current, technically accurate, and effectively designed. Providers, sponsors, or contractors must be competent in the subject matter. Competence may be demonstrated through practical experience or education.
- d.* Learning programs must be reviewed by qualified persons other than those who develop the program to ensure that the program is technically accurate and current and addresses the stated learning objectives. This requirement is waived for single presentations such as lectures that are given once.

**10.8(3)** Continuing professional education programs will qualify only if:

- a.* An outline of the program is prepared in advance and preserved.
- b.* The program is at least one hour (50-minute period) in length.
- c.* The program is conducted by a qualified instructor, discussion leader or lecturer. A qualified instructor, discussion leader or lecturer is anyone whose background, training, education or experience makes it appropriate for that person to lead a discussion on the subject matter of the particular program.
- d.* A record of attendance or certification of completion or transcript is maintained.

**10.8(4)** The following programs are deemed to qualify provided all other requirements of this rule are met.

- a.* Professional development programs of recognized national and state accounting organizations.
- b.* Technical sessions at meetings of recognized national and state accounting organizations and their chapters.
- c.* Formally organized in-house or on-site educational programs provided by the certificate holder's or license holder's employer.
- d.* Distance learning programs or group study Webcast programs.
- e.* University or college courses meet the continuing professional education requirements of those attending.

Each semester hour shall be equal to 15 contact hours of credit. Each quarter hour shall be equal to 10 contact hours of credit.

- f.* Technical or nontechnical sessions offered by employers in business and industry, as well as firms of certified public accountants.

**10.8(5)** Formal correspondence and formal self-study programs contributing directly to the professional competence of an individual that require registration and provide evidence of satisfactory completion will be considered for credit. The amount of credit to be allowed for correspondence and formal self-study programs (including tested study programs) shall be recommended by the program sponsor and based upon appropriate "field tests" and shall not exceed 50 percent of the renewal requirement. A licensee claiming credit for correspondence or formal self-study courses is required to obtain evidence of satisfactory completion of the course from the program sponsor. Credit will be allowed in the renewal period in which the course is completed.

**10.8(6)** Credit may be allowed for self-study programs on the basis of one hour of credit for each 50 minutes spent on the self-study program if the developer of such programs is approved by either the national continuing professional education registry or by the NASBA continuing education registry and the program sponsor has not designated the amount of credit to be claimed for completing the course of study. The licensee must estimate the equivalent number of hours and justify the amount of hours claimed. The maximum credit shall not exceed 50 percent of the renewal requirement. Credit will be allowed in the renewal period in which the course is completed.

**10.8(7)** The credit allowed an instructor, discussion leader, or speaker will be on the basis of two hours for subject preparation for each hour of teaching. Credit for teaching college or university coursework may be claimed for courses taught above the elementary accounting or principles of accounting level. Repetitious presentations shall not be considered. The maximum credit for such preparation and teaching shall not exceed 50 percent of the renewal period requirement.

**10.8(8)** Credit may be awarded for published articles and books. The amount of credit so awarded will be determined by the board. Credit may be allowed for published articles and books provided they contribute to the professional competence of the licensee. Credit for preparation of such publications may be given on a self-declaration basis up to 25 percent of the renewal period requirement. In exceptional circumstances, a licensee may request additional credit by submitting the article(s) or book(s) to the board with an explanation of the circumstances that the licensee believes justify additional credit.

**10.8(9)** Credit may be allowed for the successful completion of professional examinations as detailed below. Credit is calculated at the rate of five times the length of each examination, which is presumed to include all preparation time, claimed in the calendar year of the examination, and limited to 50 percent of the total renewal requirement.

- a. Certified Management Accountant/CMA.
- b. Certified Information Systems Auditor/CISA.
- c. Certified Information Technology Professional/CITP.
- d. Certified Financial Planner/CFP.
- e. Enrolled Agent/EA.
- f. Certified Governmental Financial Manager/CGFM.
- g. Certified Government Auditing Professional/CGAP.
- h. Certified Internal Auditor/CIA.
- i. Accredited Business Valuation/ABV.
- j. Certified Financial Forensics/CFF.
- k. Certified Valuation Analyst/CVA.
- l. Certified Insolvency & Restructuring Advisor/CIRA.
- m. Forensic Certified Public Accountant/FCPA.
- n. Certified Fraud Examiner/CFE.
- o. Certified Business Analyst/CBA.
- p. Certified Trust and Financial Advisor/CTFA.
- q. Chartered Financial Analyst/CFA.
- r. Registered Representative, Series 6 and 7 and other examinations.
- s. Registered Investment Advisor/RIA.
- t. Certified Forensic Accountant/CrFA.
- u. Personal Financial Specialist/PFS.
- v. Chartered Life Underwriter/CLU.
- w. Fellow of the Society of Actuaries/FSA.
- x. Chartered Property & Casualty Underwriter/CPCU.
- y. Fellow Life Management Institute/FLMI.
- z. Other similar examinations approved by the board.

**10.8(10)** Firm meetings for staff or management groups for the purpose of administrative and firm matters do not meet the standards set forth in subrule 10.8(1).

**10.8(11)** Dinner, luncheon and breakfast meetings of recognized organizations may qualify if they meet the appropriate requirements and shall be limited to 25 percent of the total renewal requirements if the individual meeting is no more than two hours long.

**10.8(12)** Continuing professional education taken in nontechnical skills area as defined in rule 193A—10.2(542) shall be limited to 50 percent of the total renewal requirement.

**10.8(13)** The board may look to recognized state or national accounting organizations for assistance in interpreting the acceptability of and credit to be allowed for individual courses.

**10.8(14)** The right is specifically reserved to the board to approve or deny credit for continuing professional education claimed under these rules.

[ARC 9002B, IAB 8/11/10, effective 1/1/11]

### **193A—10.9(542) Controls and reporting.**

**10.9(1)** An applicant for renewal may be requested to provide, in such manner, including but not limited to the online renewal process, and at such time as prescribed by the board, verification and

documentation setting forth the continuing professional education in which the licensee has participated. The board may allow for attestation that the licensee has met the requirements in lieu of providing a listing. If the applicant for renewal is requested to provide a listing of the continuing professional education completed, the documentation shall include:

- a. School, firm or organization conducting the course and contact information.
- b. Location of course.
- c. Title of course or description of content.
- d. Principal instructor.
- e. Dates attended.
- f. Hours claimed.
- g. Certificate of completion.
- h. Name of participant.
- i. Course field of study.
- j. Type of instruction or delivery method.
- k. Amount of CPE recommended.
- l. Verification by CPE program sponsor representative.

Canceled checks and registration forms are NOT proof of attendance.

**10.9(2)** The board may require sponsors of courses to furnish an attendance record, a certification of completion or any other information the board deems essential for administration of these continuing professional education rules.

**10.9(3)** The board will verify, on a test basis, information submitted by licensees. If an application for renewal is not approved, the applicant will be so notified and may be granted a period of time by the board in which to correct the deficiencies noted.

**10.9(4)** Primary responsibilities for documenting the requirements shall be with the licensee, and evidence to support fulfillment of those requirements must be retained for a period of three years subsequent to submission of the report claiming the credit. (Refer to 193A—subrule 14.3(1) and Iowa Code section 542.10(1)(a), which provides for permanent revocation based on fraud or deceit in procuring a license.) Satisfaction of the requirements, including retention of attendance records, certification of completion records, and written outlines, may be accomplished as follows:

- a. For courses taken for scholastic credit in accredited universities and colleges (state, community, or private) or high school districts, evidence of satisfactory completion of the course will be sufficient; for noncredit courses taken, a statement of the hours of attendance, signed by the instructor, must be obtained by the licensee.
- b. For correspondence and formal independent self-study courses, written evidence or a certificate of completion from the sponsor or course provider shall be obtained by the licensee.
- c. In all other instances, the licensee must maintain a record of the information as listed in subrule 10.8(3).

[ARC 9002B, IAB 8/11/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—10.10(542) Grounds for discipline.** A licensee or an applicant is subject to discipline, including permanent revocation, if the licensee or applicant provides false information to the board in connection with an application to renew or reinstate a certificate or license. A licensee or an applicant is also subject to discipline if the licensee or applicant is unable to document the continuing professional education hours reported to the board in connection with an audit or other request for documentation. False information of this nature will subject the licensee or applicant to discipline whether the false information was supplied intentionally or with reckless disregard for the truth or accuracy of the number of hours claimed. Licensees and applicants are accordingly cautioned to supply the board with accurate continuing professional education information.

[ARC 9002B, IAB 8/11/10, effective 1/1/11]

**193A—10.11(272C,542) Alternative continuing education cycles authorized.**

**10.11(1) Purpose.** For a variety of reasons, some CPAs and LPAs may wish to satisfy continuing education requirements on a three-year cycle ending on a date other than December 31. By way of

illustration, some licensees may prefer to take courses on particular substantive topics that are not always offered at the same time each year. Some licensees may wish to schedule continuing education to comply with the differing requirements of multiple jurisdictions. This rule is intended to authorize a more flexible time frame within which continuing education may be satisfied. This rule does not alter any other requirement of this chapter.

**10.11(2) *Alternative cycle.*** A CPA or LPA may self-select December 31 or June 30 as the date by which continuing education requirements must be satisfied in order to be eligible to renew the license or certificate. Online renewal will require the renewal applicant to declare whether the continuing education was satisfied within the three-year period preceding December 31 or the three-year period preceding June 30. When declaring a June 30 date, licensees must be cautious to ensure the continuing education is fully completed on or prior to the date the renewal application is submitted. Licensees who renew with penalty during the 30-day grace period following June 30 must declare either December 31 or June 30 and may not extend the deadline beyond June 30.

**10.11(3) *Declaration may vary by renewal cycle.*** A CPA or LPA applying to renew a certificate or license may declare a continuing education deadline of December 31 in one renewal cycle and a continuing education deadline of June 30 in a subsequent renewal cycle, and vice versa. Licensees shall be expected to maintain continuing education records in a manner that complies with the self-selected declaration in any particular renewal cycle.

[ARC 0558C, IAB 1/9/13, effective 2/13/13; ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 272C and 542.

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CHAPTER 11  
PEER REVIEW

[Prior to 5/1/02, see 193A—Chapter 17]

**193A—11.1(542) Peer review required.** As a condition of renewal for a CPA or LPA who issues compilation reports other than through a CPA or LPA firm which holds a permit to practice, and as a condition of permit renewal for LPA firms which issue compilation reports or CPA firms which provide attest services or issue compilation reports, the applicant shall submit certification of completion of a peer review issued pursuant to this chapter. Such review shall be completed at the highest level of service provided by the firm or licensee. The performance of preparation services under SSARS 21 does not alone subject a firm or individual to peer review, although if a firm or individual is otherwise subject to peer review, the reviewer may include preparation services in the scope of practices reviewed. [ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15]

**193A—11.2(542) How often required.** During the three-year period ending December 31 preceding the application for renewal of a certificate, license, or permit to practice, the individual licensee or firm shall have completed a peer review in accordance with this chapter. A peer review shall be completed no less often than once every three years. [ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—11.3(542) System of internal quality control.** If the firm has not performed any attest or compilation services prior to the application for renewal, the firm shall have in place a system of internal quality control prior to the commencement of an engagement including attest or compilation services and shall come into compliance with the peer review requirement within 18 months of completion of an engagement including attest or compilation services. [ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15]

**193A—11.4(542) Peer review programs that qualify.** A firm's completion of a peer review program endorsed or supported by the AICPA, National Society of Accountants or other substantially similar review programs in Iowa or other states approved by the board shall satisfy the requirements of this chapter. [ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—11.5(542) Waiver of peer review requirement.** At the time of renewal, a licensee or firm may request, in writing upon a form provided by the board, a waiver from the requirements of this chapter, as provided in Iowa Code sections 542.7(9) and 542.8(19). [ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—11.6(542) Submission of peer review reports.** Unless the subject of a peer review timely objects in writing to the administering entity of the peer review program, the administering entity shall make available to the board within 30 days of the issuance of the peer review acceptance letter the final peer review report or such peer review records as are designated by the peer review program in which the administering entity participates. The subject of a peer review may voluntarily submit the final peer review report directly to the board. [ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 542.

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## CHAPTER 12

## FEES

[Prior to 7/13/88, see Accountancy, Board of[10]]

[Prior to 5/1/02, see 193A—Chapter 14]

**193A—12.1(542) Required fees.** The following is a schedule of the fees for examinations, certificates, licenses, permits and renewals adopted by the board:

Initial CPA examination application:	
Paid directly to CPA examination services	not to exceed \$1500
Reexamination:	
Paid directly to CPA examination services	not to exceed \$1500
Original issuance of CPA certificate or LPA license by examination (fee includes wall certificate)	\$100
Original issuance of CPA certificate by reciprocity or substantial equivalency	\$100
CPA wall certificate or LPA license issued by reciprocity or substantial equivalency	\$50
Replacement of lost or destroyed wall CPA certificate or LPA license	\$50
Original issuance of attest qualification	\$100
Annual renewal of CPA certificate or LPA license—active status	\$100
Late renewal of CPA certificate or LPA license within 30-day grace period (July 1 to July 30)—active status	\$25
Annual renewal of CPA certificate or LPA license—inactive status	\$50
Late renewal of CPA certificate or LPA license within 30-day grace period (July 1 to July 30)—inactive status	\$10
Penalty for failure to comply with continuing education requirements	\$50 to \$250
Original issuance of firm permit to practice	\$100
Annual renewal of firm permit to practice	\$100
Reinstatement of lapsed CPA certificate or LPA license	\$100 + renewal fee + \$25 per month of expired registration
Reinstatement of lapsed firm permit to practice	\$100 + renewal fee + \$25 per month of expired registration
Interstate Transfer Form	\$25

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 8866B, IAB 6/30/10, effective 8/4/10; ARC 8867B, IAB 6/30/10, effective 8/4/10; ARC 9040B, IAB 9/8/10, effective 10/13/10; ARC 9327B, IAB 1/12/11, effective 2/16/11]

**193A—12.2(542) Reinstatement.**

**12.2(1) Reinstatement of a lapsed CPA certificate or LPA license.** The fee for the reinstatement of a lapsed CPA certificate or LPA license for applications filed on or after July 1, 2009, is \$100 plus the renewal fee plus \$25 per month of expired registration up to a maximum of \$1,000.

**12.2(2) Reinstatement of lapsed firm permit to practice.** The fee for the reinstatement of a lapsed CPA or LPA firm permit to practice for applications filed on or after July 1, 2009, is \$100 plus the renewal fee plus \$25 per month of expired registration up to a maximum of \$1,000.

**12.2(3) Applicants for reinstatement.** All applicants for reinstatement shall be assessed the \$100 reinstatement fee. The \$25 per month penalty fee described in subrules 12.2(1) and 12.2(2) shall not be assessed if the applicant for reinstatement did not, during the period of lapse, engage in any acts or practices for which an active CPA certificate, LPA license, or firm permit to practice as a CPA or LPA firm is required in Iowa. Falsely claiming an exemption from the monthly penalty fee is a ground for

discipline; in addition, other grounds for discipline may arise from practicing on a lapsed certificate, license or permit to practice.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 8867B, IAB 6/30/10, effective 8/4/10; ARC 9123B, IAB 10/6/10, effective 11/10/10]

**193A—12.3(542) Prorating of certain fees.** Fees for the issuance of an original CPA certificate or LPA license, pursuant to rule 193A—5.3(542), or the issuance of an initial permit to practice to a CPA or LPA firm, pursuant to rule 193A—7.1(542), will not be prorated.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 0174C, IAB 6/13/12, effective 7/18/12]

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CHAPTER 13  
RULES OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND CONDUCT  
[Prior to 5/1/02, see 193A—Chapter 11]

**193A—13.1(542) Applicability.**

**13.1(1)** The rules of professional ethics and conduct, both adopted by reference in subrule 13.1(2) and specifically enumerated herein (collectively referred to herein as the “rules of professional ethics and conduct”), rest upon the premise that the reliance of the public in general and of the business community in particular on sound financial reporting and on the implication of professional competence inherent in the authorized use of a legally restricted title relating to the practice of public accountancy imposes on persons engaged in such practice certain obligations both to their clients and to the public. These obligations, which the rules of professional ethics and conduct are intended to enforce where necessary, include the obligation to maintain independence of thought and action and a continued commitment to learning and professional improvement, to observe applicable generally accepted accounting principles and generally accepted auditing standards, to promote the public interest through sound and informative financial reporting, to hold the affairs of clients in confidence, and to maintain high standards of personal conduct in all professional activities in whatever capacity performed.

**13.1(2)** In addition to the rules specifically enumerated herein, and only to the extent applicable to certificate holders’ and licensees’ respective scope of practice, all certificate holders and licensees shall comply with the Code of Professional Conduct of the AICPA (AICPA Code of Professional Conduct), effective December 15, 2014, as updated for all official releases through October 31, 2016, and adopted by reference herein. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct and rules specifically enumerated herein, the rules specifically enumerated herein shall prevail.

**13.1(3)** The rules of professional ethics and conduct apply to all professional services performed by all CPAs and LPAs whether or not they are engaged in the practice of public accountancy, except where the wording of a rule clearly indicates that the applicability is specifically limited to the practice of public accountancy.

**13.1(4)** A CPA or LPA who is engaged in the practice of public accountancy outside the United States will not be subject to discipline by the board for departing, with respect to such foreign practice, from any of the board’s rules of professional ethics and conduct, so long as the CPA’s or LPA’s conduct is in accordance with the standards of professional conduct applicable to the practice of public accountancy in the country in which the CPA or LPA is practicing. However, even in such a case, if a CPA’s or LPA’s name is associated with financial statements in such manner as to imply that the CPA or LPA is acting as an independent public accountant and under circumstances that would entitle the reader of the financial statement to assume that United States practices are followed, the CPA or LPA will be expected to comply with applicable generally accepted engagement standards and applicable generally accepted accounting principles.

**13.1(5)** A CPA or LPA may be held responsible for compliance with the rules of professional ethics and conduct by all persons associated with the accountant in the practice of public accounting who are either under the accountant’s supervision or are licensees, partners or shareholders in the accountant’s practice.

**13.1(6)** CPAs and CPA firms exercising a practice privilege in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa are subject to the professional standards set forth in this chapter.

**13.1(7)** These rules complement the grounds for discipline set out in 193A—Chapter 14.  
[ARC 3230C, IAB 8/2/17, effective 9/6/17]

**193A—13.2(542) Rules applicable to all CPAs and LPAs.**

**13.2(1)** *Cooperation with board inquiry.* A CPA or LPA shall, when requested, respond to communications from the board within 30 days of the mailing of such communications by certified mail.

**13.2(2)** *Reporting convictions, judgments, and disciplinary actions.* In addition to any other reporting requirement in Iowa Code chapter 542 or these rules, a CPA or LPA shall notify the board within 30 days of:

a. Imposition upon the CPA or LPA of discipline including, but not limited to, censure, reprimand, sanction, probation, civil penalty, fine, consent decree or order, or suspension, revocation or modification of a license, certificate, permit or practice rights by:

(1) The SEC, PCAOB, or IRS (by the Director of Practice); or

(2) Another state board of accountancy for cause other than failure to pay a professional fee by the due date or failure to meet the continuing education requirements of another state board of accountancy; or

(3) Any other federal or state agency regarding the CPA's or LPA's conduct while rendering professional services; or

(4) Any foreign authority or credentialing body that regulates the practice of accountancy;

b. Occurrence of any matter that must be reported by the CPA or LPA to the PCAOB pursuant to Sarbanes-Oxley Section 102(b)(2)(f) and PCAOB rules and forms adopted pursuant thereto;

c. Any judgment, award or settlement of a civil action or arbitration proceeding in which the CPA or LPA was a party if the matter included allegations of gross negligence, violation of specific standards of practice, fraud, or misappropriation of funds in the practice of accounting; provided, however, licensed firms shall notify the board regarding civil judgments, settlements or arbitration awards directly involving the firm's practice of public accounting in this state; or

d. Criminal charges, deferred prosecution or conviction or plea of no contest to which the CPA or LPA is a defendant if the crime is:

(1) Any felony under the laws of the United States or any state of the United States or any foreign jurisdiction; or

(2) Any crime, including a misdemeanor, if an essential element of the offense is dishonesty, deceit or fraud, as more fully described in Iowa Code section 542.5(2).

**13.2(3) *Firm's duty to report.*** The CPA or LPA designated by each firm as responsible for the proper licensure of the firm or registration of an office of the firm shall report any matter reportable under this rule to which a nonlicensee owner with a principal place of business in this state is a party.

**13.2(4) *Solicitation or disclosure of CPA examination questions and answers.*** A CPA or LPA who solicits or knowingly discloses a Uniform CPA Examination question(s) or answer(s) without the written authorization of the AICPA shall be considered to have committed an act discreditable to the profession.

**13.2(5) *Falsely reporting continuing professional education (CPE).*** A CPA or LPA shall be considered to have committed an act discreditable to the profession when the CPA or LPA falsely reports CPE credits during the CPA's or LPA's required reporting renewal or board CPE audit.

**13.2(6) *Mandatory ethics continuing professional education.*** Every CPA certificate holder or LPA license holder shall complete a minimum of four hours of continuing professional education devoted to ethics and rules of professional conduct during the three-year period ending December 31 or June 30, prior to the July 1 annual renewal date. This requirement is more fully described in 193A—subrule 10.7(2).

[ARC 3230C, IAB 8/2/17, effective 9/6/17]

### **193A—13.3(542) Rules applicable to CPAs and LPAs who use the titles in offering or rendering products or services to clients.**

#### **13.3(1) *Use of title.***

a. *Certified public accountant.* Only a person who holds an active, unexpired certificate and who complies with the requirements of 193A—Chapter 5, Licensure Status and Renewal of Certificates and Licenses, and 193A—Chapter 10, Continuing Education, or a person lawfully exercising a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20 may use or assume the title “certified public accountant” or the abbreviation “CPA” or any other title, designation, word(s), letter(s), abbreviation(s), sign, card, or device tending to indicate that such person is a certified public accountant.

b. *Licensed public accountant.* Only a person holding a license as a licensed public accountant shall use or assume the title “licensed public accountant” or the abbreviation “LPA” or any other title, designation, word(s), letter(s), abbreviation(s), sign, card, or device tending to indicate that such person is a licensed public accountant.

**13.3(2) Forms of practice.**

*a. Certified public accountant firms.* A sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or any other form of organization shall apply for a permit to practice under Iowa Code section 542.7 and these rules as a firm of certified public accountants in order to use the title “CPAs” or “CPA firm,” as more fully described in 193A—Chapter 7.

*b. Licensed public accounting firms.* A sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or any other form of organization shall apply for a permit to practice under Iowa Code section 542.8 and these rules as a firm of licensed public accountants in order to use the title “LPAs” or “LPA firm,” as more fully described in 193A—Chapter 8.

**13.3(3) Acting through others.** A CPA or LPA shall not permit others to carry out on the CPA’s or LPA’s behalf, either with or without compensation, acts which, if carried out by the CPA or LPA, would violate the rules of professional ethics and conduct.

[ARC 3230C, IAB 8/2/17, effective 9/6/17]

**193A—13.4(542) Audit, review and other attest services.****13.4(1) Definitions.**

“Attest” or “attest service” means providing any of the following services:

1. An audit or other engagement to be performed in accordance with the statements on auditing standards.
2. A review of a financial statement to be performed in accordance with the statements on standards for accounting and review services.
3. Any engagement to be performed in accordance with the statements on standards for attestation engagements.
4. Any engagement to be performed in accordance with the auditing standards of the PCAOB.

The standards specified in the definition of “attest” are those standards adopted by the board, by rule, by reference to the standards developed for general application by the AICPA, the PCAOB, or other recognized national accountancy organization.

“Attest engagement team” means the team of individuals participating in attest service, including those who perform concurring or second partner reviews. The “attest engagement team” includes all employees and contractors retained by the firm who participate in attest service, irrespective of their functional classification.

“Audit” means the procedures performed in accordance with applicable auditing standards for the purpose of expressing or disclaiming an opinion on the fairness with which the historical financial or other information is presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, another comprehensive basis of accounting, or basis of accounting described in the report.

“Review” means to perform inquiry and analytical procedures that permit a CPA to determine whether there is a reasonable basis for expressing limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles or, if applicable, with another comprehensive basis of accounting.

**13.4(2) Practice privilege.** All audit, review, and other attest services performed in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa must be performed through a CPA firm that holds an active Iowa firm permit to practice or through an out-of-state CPA firm exercising a practice privilege in compliance with Iowa Code sections 542.20(5) and 542.20(6) and associated rules and the peer review and ownership provisions of Iowa Code section 542.7. Unless Iowa certification is specifically required by a governmental body or client, the individual CPAs performing such attest services may either hold an active Iowa CPA certificate or exercise a practice privilege as more fully described in Iowa Code section 542.20. LPAs and LPA firms are not authorized to perform attest services.

**13.4(3) Peer review required.** As a condition of renewal of a permit to practice as a CPA firm, the firm shall undergo, at least once every three years, a peer review conducted under the provisions outlined in 193A—Chapter 11 and Iowa Code section 542.7.

[ARC 3230C, IAB 8/2/17, effective 9/6/17; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17]

**193A—13.5(542) Compilation.**

**13.5(1) *Who can perform.*** Only a CPA licensed under Iowa Code section 542.6 or 542.19, an LPA licensed under Iowa Code section 542.8, or a CPA exercising a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20 shall issue a report in standard form upon a compilation of financial information or otherwise provide compilation services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa. (Refer to rule 193A—6.4(542).)

**13.5(2) *Peer review.*** All individuals described in 193A—subrule 6.4(1) shall satisfy peer review requirements, individually or through a peer review of a CPA or LPA firm holding a permit to practice pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.7 or 542.8 or a CPA firm exercising a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20.

**13.5(3) *Mandatory financial statement presentation continuing professional education.*** In each renewal period in which compilation reports are issued, every CPA certificate holder or LPA license holder who is responsible for supervising compilation services or who signs or authorizes someone to sign the accountant's compilation report on behalf of a firm shall complete, as a condition of certificate or license renewal, a minimum of eight hours of continuing education devoted to financial statement presentation every three years, such as courses covering the Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services (SSARS) and accounting and auditing updates. This requirement is more fully described in 193A—subrule 10.7(1).

[ARC 3230C, IAB 8/2/17, effective 9/6/17; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17]

**193A—13.6(542) Rules applicable to tax practice.** CPAs, LPAs, and persons who are not CPAs or LPAs may perform tax services in Iowa. The rules of professional ethics and conduct in this chapter shall apply to any CPA or LPA who is licensed in Iowa and to any CPA exercising a practice privilege in Iowa whenever such person informs the client or prospective client that the person is a CPA or LPA. Clients may be so informed in a number of ways, including oral or written representations, the display of a CPA certificate or LPA license, or use of the CPA or LPA title in advertising, telephone or Internet directories, letterhead, business cards or e-mail. Clients and prospective clients who select a tax professional holding oneself out as a CPA or LPA have the right to expect compliance with these rules.

[ARC 3230C, IAB 8/2/17, effective 9/6/17]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 272C and 542.

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CHAPTER 14  
DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY AND GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE

**193A—14.1(17A,272C,542) Disciplinary authority.** The board is empowered to administer Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C and 542 and related administrative rules for the protection and well-being of those persons who may rely upon licensed individuals and firms for the performance of public accounting services within this state or for clients in this state. To perform these functions, the board is broadly vested with authority to review and investigate alleged acts or omissions of licensees, determine whether disciplinary proceedings are warranted, initiate and prosecute disciplinary proceedings, establish standards of professional conduct, and impose discipline, pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.13, 272C.3 to 272C.6, 272C.10, 542.4, and 542.10 to 542.16.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—14.2(17A,272C,542) Disciplinary policy.**

**14.2(1)** In exercising its disciplinary authority and in construing the meaning of the phrase “conduct discreditable to the public accounting profession” as used in Iowa Code section 542.10, subsection 1 paragraph “i,” the board shall be guided by the legislative policies, goals and standards set forth in Iowa Code section 542.2.

**14.2(2)** The board’s disciplinary policy rests upon the premise that the reliance of the public in general and of the business community in particular on sound financial reporting, and on the implication of professional competence inherent in the authorized use of a legally restricted title relating to the practice of public accountancy, imposes on persons and firms engaged in such practice certain obligations both to their clients and to the public. These obligations include the obligation to maintain independence of thought and action; to strive continuously to improve one’s professional skills; to observe, where applicable, generally accepted accounting principles, generally accepted auditing standards, and similar principles and standards; to promote sound and informative financial reporting; to hold the affairs of clients in confidence; and to maintain high standards of personal conduct in all matters affecting one’s fitness to practice public accountancy.

**14.2(3)** The public interest requires that persons professing special competence in accountancy or offering assurance as to the reliability or fairness of presentation of such information shall have demonstrated their qualifications to do so, and that persons who have not demonstrated and maintained such qualifications not be permitted to represent themselves as having such special competence or to offer such assurance; that the conduct of persons licensed as having special competence in accountancy be regulated in all aspects of their professional work; that a public authority competent to prescribe and assess the qualifications and to regulate the conduct of licensees be established; and that the use of titles that have a capacity or tendency to deceive the public as to the status or competence of the persons using such titles be prohibited.

**14.2(4)** A CPA or LPA firm is subject to discipline for its own violations of Iowa Code chapter 542 and administrative rules and the violations of the firm’s CPAs, LPAs, nonlicensee owners, persons acting or purporting to act under a practice privilege, and others performing professional services on the firm’s behalf. Whether a CPA or LPA firm will be charged based on the acts of such individuals will depend on the circumstances. Among the factors the board will consider are whether the firm took reasonable steps to prevent the violation, whether the violation was or could have been discovered by the firm upon reasonable inquiry, what steps the firm took upon discovering the violation, whether the acts or omissions involved licensees of the board or were committed by persons who are not individually licensed by the board, the nature of the services at issue, and whether the violations are isolated matters or more systemic to the firm’s performance.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—14.3(17A,272C,542) Grounds for discipline.** The board may initiate disciplinary action against a CPA or LPA, or a firm of CPAs or LPAs, which holds an active, inactive or lapsed certificate, license or permit to practice on any of the following grounds:

**14.3(1) *Fraud or deceit in procuring a license.*** Fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure an initial, reciprocal, renewal, or reinstated certificate, license, or permit to practice includes any intentional perversion of the truth when submitting an application to the board, or when submitting information in support of another's application to the board, including:

- a. False representation of a material fact, whether by word or by conduct, by false or misleading allegation, or by concealment of that which should have been disclosed.
- b. Attempting to file or filing with the board any false or forged record or document, such as a college transcript, diploma or degree, examination report, verification of licensure, continuing education certificate, or verification of peer review.
- c. Failing or refusing to provide complete information in response to a question on an application.
- d. Reporting information, such as satisfaction of continuing education, peer review, or attest qualification, in a false manner through overt deceit or with reckless disregard for the truth or accuracy of the information asserted.
- e. Otherwise participating in any form of fraud or misrepresentation by act or omission.

**14.3(2) *Professional incompetence.*** Professional incompetence includes, but is not limited to:

- a. A substantial lack of knowledge or ability to discharge professional obligations within the practice of public accounting.
- b. A substantial deviation from the standards of learning or skill ordinarily possessed and applied by other practitioners in the state of Iowa acting in the same or similar circumstances.
- c. A failure to exercise the degree of care which is ordinarily exercised by the average practitioner acting in the same or similar circumstances.
- d. Failure to conform to the minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing practice of public accounting in this state.
- e. A willful, repeated, or material deviation from generally accepted engagement standards, generally accepted accounting standards, generally accepted auditing standards, or any other nationally recognized standard applicable to the public accounting services at issue.
- f. Any other act or omission that demonstrates an inability to safely practice in a manner protective of the public's interest.

**14.3(3) *Deceptive practices.*** Deceptive practices are grounds for discipline, whether or not actual injury is established, and include:

- a. Knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of public accounting.
- b. Use of untruthful or improbable statements in advertisements. Use of untruthful or improbable statements in advertisements includes, but is not limited to, an action by a licensee in making information or intention known to the public which is false, deceptive, misleading or promoted through fraud or misrepresentation.
- c. Acceptance of any fee by fraud or misrepresentation.
- d. Falsification of business or client records.
- e. Submission of false or misleading reports or information to the board including information supplied in an audit of continuing education, reports submitted as a condition of probation, or any reports identified in this rule or 193A—Chapter 18.
- f. Knowingly presenting as one's own a certificate, license, or permit to practice, or a certificate, license, or permit number, or the signature of another or of a fictitious licensee, or otherwise falsely impersonating a person holding a CPA certificate or LPA license, or a permit to practice as a firm of CPAs or LPAs.
- g. Representing oneself as a CPA, LPA, CPA firm, or LPA firm when the certificate, license, or permit to practice has been suspended, revoked, surrendered, or placed on inactive status, or has lapsed, except as allowed under Iowa Code section 542.20.
- h. Fraud in representations as to skill or ability.

**14.3(4) *Unethical, harmful or detrimental conduct.*** Licensees engaging in unethical conduct or practices harmful or detrimental to the public may be disciplined whether or not injury is established.

Behaviors and conduct which are unethical, harmful or detrimental to the public may include, but are not limited to, the following actions:

*a.* Verbal or physical abuse, or improper sexual contact, if such behavior occurs within the practice of public accounting or if such behavior otherwise provides a reasonable basis for the board to conclude that such behavior within the practice of public accounting would place the public at risk.

*b.* A violation of a rule of professional conduct relating to improper conflicts of interest, or lack of integrity, objectivity or independence, as provided in the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct as adopted by reference in 193A—Chapter 13.

*c.* A violation of a provision of Iowa Code section 542.13, or aiding or abetting any unlawful activity for which a civil penalty can be imposed under Iowa Code sections 542.13 and 542.14.

**14.3(5) *Lack of proper qualifications.*** Lack of proper qualifications includes, but is not limited to:

*a.* Continuing to practice as a CPA or LPA without satisfying the continuing education required for certificate or license renewal.

*b.* Continuing to perform attest services or compilation services without timely completion of peer review.

*c.* Performing attest services as an individual without proper certification or attest qualification, or without acting through a CPA firm holding a permit to practice pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.7 or exercising a practice privilege pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.20.

*d.* Performing attest services as a firm without holding a permit to practice pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.7 or exercising a practice privilege pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.20, or without ensuring that the individuals responsible for supervising attest services or signing or authorizing someone to sign the accountant's report are attest qualified, hold the required certification or are eligible to exercise a practice privilege, or otherwise performing attest services in a manner inconsistent with Iowa Code chapter 542 or the rules of the board.

*e.* Habitual intoxication or addiction to the use of drugs, or impairment which adversely affects the CPA's or LPA's ability to practice in a safe and competent manner.

*f.* Any act, conduct, or condition, including lack of education or experience and careless or intentional acts or omissions, that demonstrates a lack of qualifications which are necessary to ensure a high standard of professional care as provided in Iowa Code section 272C.3(2) "b," or that impairs a practitioner's ability to safely and skillfully practice the profession.

**14.3(6) *Negligence in the practice of public accounting.*** Negligence in the practice of public accounting includes the following acts, practices, or omissions, whether or not injury results:

*a.* Failure or refusal without good cause to exercise reasonable diligence in the practice of public accounting.

*b.* A failure to exercise due care including negligent delegation of duties in the practice of public accounting.

*c.* Neglect of contractual or other duties to a client.

**14.3(7) *Professional misconduct.*** Professional misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

*a.* Violation of a generally accepted engagement standard, generally accepted accounting standard, generally accepted auditing standard, or any other nationally recognized standard applicable to the public accounting services at issue, as provided in rule 193A—13.4(542), or any other violation of a provision of the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct as adopted by reference in 193A—Chapter 13.

*b.* Violation of a regulation or law of this state, another state, the United States, or the PCAOB in the practice of public accounting.

*c.* Engaging in any conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert a board investigation of a licensed or unlicensed firm, individual, or other entity, or failure to fully cooperate with a disciplinary investigation of a licensee or with an investigation of firms, individuals or other entities that are not licensed by the board, including, without limitation, failure to comply with a subpoena issued by the board or to respond to a board inquiry within 30 calendar days of the date of mailing by certified mail of a written communication directed to the licensee's last address on file at the board office.

*d.* Revocation, suspension, or other disciplinary action taken against a licensee or person or firm exercising a practice privilege by a licensing authority of this state or another state, territory, or country. A stay by an appellate court shall not negate this requirement; however, if such disciplinary action is overturned or reversed by a court of last resort, discipline by the board based solely on such action shall be vacated.

*e.* Suspension or revocation of the right to practice before any state or federal agency, or the PCAOB.

*f.* A violation of Iowa Code section 542.17 (confidential communication).

*g.* A violation of Iowa Code section 542.18 (licensees' working papers—client records).

*h.* Violating or aiding and abetting another's violation of Iowa Code section 542.13 or 542.20.

*i.* Violation of the terms of an initial agreement with the impaired practitioner review committee or violation of the terms of an impaired practitioner recovery contract with the impaired practitioner review committee.

*j.* A violation of a practice privilege afforded to an Iowa licensee in another state.

*k.* Engaging in the practice of public accounting on a lapsed or inactive certificate, license or permit when the acts or practices require active Iowa licensure and, in the case of a firm, allowing such acts or practices by firm CPAs or LPAs.

**14.3(8)** *Willful or repeated violations.* The willful or repeated violation or disregard of any provision of Iowa Code chapter 272C or 542 or any administrative rule adopted by the board in the administration or enforcement of such chapters.

**14.3(9)** *Failure to report.*

*a.* Failure by a CPA firm to timely report as provided in rule 193A—7.7(542).

*b.* Failure of an LPA firm to timely report as provided in rule 193A—8.5(542).

*c.* Failure to timely report judgments and settlements and reportable violations by others as provided in 193A—Chapter 18.

*d.* Failure to report in writing to the board any issuance, denial, revocation, or suspension of a license by another state, or the voluntary surrender of a license to resolve a pending disciplinary investigation or action, within 30 calendar days of the licensing authority's final action.

*e.* Failure to report the conviction of any felony, or a crime described in Iowa Code section 542.5(2), within 30 calendar days of the conviction.

*f.* Failure to report to the board a change in the licensee's physical or mailing address within 30 calendar days of the change.

*g.* Failure to report as provided in 193A—subrule 13.4(3) or as otherwise required in the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct as adopted by reference in 193A—Chapter 13.

**14.3(10)** *Failure to comply with board order.* Failure to comply with the terms of a board order or the terms of a settlement agreement or consent order, or other decision of the board imposing discipline.

**14.3(11)** *Conviction of a crime.* Conviction, in this state or any other jurisdiction, of any felony, or of any crime described in Iowa Code section 542.5(2). A copy of the record of conviction or plea of guilty shall be conclusive evidence. "Conviction" shall include any plea of guilty or nolo contendere, including Alford pleas, or finding of guilt whether or not judgment or sentence is deferred or suspended, and whether or not the conviction is on appeal. If such conviction is overturned or reversed by a court of last resort, discipline by the board based solely on the conviction shall be vacated.

**14.3(12)** *Conduct discreditable to the accounting profession.* Conduct discreditable to the accounting profession includes any act or practice that diminishes the public's confidence in the profession, impairs the credibility of the profession, or otherwise compromises the public's trust. While it is not possible to list all conduct that is discreditable to the accounting profession, the following list provides an illustrative range of acts or practices that are implicated:

*a.* Dishonesty in business or financial affairs, or a pattern of fiscal irresponsibility.

*b.* Placement on the sex offender registry.

*c.* Securities fraud or violation of the Iowa consumer fraud Act.

*d.* Willful or repeated failure to timely file tax returns or other tax documents.

*e.* False testimony in a court or administrative proceeding, or affidavit, or otherwise under oath.



*f.* Providing false or misleading information to a financial institution or governmental body or official.

*g.* Stating or implying an ability to improperly influence a government agency or official, or attempting to do so through deception, bribery or other unlawful means.

*h.* Violation of a breach of fiduciary duty when acting in the capacity of a trustee, conservator, or other fiduciary, or as the professional advisor to a fiduciary.

*i.* Any violation of Iowa Code chapter 542 or administrative rules that involves dishonesty, bad faith, or unethical behavior.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 2152C, IAB 9/30/15, effective 11/4/15; ARC 3230C, IAB 8/2/17, effective 9/6/17; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C and 542 and Iowa Code section 546.10.

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CHAPTER 15  
DISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS

**193A—15.1(17A,272C,542) Investigative authority.** The board is authorized by Iowa Code sections 17A.13(1), 272C.3, 272C.4, 272C.6(4) and 542.11 to conduct disciplinary investigations to determine whether grounds exist to initiate a disciplinary proceeding against a licensee.

**193A—15.2(17A,272C,542) Initiation of disciplinary investigations.** The board may initiate a licensee disciplinary investigation upon the board's receipt of information suggesting that a licensee may have violated a law or rule enforced by the board which, if true, would constitute grounds for licensee discipline. The board may also review the publicly available work product of licensees on a general or random basis to determine whether reasonable grounds exist to initiate disciplinary proceedings or to conduct a more specific investigation.

**193A—15.3(272C,542) Sources of information.** Without limitation, the following nonexclusive list of information sources may form the basis for the initiation of a disciplinary investigation or proceeding:

1. General or random review of financial statements submitted to or filed with local, state or federal governmental bodies, or other publicly available work product.
2. News articles or other media sources.
3. Reports filed with the board by the commissioner of insurance pursuant to Iowa Code subsection 272C.4(9).
4. Complaints filed with the board by any member of the public.
5. License applications or other documents submitted to the board.
6. Reports to the board from any regulatory or law enforcement agency from any jurisdiction.
7. Board audits of licensee compliance with conditions for licensure, such as continuing education or peer review.

**193A—15.4(17A,272C,542) Conflict of interest.** If the subject of a complaint is a member of the board, or if a member of the board has a conflict of interest in any disciplinary matter before the board, that member shall abstain from participation in any consideration of the complaint and from participation in any disciplinary hearing that may result from the complaint.

**193A—15.5(272C,542) Complaints.** Written complaints may be submitted to the board office by mail, email, facsimile, or personal delivery by members of the public, including clients, business organizations, nonprofit organizations, governmental bodies, licensees, or other individuals or entities with knowledge of possible law or rule violations by licensees.

**15.5(1) Contents of a written complaint.** Written complaints may be submitted through the online complaint process. Written complaints, whether submitted on a board complaint form or in other written medium, shall contain the following information:

- a. The full name, address, and telephone number of the complainant (person complaining).
- b. The full name, address, and telephone number of the respondent (licensee against whom the complaint is filed).
- c. A statement of the facts and circumstances giving rise to the complaint, including a description of the alleged acts or omissions which the complainant believes demonstrate that the respondent has violated or is violating laws or rules enforced by the board.
- d. If known, citations to the laws or rules allegedly violated by the respondent.
- e. Evidentiary supporting documentation.
- f. Steps, if any, taken by the complainant to resolve the dispute with the respondent prior to filing a complaint.

**15.5(2) Immunity.** As provided by Iowa Code section 272C.8, a person shall not be civilly liable as a result of filing a report or complaint with the board unless such act is done with malice, nor shall an employee be dismissed from employment or discriminated against by an employer for filing such a report or complaint.

**15.5(3) *Role of complainant.*** The role of the complainant in the disciplinary process is limited to providing the board with factual information relative to the complaint. A complainant is not party to any disciplinary proceeding which may be initiated by the board based in whole or in part on information provided by the complainant.

**15.5(4) *Role of the board.*** The board does not act as an arbiter of disputes between private parties, nor does the board initiate disciplinary proceedings to advance the private interest of any person or party. The role of the board in the disciplinary process is to protect the public by investigating complaints and initiating disciplinary proceedings in appropriate cases. The board possesses sole decision-making authority throughout the disciplinary process, including the authority to determine whether a case will be investigated, the manner of the investigation, whether a disciplinary proceeding will be initiated, and the appropriate licensee discipline to be imposed, if any.

**15.5(5) *Initial complaint screening.*** All written complaints received by the board shall be initially screened by the board's administrator to determine whether the allegations of the complaint fall within the board's investigatory jurisdiction and whether the facts presented, if true, would constitute a basis for disciplinary action against a licensee. Complaints which are clearly outside the board's jurisdiction, which clearly do not allege facts upon which disciplinary action would be based, or which are frivolous shall be referred by the board administrator to the board for closure at the next scheduled board meeting. All other complaints shall be referred by the board administrator to the board's disciplinary committee for committee review as described in rule 193A—15.8(17A,272C,542).

[ARC 4243C, IAB 1/16/19, effective 2/20/19]

**193A—15.6(272C,542) Case numbers.** Whether based on a written complaint received by the board or a complaint initiated by the board, all complaint files shall be tracked by a case numbering system. Complaints are assigned case numbers in chronological order with the first two digits representing the year in which the complaint was received or initiated, and the second two digits representing the order in which the case file was opened (e.g., 01-01, 01-02, 01-03, etc.). The board's administrator shall maintain a case file log noting the date each case file was opened, whether disciplinary proceedings were initiated in the case, and the final disposition of the case. Once a case file number is assigned to a complaint, all persons communicating with the board regarding that complaint are encouraged to include the case file number to facilitate accurate records and prompt response.

**193A—15.7(272C,542) Confidentiality of complaint and investigative information.**

**15.7(1) *General provisions.*** All complaint and investigative information received or created by the board is privileged and confidential pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6(4). Such information shall not be released to any person except as provided in that section and this rule.

**15.7(2) *Confidentiality of PCAOB information and records.***

*a.* The Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) was created by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the Act) as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the District of Columbia. The duties of the PCAOB include the registration of public accounting firms that prepare audit reports for public companies; the promulgation of rules (as approved by the SEC) for auditing, quality control, ethics, independence and other standards relating to the preparation of audit reports; the inspection of registered public accounting firms; the investigation of alleged standards violations; and the imposition of appropriate sanctions following disciplinary proceedings.

*b.* Pursuant to Section 105(b)(5)(A) of the Act and PCAOB rules, PCAOB investigatory information and records are confidential and privileged, and exempt from disclosure under the federal Freedom of Information Act. PCAOB, in its discretion, may share such information and records, along with the nonpublic sections of inspection reports, with state regulatory authorities as necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Act or to protect investors. As provided in Section 105(b)(5)(B) of the Act, state regulatory authorities are required to maintain such information and records as confidential and privileged.

*c.* The board shall maintain as confidential PCAOB investigative information and records, and the nonpublic sections of inspection reports, to the extent required by federal law. In the event a licensee

is charged by the board in a state disciplinary proceeding based in whole or part upon confidential information or records received from the PCAOB, the board shall take such steps as are required by federal law to preserve the confidentiality of the information and records from the general public.

**15.7(3) Disclosure to the subject of the investigation.**

*a. Legal authority.* Pursuant to Iowa Code section 546.10(9), the board may supply to a licensee who is the subject of a disciplinary complaint or investigation, prior to the initiation of a disciplinary proceeding, all or such parts of a disciplinary complaint, disciplinary or investigatory file, report, or other information, as the board in its sole discretion believes would aid the investigation or resolution of the matter.

*b. General rule.* As a matter of general policy, the board shall not disclose confidential complaint and investigative information to a licensee except as permitted by Iowa Code section 272C.6(4). Disclosure of a complainant's identity in advance of the filing of formal disciplinary charges, for instance, may adversely affect a complainant's willingness to file a complaint with the board.

*c. Exceptions to general rule.* The board may exercise its discretion to release information to a licensee that would otherwise be confidential under Iowa Code section 272C.6(4) under narrow circumstances, including but not limited to the following:

(1) Following a board determination that probable cause exists to file disciplinary charges against a licensee and prior to the issuance of the notice of hearing, the board may provide the licensee with a peer review or investigative report or expert opinions, as reasonably needed for the licensee to assess the merits of a settlement proposal.

(2) The board may release to a licensee who is the subject of a board-initiated investigation, including investigations initiated following the board's receipt of an anonymous complaint, such records or information as may aid the investigation or resolution of the matter.

(3) The board may release information from a peer review or consultant's report when the soliciting of the licensee's position will aid in making the probable cause determination and such disclosure can be made to the licensee without revealing identifying information regarding the complainant, peer reviewer or consultant.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—15.8(17A,272C,542) Investigation procedures.**

**15.8(1) Disciplinary committee.** The board chairperson shall annually appoint two to four members of the board to serve on the board's disciplinary committee. The disciplinary committee is a purely advisory body which shall review complaint files referred by the board's administrator, generally supervise the investigation of complaints, and make recommendations to the full board on the disposition of complaints. Members of the committee shall not personally investigate complaints, but they may review the investigative work product of others in formulating recommendations to the board.

**15.8(2) Committee screening of complaints.** Upon the referral of a complaint from the board's administrator or from the full board, the committee shall determine whether the complaint presents facts which, if true, suggest that a licensee may have violated a law or rule enforced by the board. If the committee concludes that the complaint does not present facts which suggest such a violation or that the complaint does not otherwise constitute an appropriate basis for disciplinary action, the committee shall refer the complaint to the full board with the recommendation that it be closed with no further action. If the committee determines that the complaint does present a credible basis for disciplinary action, the committee may either immediately refer the complaint to the full board recommending that a disciplinary proceeding be commenced or initiate a disciplinary investigation.

**15.8(3) Committee procedures.** If the committee determines that additional information is necessary or desirable to evaluate the merits of a complaint, the committee may assign an investigator or expert consultant, appoint a peer review committee, provide the licensee an opportunity to appear before the disciplinary committee for an informal discussion as described in rule 193A—15.9(17A,272C,542) or request board staff to conduct further investigation. Upon completion of an investigation, the investigator, expert consultant, peer review committee or board staff shall present a report to the

committee. The committee shall review the report and determine what further action is necessary. The committee may:

- a. Request further investigation.
- b. Determine there is not probable cause to believe a disciplinary violation has occurred and refer the case to the full board with the recommendation of closure.
- c. Determine there is probable cause to believe that a law or rule enforced by the board has been violated, but that disciplinary action is unwarranted on other grounds, and refer the case to the full board with the recommendation of closure. The committee may also recommend that the licensee be informally cautioned or educated about matters which could form the basis for disciplinary action in the future.
- d. Determine there is probable cause to believe a disciplinary violation has occurred, and refer the case to the full board with the recommendation that the board initiate a disciplinary proceeding (contested case).

**15.8(4) Subpoena authority.** Pursuant to Iowa Code subsections 17A.13(1), 272C.6(3) and 542.11(1), the board is authorized in connection with a disciplinary investigation to issue subpoenas to compel witnesses to testify or persons to produce books, papers, records and any other real evidence, whether or not privileged or confidential under law, which the board deems necessary as evidence in connection with a disciplinary proceeding or relevant to the decision of whether to initiate a disciplinary proceeding. Board procedures concerning investigative subpoenas are set forth in 193—Chapter 6.

**193A—15.9(17A,272C,542) Informal discussion.** If the disciplinary committee considers it advisable, or if requested by the affected licensee, the committee may grant the licensee an opportunity to appear before the committee for a voluntary informal discussion of the facts and circumstances of an alleged violation, subject to the provisions of this rule.

**15.9(1)** An informal discussion is intended to provide a licensee an opportunity to share the licensee's side of a complaint in an informal setting before the board determines whether probable cause exists to initiate a disciplinary proceeding. A licensee is not required to attend an informal discussion. Because disciplinary investigations are confidential, the licensee may not bring other persons to an informal discussion, but licensees may be represented by legal counsel. Where an allegation is made against a firm, the firm may be represented by a managing partner, member or other firm representative.

**15.9(2)** Unless disqualification is waived by the licensee, board members or staff who personally investigate a disciplinary complaint are disqualified from making decisions or assisting the decision makers at a later formal hearing. Because board members generally rely upon investigators, peer review committees, or expert consultants to conduct investigations, the issue rarely arises. An informal discussion, however, is a form of investigation because it is conducted in a question and answer format. In order to preserve the ability of all board members to participate in board decision making and to receive the advice of staff, a licensee who desires to attend an informal discussion must therefore waive their right to seek disqualification of a board member or staff based solely on the board member's or staff's participation in an informal discussion. A licensee would not be waiving their right to seek disqualification on any other ground. By electing to attend an informal discussion, a licensee accordingly agrees that participating board members or staff are not disqualified from acting as a presiding officer in a later contested case proceeding or from advising the decision maker.

**15.9(3)** Because an informal discussion constitutes a part of the board's investigation of a pending disciplinary case, the facts discussed at the informal discussion may be considered by the board in the event the matter proceeds to a contested case hearing and those facts are independently introduced into evidence.

**15.9(4)** The disciplinary committee, subject to board approval, may propose a consent order at the time of the informal discussion. If the licensee agrees to a consent order, a statement of charges shall be filed simultaneously with the consent order, as provided in rule 193—7.4(17A,272C).

**193A—15.10(17A,272C,542) Closing complaint files.**

**15.10(1) Grounds for closing.** Upon the recommendation of the administrator pursuant to subrule 15.5(4), the recommendation of the disciplinary committee pursuant to rule

193A—15.8(17A,272C,542), or on its own motion, the board may close a complaint file, with or without prior investigation. Given the broad scope of matters members of the public may complain about, it is not possible to catalog all possible reasons why the board may close a complaint file. The following nonexclusive list is, however, illustrative of the grounds upon which the board may close a complaint file:

- a. The complaint alleges matters outside the board's jurisdiction.
- b. The complaint does not allege a reasonable or credible basis to believe that the subject of the complaint violated a law or rule enforced by the board.
- c. The complaint is frivolous or trivial.
- d. The complaint alleges matters more appropriately resolved in a different forum, such as civil litigation to resolve a contract dispute, or more appropriately addressed by alternative procedures, such as outreach education or rule making.
- e. The matters raised in the complaint are situational, isolated, or unrepresentative of a licensee's typical practice, and the licensee has taken appropriate steps to ensure future compliance and prevent public injury.
- f. Resources are unavailable or better directed to other complaints or board initiatives in light of the board's overall budget and mission.
- g. Other extenuating factors which weigh against the imposition of public discipline consistent with the legislative policies, goals, and standards set forth in Iowa Code section 542.2.

**15.10(2) *Closing orders.*** The board's administrator may enter an order stating the basis for the board's decision to close a complaint file. If entered, the order shall not contain the identity of the complainant or the respondent and shall not disclose confidential complaint or investigative information.

If entered, a closing order will be indexed by case number and shall be a public record pursuant to Iowa Code subsection 17.3(1)(d). A copy of the order may be mailed to the complainant, if any, and to the respondent. The board's decision whether or not to pursue an investigation, to institute disciplinary proceedings, or to close a file is not subject to judicial review.

**15.10(3) *Cautionary letters.*** The board may issue a confidential letter of caution to a licensee when a complaint file is closed which informally cautions or educates the licensee about matters which could form the basis for disciplinary action in the future if corrective action is not taken by the licensee. Informal cautionary letters do not constitute disciplinary action, but the board may take such letters into consideration in the future if a licensee continues a practice about which the licensee has been cautioned.

**15.10(4) *Reopening closed complaint files.*** The board may reopen a closed complaint file if additional information arises after closure which provides a basis to reassess the merits of the initial complaint.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C and 542.

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CHAPTER 16  
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

**193A—16.1(17A,272C,542) Initiation of disciplinary proceedings.** Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated only by the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the board at a public meeting. Board members who are disqualified shall not be included in determining whether a quorum exists. If, for example, two members of the board are disqualified, four members of the board shall constitute a quorum of the remaining six board members for purposes of voting on the case in which the two members are disqualified. When three or more members of the board are disqualified or otherwise unavailable for any reason, the administrator may request the special appointment of one or more substitute board members pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.11, subsection 5.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—16.2(17A,272C,542) Disciplinary contested case procedures.** Unless in conflict with a provision of Iowa Code chapter 542 or board rules in this chapter, all of the procedures set forth in 193—Chapter 7 shall apply to disciplinary contested cases initiated by the board.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—16.3(272C,542) Disciplinary sanctions.**

**16.3(1) *Type of sanctions.*** The board has authority to impose the following disciplinary sanctions:

*a.* Revoke a license issued by the board. In the event of a revocation, the licensee shall not be allowed to remain a member, partner or shareholder of a business entity if the law requires that all members, partners or shareholders of such an entity be actively involved.

*b.* Suspend a license issued by the board. A CPA or LPA who is under suspension shall refrain, during the period of the suspension, from all facets of the ordinary practice of public accounting.

*c.* Revoke or suspend the privilege to engage in one or more areas of the practice of public accounting.

*d.* Impose a period of probation. As a condition to a period of probation, the board may impose terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the board which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) The board may require the licensee to undergo a quality review or desk review under the board's supervision. The licensee shall select, subject to approval by the board, a CPA, LPA, or a firm of CPAs or LPAs. The costs of the review shall be paid by the licensee. The board shall be furnished a copy of the report issued by the reviewing party and may require remedial actions or education as a result of the report findings.

(2) The board may require the licensee to enter into an agreement with a CPA, an LPA, or a firm of CPAs or LPAs to obtain a preissuance review of any audits, compilations, or reviews issued by the licensee or other public accounting services performed during the period of probation. The agreement shall be preapproved by the board. The board may require the licensee to report regularly concerning the preissuance reviews conducted pursuant to the agreement. Any cost incurred in obtaining preissuance review shall be paid by the licensee.

(3) A substance abuse evaluation and such care and treatment as are recommended in the evaluation or otherwise appropriate under the circumstances.

*e.* Impose requirements regarding continuing education. The board may specify that a designated amount of continuing education be taken in specific subjects and may specify the time period for completing these courses. The board may also specify whether that continuing education be in addition to the continuing education routinely required for license renewal. The board may also specify that additional continuing education be a condition for the termination of any suspension or reinstatement of a certificate, permit, license, or registration. The board may also specify that current reference materials be obtained and maintained.

*f.* Require reexamination, using one or more parts of the CPA or LPA examination given to candidates for the CPA certificate or the LPA license.

g. Impose civil penalties, the amount of which shall be at the discretion of the board, but which shall not exceed \$1,000 per violation, or after June 30, 2009, \$10,000 per violation for a firm. Civil penalties may be imposed for any of the disciplinary violations specified in rule 193A—14.2(17A,272C,542).

h. Issue a reprimand.

i. Order the licensee to alter a professional practice or refrain from engaging in a particular act or practice in the future, notify clients of unlicensed or unprofessional conduct, or take such other remedial measures that are appropriate under the public interest and circumstances of the infraction.

j. Order such alternative discipline as is allowed by law.

**16.3(2) *Imposing discipline.*** Discipline may be imposed against a licensee only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the board who are not disqualified.

**16.3(3) *Voluntary surrender.*** The board may accept the voluntary surrender of a license to resolve a pending disciplinary contested case or pending disciplinary investigation. The board shall not accept a voluntary surrender of a license to resolve a pending disciplinary investigation unless a statement of charges will be filed along with the order accepting the voluntary surrender. Such a voluntary surrender is considered disciplinary action and shall be published in the same manner as is applicable to any other form of disciplinary order.

**16.3(4) *Notification requirements.*** Whenever a license is revoked, suspended, restricted, or voluntarily surrendered under this chapter, the licensee shall:

a. Within 15 days of receipt of the board's final order, notify in writing all clients of the fact that the license has been revoked, suspended or voluntarily surrendered or that the practice of the licensee has been restricted; for example, the licensee may agree to discontinue governmental audits. Such notice shall advise the client to obtain alternative professional services, unless the restriction at issue would not impact the public accounting services provided for that client;

b. Within 30 days of receipt of the board's final order, the licensee shall file with the board copies of the notices sent pursuant to paragraph 16.3(4) "a." Compliance with this requirement shall be a condition for an application for reinstatement.

**16.3(5) *Civil penalties.*** Factors the board may consider when determining whether to assess and the amount of civil penalties include:

a. Whether other forms of discipline are being imposed for the same violation.

b. Whether the amount imposed will be a substantial deterrent to the violation.

c. The circumstances leading to the violation.

d. The severity of the violation and the risk of harm to the public.

e. The economic benefits gained by the licensee as a result of the violation.

f. The interest of the public.

g. Evidence of reform or remedial action.

h. Time lapsed since the violation occurred.

i. Whether the violation is a repeat offense following a prior cautionary letter, disciplinary order, or other notice of the nature of the infraction.

j. The clarity of the issues involved.

k. Whether the violation was willful and intentional.

l. Whether the licensee acted in bad faith.

m. The extent to which the licensee cooperated with the board.

n. Whether the licensee improperly used a title restricted by Iowa law or rules, performed attest services or issued a compilation report when not properly licensed to do so, or with a lapsed, inactive, suspended, restricted or revoked license engaged in practices which require licensure.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

#### **193A—16.4(272C,542) Publication of decisions.**

**16.4(1)** The board shall publish in the board's newsletter, or in another professional publication designated by the board, the name of each licensee disciplined by the board, along with a brief description of the underlying circumstances, regardless of the nature of the violation.

**16.4(2)** The board shall issue a formal press release in those instances in which a certificate, permit, or license has been suspended or revoked.

**16.4(3)** The board shall notify other state boards of accountancy that have issued a similar license to an Iowa licensee of disciplinary action taken against the Iowa licensee. The board shall also notify the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy of disciplinary action taken against an Iowa licensee, and may notify additional bodies, such as other state agencies, federal agencies, and the PCAOB.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—16.5(272C,542) Reinstatement.**

**16.5(1)** The term “reinstatement” as used in this rule and in rule 193—7.38(17A,272C) shall include the reinstatement of a suspended license, the modification or removal of a practice restriction, the issuance of a license following the denial of an application to renew a license, and the issuance of a new license following the revocation or voluntary surrender of a license.

**16.5(2)** Any person whose license has been revoked, suspended or restricted by the board, or who has voluntarily surrendered a license to conclude a disciplinary investigation or proceeding, or whose application to renew a license has been denied may apply to the board to modify or terminate the suspension, issue or reissue the license, or modify or remove the restriction in accordance with Iowa Code section 542.12, rule 193—7.38(17A,272C), the provisions of this rule, and the terms of the order of revocation, suspension or restriction, denial of license renewal, or acceptance of voluntary surrender of a license.

**16.5(3)** If the applicable order did not establish terms upon which the licensee may apply for reinstatement, an initial application for reinstatement may not be made until one year has elapsed from the date of the order which revoked, suspended or restricted the license, denied license renewal, or accepted a voluntary surrender.

**16.5(4)** All proceedings for reinstatement shall be initiated by the respondent and shall be subject to the procedures set forth in rule 193—7.38(17A,272C). In addition, the board may grant an applicant’s request to appear informally before the board prior to the issuance of a notice of hearing on the application if the applicant requests an informal appearance in the application and agrees not to seek to disqualify on the ground of personal investigation the board members or staff before whom the applicant appears.

**16.5(5)** An order granting an application for reinstatement may impose such terms and conditions as the board deems desirable, which may include one or more of the types of disciplinary sanctions described in rule 193A—16.3(272C,542).

**16.5(6)** The board shall not grant an application for reinstatement when the initial order which revoked, suspended or restricted the license, denied license renewal, or accepted a voluntary surrender was based on a criminal conviction and the applicant cannot demonstrate to the board’s satisfaction that:

- a. All terms of the sentencing or other criminal order have been fully satisfied;
- b. The applicant has been released from confinement and any applicable probation or parole; and
- c. Restitution has been made or is reasonably in the process of being made to any victims of the crime.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C and 542.

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[Filed ARC 7715B (Notice ARC 7484B, IAB 1/14/09), IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]



CHAPTER 17  
ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST NONLICENSEES

**193A—17.1(542) Civil penalties against nonlicensees.** The board may order compliance with Iowa Code chapter 542 and board rules, revoke a practice privilege, and impose civil penalties by order against a firm, other entity, or individual that is not licensed by the board pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 542, based on the unlawful practices specified in Iowa Code sections 542.13 and 542.20. In addition to the procedures set forth in Iowa Code section 542.14, this chapter shall apply.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—17.2(17A,542) Investigations.** The board is authorized by Iowa Code subsection 17A.13(1) and Iowa Code section 542.11 to conduct such investigations as are needed to determine whether grounds exist to impose civil penalties against a nonlicensee. Such investigations shall conform to the procedures outlined in 193A—Chapter 15. Complaint and investigatory files concerning nonlicensees are not confidential except as may be provided in Iowa Code chapter 22.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—17.3(17A,542) Notice of intent to impose civil penalties.** The notice of the board's intent to issue an order to require compliance with Iowa Code chapter 542 and board rules and to impose a civil penalty shall be served upon the nonlicensee by restricted certified mail, return receipt requested, or personal service in accordance with Iowa R. Civ. P. 1.305. Alternatively, the nonlicensee may accept service personally or through authorized counsel. The notice shall include the following:

1. A statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the proposed civil penalty would be imposed.
2. Reference to the particular sections of the statutes and rules involved.
3. A short, plain statement of the alleged unlawful practices.
4. The dollar amount of the proposed civil penalty, the nature of the intended order to require compliance with Iowa Code chapter 542 and board rules, and whether a practice privilege will be revoked.
5. Notice of the nonlicensee's right to a hearing and the time frame in which hearing must be requested.
6. The address to which written request for hearing must be made.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—17.4(17A,542) Request for hearing.**

**17.4(1)** Nonlicensees must request a hearing within 30 days of the date the notice is mailed if served through restricted certified mail to the last-known address, or within 30 days of the date of service if service is accepted or made in accordance with Iowa R. Civ. P. 1.305. A request for hearing must be in writing and is deemed made on the date of the nonmetered United States Postal Service postmark or the date of personal service.

**17.4(2)** If a request for hearing is not timely made, the board chairperson or the chairperson's designee may issue an order imposing the civil penalty, revoking the practice privilege, and requiring compliance with Iowa Code chapter 542 and board rules, as described in the notice. The order may be mailed by regular first-class mail or served in the same manner as the notice of intent to impose civil penalty.

**17.4(3)** If a request for hearing is timely made, the board shall issue a notice of hearing and conduct a hearing in the same manner as applicable to disciplinary cases against licensees.

**17.4(4)** A nonlicensee may waive the right to hearing and all attendant rights and enter into a consent order imposing a civil penalty, revoking the practice privilege, and requiring compliance with Iowa Code chapter 542 and board rules at any stage of the proceeding upon mutual consent of the board.

**17.4(5)** The notice of intent to issue an order and the order are public records available for inspection and copying in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 22. Copies may be published as provided in rule 193A—16.4(272C,542). Hearings shall be open to the public.  
[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—17.5(542) Factors to consider.** In addition to the factors set forth in Iowa Code section 542.14(3), the board may consider the following when determining the amount of civil penalty to impose, if any:

1. The time lapsed since the unlawful practice occurred.
2. Evidence of reform or remedial actions.
3. Whether the violation is a repeat offense following a prior warning letter or other notice of the nature of the infraction.
4. Whether the violation involved an element of deception.
5. Whether the unlawful practice violated a prior order of the board, court order, cease and desist agreement, consent order, or similar document.
6. The clarity of the issue involved.
7. Whether the violation was willful and intentional.
8. Whether the nonlicensee acted in bad faith.
9. The extent to which the nonlicensee cooperated with the board.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—17.6(542) “Safe harbor” language.** Persons who do not hold a CPA certificate or LPA license, firms which do not hold a CPA or LPA firm permit to practice, or individuals or firms which are ineligible to exercise a practice privilege shall not use in any statement relating to the financial affairs of a person or entity language which is conventionally used by CPAs or LPAs in reports on financial statements. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.13(8), such persons or firms may use the following “safe harbor” language:

“I (we) have prepared the accompanying (financial statements) of (name of entity) as of (time period) for the (period) then ended. This presentation is limited to preparing in the form of financial statements information that is the representation of management (owners). I (we) have not audited, reviewed or compiled the accompanying financial statements and accordingly do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them.”

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—17.7(542) Enforcement options.** In addition, or as an alternative, to the administrative process described in these rules, the board may seek an injunction in district court, refer the matter for criminal prosecution, or enter into a consent order as provided in Iowa Code sections 542.14 and 542.15.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A and 542.

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[Filed ARC 7715B (Notice ARC 7484B, IAB 1/14/09), IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

CHAPTER 18  
LICENSEES' DUTY TO REPORT  
[Prior to 5/1/02, see 193A—Chapter 15]

**193A—18.1(272C,542) Reporting acts or omissions committed by licensees.**

**18.1(1)** Iowa Code section 272C.9(2) requires an individual or firm that is licensed by the board to report acts or omissions of others licensed by the board that demonstrate a lack of qualifications that are necessary to assure residents of this state a high standard of professional and occupational care. For the purposes of this rule, the failure to perform an engagement for a client in accordance with professional standards is a demonstration by a CPA or LPA or by a CPA or LPA firm that the CPA or LPA or the CPA or LPA firm may lack such qualifications. These professional standards are set forth in 193A—Chapter 13.

**18.1(2)** When a licensee observes a violation of any of the acts referenced in subrule 18.1(1), the licensee shall report the violation in writing to the board office, setting forth the name of the licensee alleged to have committed the violation and the rule(s) violated, together with a copy of all material that evidences the violation.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—18.2(272C,542) Reporting judgments and settlements alleging malpractice.**

**18.2(1)** Iowa Code section 272C.9(3) requires a licensee to report to the board every adverse judgment in a professional malpractice action to which the licensee is a party and every settlement of a claim against the licensee. For the purposes of this rule, malpractice actions brought against a firm licensed by the board will be deemed to have been brought against both the firm and the firm's owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members) that performed the services that led to the malpractice action.

**18.2(2)** When a licensee is a party to an adverse judgment resulting from a professional malpractice action or is a party to a settlement of a claim resulting from an allegation of malpractice, the licensee shall file a report in writing forwarded to the board office, setting forth the name and address of the client, the date the claim was originally made, a brief description of the circumstances precipitating the claim and a copy of the judgment or settlement agreement resulting from the claim. It is the intent of this rule to require the reporting of all judgments or settlements resulting from claims that were initiated by court action and not claims of malpractice that are made against a licensee that are not filed in a court of law.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—18.3(272C,542) Timely reporting.** The reports required by rules 193A—18.1(272C,542) and 193A—18.2(272C,542) shall be forwarded to the board within a reasonable period of time from the initial receipt of the information required to be reported. A period of less than 30 days will be considered to be a reasonable period of time.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—18.4(272C,542) Failure to make reports.** Upon obtaining information that a licensee failed to file a report required by rules 193A—18.1(272C,542) and 193A—18.2(272C,542) within a reasonable period of time, the board shall initiate a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee who failed to make the required report.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—18.5(272C,542) Professional resolution encouraged.** While a licensee may report any act to the board that provides a ground for discipline under 193A—Chapter 14, the board anticipates that licensees will attempt to informally resolve those matters that do not pose a risk to the public if promptly resolved through professional courtesy and in an educational fashion.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 272C and 542.

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CHAPTER 19  
TRANSITION RULES  
Rescinded IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09



CHAPTER 20  
PRACTICE PRIVILEGE FOR OUT-OF-STATE CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**193A—20.1(542) Overview and timing.** Beginning July 1, 2009, out-of-state certified public accountants who maintain their principal place of business in a jurisdiction other than Iowa may practice public accounting in Iowa or for clients with a home office in Iowa without Iowa licensure if all of the conditions of Iowa Code section 542.20 and this chapter are satisfied.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—20.2(542) Out-of-state licensure status.** The practice privilege described in Iowa Code section 542.20 applies to individuals who are licensed to practice as certified public accountants in the jurisdiction in which their principal place of business is located for those periods of time in which all of the following conditions are satisfied:

**20.2(1)** The out-of-state license is valid, in good standing, and active. The practice privilege shall cease if the out-of-state license expires in the jurisdiction of the individual's principal place of business.

**20.2(2)** The individual meets the criteria for substantial equivalency reciprocity, as provided in Iowa Code section 542.19, subsection 1, paragraph "a," "b," or "c," and 193A—9.5(542).

**20.2(3)** The license authorizes in the individual's principal place of business all of the public accounting services the individual performs or offers to perform in Iowa or for clients with a home office in Iowa.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—20.3(542) When Iowa licensure may be required.**

**20.3(1)** The auditor of state, the department of agriculture and land stewardship, other governmental official or body, or a client may require that an individual be licensed in Iowa as a condition of performing public accounting services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa, whether or not the individual may otherwise satisfy the conditions for a practice privilege. Iowa licensure as a certified public accountant is required, for example, to perform certain audit services described in Iowa Code chapter 11.

**20.3(2)** Iowa licensure is required if an individual has an office in Iowa at which the individual uses the title "CPA," unless the individual satisfies the conditions for a practice privilege and one of the following is true:

*a.* The Iowa office is the office of an Iowa CPA or LPA firm that holds a permit to practice under Iowa Code section 542.7 or 542.8, and the individual provides public accounting services through that firm.

*b.* The Iowa office is the office of a business entity that is not required to hold a firm permit to practice under Iowa Code section 542.7 or 542.8, and the individual provides public accounting services through that business entity.

**20.3(3)** Iowa licensure is required if an individual moves the individual's principal place of business to Iowa and is otherwise required to be licensed under Iowa Code chapter 542. The board's streamlined application process for reciprocal licensure is described in Iowa Code section 542.19 and 193A—Chapter 9.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—20.4(542) Individuals ineligible for a practice privilege.**

**20.4(1)** The practice privilege described in Iowa Code section 542.20 shall not be applicable if:

*a.* The individual has been convicted of a felony under the laws of any jurisdiction.

*b.* The individual has been convicted of any crime under the laws of any jurisdiction if an element of the crime involves dishonesty or fraud, such as forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses, theft, extortion, conspiracy to defraud, or similar offense, as more fully described in Iowa Code section 542.5(2).

c. The individual's license to practice public accounting has been suspended, revoked, or otherwise disciplined by a licensing authority in this or another state, territory, or country, for any cause other than failure to pay appropriate fees. "Disciplined" shall include the voluntary surrender of a license to resolve a pending disciplinary investigation or proceeding in Iowa or another jurisdiction.

d. The individual's right to practice public accounting before any state or federal agency, or the PCAOB, has been suspended or revoked.

e. The individual has applied for licensure as a certified public accountant in Iowa or another jurisdiction and the application has been denied.

f. Civil penalties have been imposed against the individual pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.14.

g. The individual's authority to exercise a practice privilege has been revoked in Iowa or another jurisdiction.

**20.4(2)** Individuals precluded from exercising a practice privilege under this rule may apply for licensure in Iowa if otherwise qualified. The board will determine when an application is submitted whether the criminal or disciplinary history or other regulatory action provides a ground to deny licensure.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

### **193A—20.5(542) Attest and compilation services.**

**20.5(1)** Individuals providing audit, review or other attest services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa must practice through a CPA firm that holds an active permit to practice pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.7 or through an out-of-state CPA firm exercising a practice privilege with a home office in Iowa without first obtaining a firm permit to practice in Iowa as long as the out-of-state firm is validly licensed in the state of its principal place of business, complies with Iowa Code sections 542.20(5) and 542.20(6) and associated rules, and complies with the peer review and ownership provisions of Iowa Code section 542.7. Unless Iowa certification is specifically required by a governmental body or client, individual CPAs performing such attest services through an out-of-state CPA firm may either hold an active Iowa CPA certificate or exercise a practice privilege as more fully described in Iowa Code section 542.20. Individuals who provide such attest services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa through an out-of-state CPA firm exercising a practice privilege must provide such services through a certified public accounting firm that is validly licensed in the state of its principal place of business, complies with Iowa Code sections 542.20(5) and 542.20(6) and associated rules, and complies with the peer review and ownership provisions of Iowa Code section 542.7.

**20.5(2)** Individuals providing compilation services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa must comply with the peer review provisions of Iowa Code section 542.6(6), or provide such services through a CPA or LPA firm, or a substantially equivalent firm that holds a valid license in the firm's principal place of business and that complies with the peer review and ownership provisions of Iowa Code section 542.7 or 542.8.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 0413C, IAB 10/31/12, effective 12/5/12; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17]

### **193A—20.6(542) Rights and duties.**

**20.6(1)** Individuals who satisfy the conditions for a practice privilege may practice public accounting in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa in person, or by telephone, mail, or electronic means without licensure under Iowa Code chapter 542 or notice to the board.

**20.6(2)** Individuals lawfully practicing public accounting under a practice privilege may use the title "CPA" as long as they do not have an office in Iowa, except as provided in subrule 20.3(2).

**20.6(3)** Individuals practicing public accounting in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa while exercising a practice privilege are subject to all of the following provisions:

a. Practice privilege practitioners shall not make any representation tending to falsely indicate that the individuals are licensed under Iowa Code chapter 542. Such individuals may truthfully identify themselves as licensed in any jurisdiction in which they hold a valid, active, unexpired license to practice as a certified public accountant. For example, a practice privilege practitioner could not use the title "Iowa CPA" or otherwise state or imply licensure in Iowa, but, if true, the individual could use a title

such as “CPA, licensed in Texas” or “Florida CPA.” Such individuals could also truthfully state that they are CPAs practicing under a practice privilege.

*b.* Practice privilege practitioners shall provide, upon a client’s or prospective client’s request, accurate information on the state or states of licensure, principal place of business, contact information, and manner in which licensure status can be verified.

*c.* Practice privilege practitioners shall comply with all professional standards, laws, and rules that apply to licensees performing the same professional services.

**20.6(4)** As a condition of exercising the practice privilege provided in Iowa Code section 542.20, the individual:

*a.* Consents to the personal and subject matter jurisdiction and regulatory authority of the board including, but not limited to, the board’s jurisdiction to revoke the practice privilege or otherwise take action under Iowa Code section 542.14 for any violation of Iowa Code chapter 542 or board rules;

*b.* Appoints the regulatory body of the state that issued the license in the individual’s principal place of business as the agent upon whom process may be served in any action or proceeding by the board against the individual;

*c.* Agrees to supply the board, upon the board’s request and without subpoena, such information or records licensees are similarly required to provide the board under Iowa Code chapter 542, including but not limited to the information described in Iowa Code section 542.20, subsection 7, paragraph “c”; and

*d.* Agrees to promptly cease offering or providing public accounting services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa if the license in the individual’s principal place of business expires or is otherwise no longer in good standing, or if any of the conditions for exercising the practice privilege are no longer satisfied, or if the board revokes the practice privilege.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

### **193A—20.7(542) Penalties.**

**20.7(1)** Individuals purporting to practice public accounting under a practice privilege who are ineligible to exercise a practice privilege or who fail to satisfy the conditions for exercising a practice privilege are subject to all of the penalties that apply to unlicensed persons, including the criminal, administrative, and civil penalties described in Iowa Code sections 542.14 and 542.15.

**20.7(2)** If an individual acting or purporting to act under a practice privilege engages in any act or practice that does or may in the future violate Iowa Code chapter 542 or board rules, the board may take any or all of the following actions, as applicable:

*a.* Apply to the district court for an injunction, restraining order, or other order, pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.14(1);

*b.* Issue an order to require compliance with Iowa Code chapter 542 or board rules, impose a civil penalty up to \$1,000 per offense, which may be imposed per day for a continuing violation, and revoke the practice privilege, pursuant to the procedures outlined in Iowa Code section 542.14, subsections 2 to 5, and 193A—Chapter 17;

*c.* Deny the subsequent license application of the violator or the violator’s firm, pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.20, subsection 4, paragraphs “a” and “b”;

*d.* Refer the complaint or other relevant information to the jurisdiction that issued a license to the alleged violator; and

*e.* Take disciplinary action against the individual pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.10 if the individual holds an inactive or lapsed Iowa license.

**20.7(3)** Complaints filed with the board alleging violations by individuals who are not licensed by the board, including those acting or purporting to act under a practice privilege, are not confidential under Iowa Code section 272C.6(4) and shall not be treated as confidential unless otherwise provided in Iowa Code chapter 22 or other applicable law.

**20.7(4)** Persons filing complaints with the board against individuals acting or purporting to act under a practice privilege should provide as much information as possible to assist the board in locating the individual and in determining whether the individual is licensed in any jurisdiction.  
[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—20.8(542) Relationship between Iowa licensure and the exercise of a practice privilege.**

**20.8(1)** *Active Iowa licensees.* An Iowa licensee holding an active CPA certificate shall be treated for all purposes as an Iowa licensee and shall not be subject to the provisions of Iowa Code section 542.20.

**20.8(2)** *Inactive Iowa licensees.* An Iowa licensee holding an inactive CPA certificate is precluded by Iowa Code section 542.6(3) and rule 193A—5.9(272C,542) from performing attest or compilation services or using the title “CPA” while performing public accounting services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa. The practice of an inactive CPA is restricted because the continuing education required to renew in active status does not apply to those renewing in inactive status. Some individuals holding an inactive Iowa CPA certificate may, however, hold an active CPA certificate in another jurisdiction in which they maintain their principal place of business and satisfy continuing education requirements. Such individuals may have maintained an inactive Iowa CPA certificate solely to facilitate reinstatement to active status when active Iowa licensure is required in their practice. The following provisions shall apply to inactive Iowa licensees who may wish to exercise a practice privilege:

*a.* In a disciplinary investigation or proceeding in which an inactive Iowa licensee is alleged to have improperly used the title “CPA” or otherwise practiced public accounting on an inactive license, the board shall take into consideration whether the inactive licensee, at the time of the events at issue, satisfied the conditions for a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20 and complied with all rules applicable to the exercise of a practice privilege.

*b.* The individual shall take care to avoid public confusion about licensure status as provided in 193A—subrule 5.1(6).

*c.* Violations of Iowa laws or rules by an individual holding an inactive Iowa CPA certificate shall be prosecuted as disciplinary proceedings against a licensee under Iowa Code section 542.10 and, when appropriate under the factual circumstances, may also or alternatively be enforced under the provisions of Iowa Code sections 542.14 and 542.15.

**20.8(3)** *Lapsed Iowa licensees.* An Iowa licensee holding a lapsed Iowa CPA certificate is not authorized to perform attest or compilation services or to otherwise practice public accounting using the title “CPA” in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa. A lapsed licensee is subject to discipline for practicing on a lapsed license and may not represent oneself as a “CPA” in any context unless the licensee truthfully discloses that the certificate has lapsed. Some individuals holding lapsed Iowa CPA certificates may, however, hold active CPA certificates in another jurisdiction in which the individuals maintain their principal place of business. Such individuals may have intentionally allowed their Iowa CPA certificates to lapse because the individuals no longer need an active Iowa license in their practice. The following provisions shall apply to lapsed Iowa licensees who may wish to exercise a practice privilege:

*a.* In a disciplinary investigation or proceeding in which a lapsed Iowa licensee is alleged to have improperly used the title “CPA” or otherwise practiced public accounting on a lapsed license, the board shall take into consideration whether the lapsed licensee, at the time of the events at issue, satisfied the conditions for a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20 and complied with all rules applicable to the exercise of a practice privilege.

*b.* The individual shall take care to avoid public confusion about licensure status as provided in 193A—subrule 5.1(6).

*c.* Violations of Iowa laws or rules by an individual holding a lapsed Iowa CPA certificate shall be prosecuted as disciplinary proceedings against a licensee under Iowa Code section 542.10 and, when appropriate under the factual circumstances, may also or alternatively be prosecuted under the provisions of Iowa Code sections 542.14 and 542.15.

**20.8(4) Former Iowa licensees.** An individual who held an Iowa CPA certificate at one time whose Iowa CPA certificate has been revoked or surrendered in connection with a disciplinary investigation or proceeding is prohibited from performing attest or compilation services or using the title “CPA” whether or not such individual may otherwise qualify for a practice privilege.

*a.* The former Iowa licensees described in this subrule are ineligible to exercise the practice privilege described in Iowa Code section 542.20.

*b.* Violations of Iowa Code chapter 542 or board rules by former Iowa licensees are subject to the criminal, civil and administrative remedies described in Iowa Code sections 542.14 and 542.15, and may also be prosecuted as disciplinary proceedings under Iowa Code section 542.10 if the license remains subject to reinstatement under Iowa Code section 542.12.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 542.20.

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## CHAPTER 21

## PRACTICE PRIVILEGE FOR OUT-OF-STATE CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRMS

**193A—21.1(542) Overview and timing.** Beginning July 1, 2009, out-of-state certified public accounting firms that maintain their principal place of business in a jurisdiction other than Iowa may practice public accounting in Iowa or for clients with a home office in Iowa without Iowa licensure if all of the conditions of Iowa Code section 542.20 and this chapter are satisfied.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—21.2(542) Out-of-state licensure status.** The practice privilege described in Iowa Code section 542.20 applies to certified public accounting firms that are licensed to practice as certified public accounting firms in the jurisdiction in which their principal place of business is located for those periods of time in which all of the following conditions are satisfied:

**21.2(1)** The out-of-state license is valid, in good standing, and active. The practice privilege shall cease if the out-of-state license expires in the jurisdiction of the firm's principal place of business.

**21.2(2)** The out-of-state license is substantially equivalent to a permit to practice issued under Iowa Code section 542.7.

**21.2(3)** The license authorizes in the firm's principal place of business all of the public accounting services the firm performs or offers to perform in Iowa or for clients with a home office in Iowa.

**21.2(4)** The public accounting services offered in Iowa or for clients with a home office in Iowa that are required under Iowa law to be performed by a CPA are performed by a person holding a certificate issued under Iowa Code section 542.6 or 542.19, or by a person exercising a practice privilege pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.20 and 193A—Chapter 20.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—21.3(542) When Iowa licensure may be required.**

**21.3(1)** The auditor of state, the department of agriculture and land stewardship, other governmental official or body, or a client may require that a firm be licensed in Iowa as a condition of performing public accounting services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa, whether or not the firm may otherwise satisfy the conditions for a practice privilege. Iowa licensure as a certified public accounting firm is required, for example, to perform certain audit services described in Iowa Code chapter 11.

**21.3(2)** Iowa licensure is required if the firm has one or more offices in Iowa at which the firm uses the title "CPAs," "CPA firm," "certified public accountants," or "certified public accounting firm."

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 0413C, IAB 10/31/12, effective 12/5/12; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17]

**193A—21.4(542) CPA firms ineligible for a practice privilege.**

**21.4(1)** The practice privilege described in Iowa Code section 542.20 shall not be applicable if:

*a.* The firm or any of the firm's owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members) has been convicted of a felony under the laws of any jurisdiction.

*b.* The firm or any of the firm's owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members) has been convicted of any crime under the laws of any jurisdiction if an element of the crime involves dishonesty or fraud, such as forgery, embezzlement, obtaining money under false pretenses, theft, extortion, conspiracy to defraud, or similar offense, as more fully described in Iowa Code section 542.5(2).

*c.* The license to practice public accounting of the firm or any of the firm's owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members) has been suspended, revoked, or otherwise disciplined by a licensing authority in this or another state, territory, or country, for any cause other than failure to pay appropriate fees. "Disciplined" shall include the voluntary surrender of a license to resolve a pending disciplinary investigation or proceeding in Iowa or any other jurisdiction.

*d.* The right of the firm or any of the firm's owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members) to practice public accounting before any state or federal agency or the PCAOB has been suspended or revoked.

*e.* The firm or any of the firm's owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members) has applied for licensure as a certified public accounting firm or a certified public accountant in Iowa or any other jurisdiction and the application has been denied.

*f.* Civil penalties have been imposed against the firm or any of the firm's owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members) pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.14.

*g.* The authority of the firm or any of the firm's owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members) to exercise a practice privilege has been revoked in Iowa or any other jurisdiction.

**21.4(2)** Firms precluded from exercising a practice privilege under this rule may apply for licensure in Iowa if otherwise qualified. The board will determine when an application is submitted whether the criminal or disciplinary history or other regulatory action against the firm or against any of the firm's owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members) provides a ground to deny licensure.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

**193A—21.5(542) Attest and compilation services.** Unless otherwise required by rule 193A—21.3(542), attest and compilation services may be performed by an out-of-state CPA firm exercising a practice privilege as long as the out-of-state firm is validly licensed in the state of its principal place of business, complies with Iowa Code sections 542.20(5) and 542.20(6) and associated rules, and complies with the peer review and ownership provisions of Iowa Code section 542.7.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 0413C, IAB 10/31/12, effective 12/5/12; ARC 3422C, IAB 10/25/17, effective 11/29/17]

**193A—21.6(542) Rights and duties.**

**21.6(1)** CPA firms that satisfy the conditions for a practice privilege may practice public accounting in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa in person, or by telephone, mail, or electronic means without licensure under Iowa Code chapter 542 or notice to the board.

**21.6(2)** CPA firms lawfully practicing public accounting under a practice privilege may use the title "CPAs," "CPA firm," "certified public accountants," or "certified public accounting firm."

**21.6(3)** CPA firms practicing public accounting in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa while exercising a practice privilege are subject to all of the following provisions:

*a.* Practice privilege firms shall not make any representation tending to falsely indicate that the firm is licensed under Iowa Code chapter 542. Such firms may truthfully identify themselves as licensed in any jurisdiction in which the firm holds a valid, active, unexpired license to practice as a certified public accounting firm. For example, a practice privilege firm could not use the title "Iowa CPAs" or "Iowa CPA firm" or otherwise state or imply licensure in Iowa, but, if true, the firm could use a title such as "CPA firm, licensed in Texas" or "Florida CPAs." Such firm could also truthfully state that the firm is practicing in Iowa under a practice privilege.

*b.* Practice privilege firms shall provide, upon a client's or prospective client's request, accurate information on the state or states of licensure, principal place of business, contact information, and manner in which licensure status can be verified.

*c.* Practice privilege firms shall comply with all professional standards, laws, and rules that apply to licensed firms performing the same professional services.

**21.6(4)** As a condition of exercising the practice privilege provided in Iowa Code section 542.20, the firm:

*a.* Consents to the personal and subject matter jurisdiction and regulatory authority of the board including, but not limited to, the board's jurisdiction to revoke the practice privilege or otherwise take action under Iowa Code section 542.14 for any violation of Iowa Code chapter 542 or board rules;

*b.* Appoints the regulatory body of the state that issued the license in the firm's principal place of business as the agent upon whom process may be served in any action or proceeding by the board against the firm;

*c.* Agrees to supply the board, upon the board's request and without subpoena, such information or records that licensed firms are similarly required to provide the board under Iowa Code chapter 542, including but not limited to the information described in Iowa Code section 542.20, subsection 7, paragraph "c," and rule 193A—7.3(542); and

*d.* Agrees to promptly cease offering or providing public accounting services in Iowa or for a client with a home office in Iowa if the license in the firm's principal place of business expires or is otherwise no longer in good standing, or if any of the conditions for exercising the practice privilege are no longer satisfied, or if the board revokes the practice privilege.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

### **193A—21.7(542) Penalties.**

**21.7(1)** Firms purporting to practice public accounting under a practice privilege which are ineligible to exercise a practice privilege or which fail to satisfy the conditions for exercising a practice privilege are subject to all of the penalties that apply to unlicensed firms, including the criminal, administrative, and civil penalties described in Iowa Code sections 542.14 and 542.15.

**21.7(2)** If a firm acting or purporting to act under a practice privilege engages in any act or practice that does or may in the future violate Iowa Code chapter 542 or board rules, the board may take any or all of the following actions, as applicable:

*a.* Apply to the district court for an injunction, restraining order, or other order, pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.14(1);

*b.* Issue an order to require compliance with Iowa Code chapter 542 or board rules, impose a civil penalty up to \$10,000 per offense, which may be imposed at a rate up to \$1,000 per day for a continuing violation, and revoke the practice privilege, pursuant to the procedures outlined in Iowa Code section 542.14, subsections 2 to 5, and 193A—Chapter 17;

*c.* Deny the subsequent license application of the violator or, to the extent responsible for the violation, any of the firm's owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members), pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.20, subsection 4, paragraphs "a" and "b";

*d.* Refer the complaint or other relevant information to a jurisdiction that issued a license to the alleged violator; and

*e.* Take disciplinary action against the firm or, to the extent responsible for the violation, any of the firm's owners (e.g., partners, shareholders, or members), pursuant to Iowa Code section 542.10 if the firm or individual holds an inactive or lapsed Iowa license.

**21.7(3)** Complaints filed with the board alleging violations by firms that are not licensed by the board, including those acting or purporting to act under a practice privilege, are not confidential under Iowa Code section 272C.6(4) and shall not be treated as confidential unless otherwise provided in Iowa Code chapter 22 or other applicable law.

**21.7(4)** Persons filing complaints with the board against firms acting or purporting to act under a practice privilege should provide as much information as possible to assist the board in locating the firm and the individuals allegedly responsible for the acts or omissions causing the complaint, and in determining whether the firm or any responsible individual is licensed in any jurisdiction.

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

### **193A—21.8(542) Relationship between Iowa licensure and the exercise of a practice privilege.**

**21.8(1)** *Active Iowa licensees.* An Iowa CPA firm holding an active permit to practice under Iowa Code section 542.7 shall be treated for all purposes as an Iowa licensee and shall not be subject to the provisions of Iowa Code section 542.20.

**21.8(2)** *Lapsed Iowa licensees.* An Iowa CPA firm holding a lapsed permit to practice under Iowa Code section 542.7 is not authorized to perform attest or compilation services or to otherwise practice public accounting using the title "CPAs," "CPA firm," "certified public accountants," or "certified public accounting firm" unless the firm is eligible to exercise a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20. The following provisions shall apply to firms holding a lapsed Iowa permit to practice when exercising a practice privilege:

*a.* In a disciplinary investigation or proceeding alleging unlicensed practice or improper use of title, the board shall take into consideration whether the lapsed licensee, at the time of the events at issue, satisfied the conditions for a practice privilege under Iowa Code section 542.20 and complied with all rules applicable to the exercise of a practice privilege.

*b.* The firm shall take reasonable steps to avoid public confusion over licensure status.

c. Violations of Iowa laws or rules by a firm holding a lapsed permit to practice shall be prosecuted as disciplinary proceedings against a licensee under Iowa Code section 542.10 and, when appropriate under the factual circumstances, may also or alternatively be prosecuted under the provisions of Iowa Code sections 542.14 and 542.15.

**21.8(3) Former Iowa licensees.** A CPA firm that held an Iowa permit to practice at one time which has been revoked or surrendered in connection with a disciplinary investigation or proceeding is prohibited from performing any act or practice for which Iowa firm licensure is required and is further ineligible to exercise the practice privilege described in Iowa Code section 542.20. Violations of Iowa Code chapter 542 or board rules by such a firm are subject to the criminal, civil and administrative remedies described in Iowa Code sections 542.14 and 542.15, and may also be prosecuted as disciplinary proceedings under Iowa Code section 542.10 if the license remains subject to reinstatement under 193A—subrule 7.6(3).

[ARC 7715B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 7/1/09]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 542.20.

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