

PRACTICE DIRECTION NO. 1 OF 2025

REVISED CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SYLLABUS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AS A PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AND RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

Aim

1. This practice direction sets out the changes to the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) syllabus.

Background

2. All public accountants must undertake CPE in accordance with the CPE syllabus approved by the Public Accountants Oversight Committee (PAOC) for the purposes of registration as a public accountant and renewal of certificate of registration. The CPE requirements are set out in paragraph 1 of the Third Schedule (on renewal) and paragraph 4 of the Second Schedule (on registration) to the Accountants (Public Accountants) Rules.
3. The current CPE syllabus provides that CPE hours are awarded based on programme duration which must be at least one hour. The minimum one-hour course duration aims to ensure that the learning objectives of the courses, which were typically held in person previously, are met.

Changes to the CPE Syllabus

4. There is an increase of online platforms now offering bite-sized learning modules or courses. These courses are designed to deliver key concepts and skills efficiently, enabling specific learning objectives to be met. The availability of short online CPE courses enables public accountants to integrate learning into their daily routines and makes continuous professional development more accessible.
5. Considering the benefits of bite-sized courses, **the minimum CPE Programme duration will be reduced from 1 CPE hour to 0.5 CPE hour and 0.5 CPE hour can be awarded to public accountants who complete courses with duration longer than 30 minutes to an hour.**
6. **Only stand-alone courses with achievable learning objectives within the 0.5 hour will be recognised.** For courses that are delivered over multiple 30-minute modules to achieve the overall learning objective, CPE hours should only be awarded to and recorded by the public accountants **after they have completed all the relevant modules.** For example, a course on Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 115: Revenue from Contracts with Customers may be structured to consist of four modules covering topics such as: (1) Identifying Performance Obligations, (2) Satisfaction of Performance Obligations, (3) Determining and Allocating Transaction Price, and (4) Presentation and Disclosure under

FRS 115. CPE hours will only be awarded to the public accountants after all four modules are completed to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the FRS.

7. To strike a balance between providing flexibility for busy professionals to engage in bite-sized learning and ensuring that public accountants also participate in comprehensive learning programmes, **the total CPE hours comprising such 0.5 hour courses will be limited to no more than 50% of the total 90 structured CPE hours required in each rolling 3-year period (i.e. 45 hours).**

Implementation

8. The above change to the CPE syllabus will take effect from 1 April 2025. Please refer to the [revised CPE syllabus](#).

Legal Provisions

9. The legal provisions relevant to this Practice Direction are:

- (a) Section 13 of the Accountants Act 2004; and
- (b) Second Schedule and Third Schedule to the Accountants (Public Accountants) Rules.

Further Clarification

10. Further enquires can be sent through <https://www.acra.gov.sg/feedback>.

Issued on 1 April 2025

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Chairman

Public Accountants Oversight Committee