

PRACTICE DIRECTION NO. 2 OF 2008

CONDITION FOR RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AS A PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

1. This Practice Direction sets out the determination of the Public Accountants Oversight Committee (PAOC) under section 13(3)(c) of the Accountants Act 2004 that outstanding fees, penalties and costs and expenses must be paid before the public accountant concerned is allowed to renew his or her certificate of registration as a public accountant

Background

2. A public accountant is not entitled to have his certificate of registration renewed if he has failed to comply with the requirements set out in section 13(3) of the Accountants Act 2004. The requirements that must be satisfied are compliance with the prescribed continuing professional education requirements, compliance with certain orders following the practice review and compliance with “*such other requirement as the Oversight Committee thinks relevant*”.¹

3. There are various fees, penalties and costs and expenses that are imposed under the Accountants Act (or under its predecessor Act). These include —

- (a) Fees for the conduct of practice monitoring programme under section 33(2)² of the Accountants Act 2004, read with rule 4 and the First Schedule to the Accountants (Public Accountants) Rules;
- (b) Penalties imposed on the public accountant following disciplinary proceedings by the PAOC under section 52(2)(d)³ of the Accountants Act 2004; and
- (c) Costs and expenses of and incidental to any disciplinary proceedings against the public accountant ordered to be paid by the PAOC under section 52(3)⁴ of the Accountants Act 2004.

¹ Section 13(3) of the Accountants Act in force on 1 July 2023 states:

“13.—(3) Unless the Oversight Committee determines otherwise, a public accountant shall not be entitled to have his certificate of registration renewed if he has failed —

- (a) to comply with the prescribed requirements relating to continuing professional education;
- (b) to comply with any order made under section 38 (1) or (2)(b); or
- (c) to satisfy such other requirement as the Oversight Committee thinks relevant.”

² Under section 33(2) of the Accountants Act in force on 1 July 2023, a public accountant undergoing a practice monitoring programme must pay any fee prescribed in connection with the administration of the programme.

³ Under section 52(2) of the Accountants Act, upon receiving the report and recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee, the Oversight Committee may (amongst other things) impose on the public accountant a penalty not exceeding \$10,000.

⁴ Under section 52(3) of the Accountants Act, the Oversight Committee may order the public accountant concerned to pay to the Authority such sums as it thinks fit in respect of costs and expenses of and incidental to any proceedings against him under Part VI of the Accountants Act relating to “Disciplinary Proceedings”.

Requirement to be fulfilled before renewal

4. The PAOC has determined under section 13(3)(c) of the Accountants Act 2004 that it is a requirement for a public accountant who wishes to renew his certificate of registration to **pay up in full** all amounts due and payable or outstanding to ACRA in respect the following fees, penalties, costs and expenses **before any application** by a public accountant for renewal of his certificate of registration is renewed:

- (a) Fees for the conduct of practice monitoring programme under section 33(2) of the Accountants Act, read with rule 4 and the First Schedule to the Accountants (Public Accountants) Rules;
- (b) Penalties imposed on the public accountant following disciplinary proceedings by the PAOC under section 52(2)(d) of the Accountants Act 2004; and
- (c) Costs and expenses of and incidental to any disciplinary proceedings against the public accountant ordered to be paid by the PAOC under section 52(3) of the Accountants Act 2004.

5. It follows that an application by a public accountant for the renewal of his or her certificate of registration as a public accountant will not be approved if any of the fees, penalties, costs and expenses referred to in paragraph 5(a) to (c) are outstanding.

Legal Provisions

6. The legal provisions relevant to and referred to in this Practice Direction are:

- (a) Sections 13, 33 and 52 of the Accountants Act 2004;
- (b) Rule 4 of the Accountants (Public Accountants) Rules; and
- (c) First Schedule to the Accountants (Public Accountants) Rules.

Further Clarification

7. If you need further clarifications, please submit your enquiries through <https://www.acra.gov.sg/enquiry/>.

Issued on 5 September 2008

Ms Juthika Ramanathan

Registrar of Public Accountants and
Chief Executive, Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA)
SINGAPORE

Updated as of 1 July 2023.