

## CHAPTER 3 - ACCOUNTANTS

### ARTICLE 1 - IN GENERAL

#### **33-3-101. Citation.**

This act may be cited as the "Certified Public Accountant's Act of 2005". This act applies only to certified public accountants and certified public accountant firms and those who hold themselves out to be a certified public accountant or a certified public accountant firm.

#### **33-3-102. Definitions.**

(a) As used in this act:

(i) "Board" means the Wyoming board of certified public accountants created by W.S. 33-3-103;

(ii) "State" means any state of the United States excluding Wyoming, any territory or insular possession of the United States or the District of Columbia;

(iii) Masculine terms when used in this act shall include the feminine;

(iv) "Permit" means a permit to engage in the practice of public accounting as a "certified public accountant firm" issued by the board under W.S. 33-3-118 and 33-3-120 which has not expired, been revoked or suspended;

(v) "Examination" means a written examination described in W.S. 33-3-109(a) (iv);

(vi) "Attest service" means any of the financial statement services described in the following subparagraphs. The statements on standards specified in the following subparagraphs shall be adopted by reference by the board pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and shall be those developed for general application by recognized national accountancy organizations such as the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the public company accounting oversight board:

(A) Any audit or other engagement performed in accordance with the statements on auditing standards;

(B) Any review of a financial statement to be performed in accordance with the statements on standards for accounting and review services;

(C) Any examination of prospective financial information to be performed in accordance with the statement on standards for attestation engagements;

(D) Any engagement to be performed in accordance with the auditing standards of the public company accountancy oversight board;

(E) Any examination, review or agreed upon procedures engagement to be performed in accordance with the statement on standards for attestation engagements other than examinations described in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

(vii) "Certificate" means a certificate as "certified public accountant" issued under this act or corresponding provisions of prior law, or a corresponding certificate as certified public accountant issued after examination under the law of any other state;

(viii) "Certified public accountant firm" means any form of organization allowed by state law that has been issued a permit under this act;

(ix) "Compilation service" means providing a service to be performed in accordance with the statements on standards for accounting and review services the objective of which is to assist management in the presentation of financial statements and to report on that information without undertaking to obtain or provide any assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework;

(x) "Home office" means the location specified by the client as the address to which a service described in W.S. 33-3-116(a) is directed;

(xi) "License" means an active certified public accountant certificate or any other comparable document issued

by any other state based on completing education, examination and experience requirements;

(xii) "NASBA" means the national association of state boards of accountancy;

(xiii) "Principal place of business" means the office location designated by the licensee for purposes of substantial equivalency and reciprocity;

(xiv) "Substantial equivalency" is a determination by the board or its designee 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 of W.S. 33-3-116(c)(i) or that an individual certified public accountant's education, examination and experience are comparable to or exceed the education, examination and experience requirements of W.S. 33-3-116(c)(i). In ascertaining substantial equivalency the board shall take into account the qualifications without regard to the sequence in which experience, education or examination requirements were attained;

(xv) "This act" means W.S. 33-3-101 through 33-3-201.

**33-3-103. Wyoming board of certified public accountants; creation; members; vacancies; removal; reappointment.**

There is created a Wyoming board of certified public accountants. The board shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the governor. Members of the board shall be citizens of the United States and residents of Wyoming. Four (4) members of the board shall be persons who hold certified public accountant certificates issued under the laws of Wyoming and are in good standing as certified public accountants. One (1) member of the board shall be a member of the general public. The members of the board first to be appointed shall hold office, one (1) for one (1) year, two (2) for two (2) years and two (2) for three (3) years from July 1, 1975, the term of each to be designated by the governor. Their successors shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years. Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term. Upon the expiration of his term of office a member shall continue to serve until his successor is appointed and qualified. The governor shall remove any member from the board whose certificate has been revoked or suspended, and may remove any member of the board as provided in W.S. 9-1-202. No person, who

has served two (2) successive complete terms of one (1), two (2) or three (3) years is eligible for reappointment until after the lapse of one (1) year. An appointment to fill an unexpired term is not considered a complete term.

**33-3-104. Board chairman; board secretary; regulations; quorum; seal; records.**

The board shall elect annually a chairman and a secretary from its members. The secretary shall report to the board regarding revenue receipts and review reports of all fees and other money received by the board. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The board shall have a seal which shall be judicially noticed. The board shall keep records of its proceedings. The board may employ personnel and arrange for any assistance it may require in the performance of its duties.

**33-3-105. Register; contents.**

The board shall maintain on its website a register that contains the names of all certified public accountants, the names of the members of the board and other matters deemed proper by the board.

**33-3-106. Compensation of board members; expenses.**

Each member of the board shall receive as salary the sum paid each day to members of the state legislature, for each day spent in the discharge of his official duties and mileage and per diem allowance as provided in W.S. 33-1-302(a)(vii). Compensation, reimbursement of expenses and all other obligations incurred by the board shall be paid from the certified public accountant's account.

**33-3-107. Fees; collection; certified public accountant's account; disbursements; transfer of existing funds.**

All fees collected under the provisions of this act shall be remitted by the board to the state treasurer according to policy set by the state treasurer. The state treasurer shall deposit all collections and other funds of the board in a separate account. All funds of any organization of certified public accountants held by the Wyoming state treasurer on the effective date of this act shall be transferred to and become a part of the certified public accountant's account.

**33-3-108. Rules and regulations; procedure.**

(a) The board shall prescribe rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this act as it deems consistent with, or required by, the public welfare. The rules and regulations shall include:

(i) Rules of procedure for governing the conduct of matters before the board;

(ii) Rules of professional conduct for establishing and maintaining high standards of competence and integrity for certified public accountants in the profession of public accountancy;

(iii) Regulations governing educational and experience requirements for issuance of the certificate of certified public accountant, and further educational requirements, and not exceeding one hundred twenty (120) hours for each three (3) year period, to be met from time to time by certificate holders in order to maintain their professional knowledge and competence, as a condition to continuing in the practice of public accountancy as a certified public accountant;

(iv) Regulations governing certified public accountant firms practicing public accounting which use the title "certified public accountant", including but not limited to rules concerning style, name, title and affiliation with any other organization;

(v) Rules governing the determination of substantial equivalence for practice privileges or the issuance of certificates;

(vi) Rules exempting certificate holders from maintaining active, inactive or retired status as determined by the board;

(vii) Rules establishing miscellaneous fees and fee collection relating to licensing and enforcement operations in accordance with W.S. 33-1-201.

(b) All rules and regulations of the board shall be promulgated in compliance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act.

**33-3-109. Certified public accountant; qualifications.**

(a) An active certificate of "certified public accountant" shall be granted by the board to any person:

(i) Who is a resident of Wyoming or has a place of business in Wyoming, or as an employee, is regularly employed in Wyoming; and

(ii) Who has attained the age of majority in Wyoming; and

(iii) Repealed by Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.

(iv) Who has passed a written examination in accounting and auditing and other related subjects the board determines to be appropriate; and

(v) Who, prior to January 1, 2012, meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) or subparagraphs (C) and (D) of this paragraph or, on or after January 1, 2012, meets the requirements of subparagraphs (C) and (D) of this paragraph:

(A) Earned a baccalaureate degree conferred by a college or university recognized by the board, with a total education program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined to be appropriate by the rules and regulations of the board, or what the board determines to be substantially the equivalent of the foregoing;

(B) Completed at least four (4) years of full-time experience in the practice of public accounting. The experience shall include providing any type of service or advice involving the use of accounting skills, any auditing, review or compilation service, any management advisory or financial advisory service, or any tax or consulting service. Experience shall be verified by an active certified public accountant or the equivalent as determined by the board, or by providing representative samples of work as determined by the board. The experience shall be acceptable if it is gained through employment in government, industry, academia or public accounting;

(C) Completed at least one hundred fifty (150) semester hours of college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an

accounting concentration or equivalent as determined to be appropriate by the rules and regulations of the board;

(D) Completed at least one (1) year of full-time experience in the practice of public accounting. The experience shall include providing any type of service or advice involving the use of accounting skills, any auditing, review, or compilation service, any management advisory or financial advisory service, or any tax or consulting service. Experience shall be verified by an active certified public accountant or the equivalent as determined by the board, or by providing representative samples of work as determined by the board. The experience shall be acceptable if it is gained through employment in government, industry, academia or public accounting.

(b) Repealed by Laws 1993, ch. 77, § 2.

(c) As used in this act, "the practice of certified public accounting" means holding oneself out to the public or otherwise in such a manner as to state or imply that one is:

(i) Skilled in the practice of accounting and auditing;

(ii) Qualified to express any form of assurance on financial statements;

(iii) Qualified to express opinions on financial statements for credit purposes, for use in the courts or for other purposes involving third party reliance on these financial statements; or

(iv) Skilled in the provision of any accounting service including recording and summarizing financial transactions, analyzing and verifying financial information, reporting financial results to an employer, clients or other parties and rendering tax or management advisory services to any employer, clients or other parties.

(d) There shall be a reasonable annual certificate fee to be established by board rules in accordance with W.S. 33-1-201. All certificates shall expire on the last day of December of each year and may be renewed annually for a period of one (1) year by certificate holders and registrants who meet the requirements specified in subsection (e) of this section and upon payment of the annual fee. In accordance with W.S. 33-1-

201 the board may by rule establish a fee in addition to the annual certificate fee to reactivate an expired certificate.

(e) Applications for renewal of an active certificate shall be accompanied by evidence of satisfaction of the continuing education requirements during the three (3) years preceding the application. Failure by an individual applicant to furnish this evidence shall constitute grounds for nonrenewal under W.S. 33-3-121, unless the board determines the failure is due to reasonable cause or excusable neglect. The board may renew a certificate despite the failure to furnish evidence of satisfaction of the requirements of continuing education upon the condition that the applicant follow a particular future program or schedule of continuing education. In issuing rules, regulations and individual orders regarding requirements of continuing education, the board may use and rely upon guidelines and pronouncements of recognized educational and professional associations, may prescribe the content, duration and organization of courses, shall take into account the applicant's access to continuing education courses and any impediments to the interstate practice of certified public accounting which may result from differences in these requirements in other states and may provide for relaxation or suspension of the requirements for applicants who certify that they do not intend to engage in the practice of certified public accountancy or for instances of individual hardship.

(f) Persons holding a certificate issued under W.S. 33-3-109 or 33-3-116 but who do not practice public accounting in Wyoming and have not lost the right to active status may place the certificate on an inactive status. A person with a certificate on inactive status shall pay an annual inactive fee not exceeding one-half (1/2) the annual fee charged to active certificate holders. All inactive status certificates shall expire on the last day of December of each year and may be renewed annually for a period of one (1) year. If the fee is not paid by December 31, a late fee as set by board rule in accordance with W.S. 33-1-201, may be added to the annual fee. A person classified as inactive may assume or use the title or designation "certified public accountant" or the abbreviation "CPA" and shall use the words "inactive" adjacent to the designation "CPA" or "certified public accountant".

(g) The board by regulation may allow persons to retire the certificate. A person classified as retired shall pay a fee to be established by board rule in accordance with W.S. 33-1-201. A person classified as retired may assume or use the



title or designation "certified public accountant" or the abbreviation "CPA" and shall use the words "retired" adjacent to the designation "CPA" or "certified public accountant".

(h) Any individual certificate holder or individual with practice privileges who is responsible for supervising attestation services or compilation services or who signs or authorizes someone to sign the accountant's report on the financial statements shall meet the experience or competency requirements set forth in the professional standards for such services.

(j) Nothing in subsection (c) of this section shall be construed to prohibit public accountants from providing the services listed in subsection (c) of this section as long as the public accountant does not hold himself out to be a certified public accountant.

(k) The board shall issue a certificate to a holder of a substantially equivalent foreign designation who meets the requirements of paragraphs (a) (i) and (ii) of this section provided that:

(i) The foreign authority which granted the designation makes similar provision to allow a person who holds a valid certificate issued by this state to obtain the foreign authority's comparable designation; and

(ii) The foreign designation:

(A) Was issued by a foreign authority that regulates the practice of certified public accountancy and the foreign designation has not expired or been revoked or suspended;

(B) Entitles the holder to issue reports upon financial statements; and

(C) Was issued upon the basis of educational, examination and experience requirements established by the foreign authority or by law; and

(iii) The applicant:

(A) Received the designation based on educational and examination standards substantially equivalent

to those in effect in this state at the time the foreign designation was granted;

(B) Completed an experience requirement substantially equivalent to the requirements of subparagraph (a)(v)(D) of this section in the jurisdiction which granted the foreign designation or has completed four (4) years of professional experience in this state or meets equivalent requirements within the ten (10) years immediately preceding the application as prescribed by board rule; and

(C) Passed a uniform qualifying examination in national standards acceptable to the board.

(m) An applicant for a certificate under subsection (k) of this section shall list in the application all jurisdictions, foreign and domestic, in which the applicant has applied for or holds a designation to practice public accountancy. Each holder of a certificate issued under subsection (k) of this section shall notify the board in writing within thirty (30) days after its occurrence of any issuance, denial, revocation or suspension of a designation or commencement of a disciplinary or enforcement action by any jurisdiction.

(n) The board has sole authority to interpret the application of the provisions of subsections (k) and (m) of this section.

(o) An active certificate of "certified public accountant" shall be granted by the board to any person who makes application and demonstrates eligibility under the substantial equivalency standard when the person establishes a principal place of business in this state. Qualifications may be established through a designee as provided in board rule.

(p) An active certificate of "certified public accountant" may be granted by the board to any person who makes application but does not meet the eligibility under the substantial equivalency standard upon a showing:

(i) The applicant passed the uniform certified public accountant examination; and

(ii) The applicant had four (4) years of experience of the type set forth in subparagraph (a)(v)(D) of this section within the ten (10) years immediately preceding the application as prescribed by board rule.

**33-3-110. Examinations and special tests; when held; use of prepared questions and grading service.**

The examination shall be held not less frequently than once each year. The board may make use of any part of the uniform certified public accountant examination and advisory grading service as the board deems appropriate to assist it in performing its duties. The board may administer a special test designed to test skills of foreign accountants. The special test shall be administered in conjunction with the examination as often as may be necessary.

**33-3-111. Candidate for examination; eligibility.**

A candidate is eligible to take the examination when he has met the requirements of W.S. 33-3-109(a) (i) and (ii) and has completed a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, with a total educational program that includes an accounting concentration or its equivalent as determined to be appropriate by the rules and regulations of the board.

**33-3-112. Reexamination; waiting period; credit for parts passed in other states.**

(a) The board may by regulation prescribe the terms and conditions under which a candidate who passes one (1) or more of the subjects of the examination may be reexamined in only the remaining subjects, with credit for the subjects previously passed. It may also provide by regulation for a reasonable waiting period for a candidate's reexamination in any subject he has failed.

(b) The board may provide by regulation for granting credit to a candidate for his satisfactory completion of any subject of the examination given by the licensing authority in any state. The regulations shall include the requirements the board determines to be appropriate in order that any examination approved as a basis for any credit shall be at least as thorough as the most recent examination given by the board at the time of the granting of the credit.

**33-3-113. Examination, reexamination and test fees.**

(a) The board shall establish fees for all examinations as determined by rules and regulations of the board in accordance

with the requirements of the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act, as follows:

(i) In an amount sufficient to ensure funds adequate to administer the examination required by W.S. 33-3-110;

(ii) In an amount sufficient to ensure funds adequate to administer the special test to foreign applicants authorized by W.S. 33-3-110.

(iii) Repealed by Laws 1993, ch. 77, § 2.

**33-3-114. Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.**

**33-3-115. Certified public accountants; certificates under prior law.**

Persons who hold certified public accountant certificates issued under prior laws of Wyoming are not required to obtain additional certificates or register under the provisions of this act, but are subject to all other provisions of this act. Certificates issued under prior law shall be considered certificates issued under the provisions of this act. All certificate holders who maintained the certificate on inactive status under prior law may continue to hold the certificate pursuant to the terms of this act without meeting additional experience requirements under W.S. 33-3-109(a)(v). All certificate holders whose principal place of business is in this state and who provide services in Wyoming as defined in W.S. 33-3-109(c) shall maintain the certificate on active status. All certificate holders whose principal place of business is not in this state and who are not eligible for practice privileges as provided in W.S. 33-3-116 and who provide service in this state as defined in W.S. 33-3-109(c) shall maintain the certificate on active status. Certificate holders who are eligible for practice privileges as provided in W.S. 33-3-116 may elect to maintain the Wyoming certificate pursuant to W.S. 33-3-109(d) through (f).

**33-3-116. Certified public accountant; holders of certificates in sister states.**

(a) The board may allow practice privileges as follows:

(i) An individual whose principal place of business is not in this state and who holds a valid license as a certified public accountant from any state which the board, or

its designee as determined by board rule and as provided in W.S. 33-3-109(o), has determined to be in substantial equivalence with subsection (c) of this section shall be presumed to have qualifications substantially equivalent to this state's requirements and shall have all the privileges of certificate holders of this state without the need to obtain a certificate under W.S. 33-3-109. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual who offers or renders professional services, whether in person or by mail, telephone or electronic means, under this subsection shall be granted practice privileges in this state and no notice, fee or other submission shall be required of the individual. Any individual practicing under this paragraph shall be subject to the requirements of paragraph (a)(iii) of this section;

(ii) An individual whose principal place of business is not in this state and who holds a valid license as a certified public accountant from any state which the board, or its designee as determined by board rule and as provided in W.S. 33-3-109(o), has not determined to be in substantial equivalence with the certified public accountant licensure requirements of subsection (c) of this section shall be presumed to have qualifications substantially equivalent to this state's requirements and shall have all the privileges of certificate holders of this state without the need to obtain a certificate under W.S. 33-3-109 if the individual obtains from the board or its designee verification that the individual's certified public accountant qualifications are substantially equivalent to the certified public accountant licensure requirements of subsection (c) of this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual who offers or renders professional services, whether in person or by mail, telephone or electronic means, under this subsection shall be granted practice privileges in this state and no notice, fee or other submission shall be required of the individual. Any individual practicing under this paragraph shall be subject to the requirements of paragraph (a)(iii) of this section;

(iii) An individual licensee of another state exercising the privileges afforded under this subsection and the firm which employs that licensee simultaneously consents as a condition of the grant of this privilege:

(A) To the personal and subject matter jurisdiction and disciplinary authority of the board;

(B) To comply with this act and any board rules;

(C) That in the event the license from the state of the individual's principal place of business is no longer valid, the individual will cease offering or rendering professional services in this state individually and on behalf of a firm; and

(D) To the appointment of the state board which issued their license as their agent upon whom process may be served in any action or proceeding by the board against the licensee.

(iv) An individual who qualifies for practice privileges under this subsection shall only provide services through a firm which has obtained a permit issued under W.S. 33-3-118 when performing the following services for any entity with its home office in this state:

(A) Providing any financial statement audit or other engagement to be performed in accordance with statements on auditing standards;

(B) Providing any examination of prospective financial information to be performed in accordance with statements on standards for attestation engagements; or

(C) Providing any engagement to be performed in accordance with public company accounting oversight board auditing standards.

(b) A licensee of this state offering or rendering services or using his certified public accountant title in another state shall be subject to disciplinary action in this state for any act committed in another state for which the licensee would be subject to discipline. Notwithstanding W.S. 33-3-123, the board shall investigate any complaint made by the board of accountancy of another state.

(c) An individual shall be deemed to meet the substantial equivalency requirements of this state if he meets the requirements of paragraph (i) or (ii) of this subsection:

(i) The individual holds a valid license as a certified public accountant from any state that requires as a condition of licensure that the individual:

(A) Completes at least one hundred fifty (150) semester hours of college education including a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university;

(B) Achieves a passing grade on the uniform certified public accountant examination; and

(C) Possesses at least one (1) year experience including providing any type of service or advice involving the use of accounting, attest, compilation, management advisory, financial advisory, tax or consulting skills, which may be obtained through government, industry, academic or public practice verified by a licensee or the equivalent of a licensee as determined by the board.

(ii) The individual holds a valid license as a certified public accountant from any state that does not meet the requirements of paragraph (i) of this subsection but the individual has otherwise met the requirements of paragraph (i) of this subsection or substantially similar requirements. Any individual who passed the uniform certified public accountant examination prior to January 1, 2012 may be exempted from the educational requirements in subparagraph (c) (i) (A) of this subsection for purposes of this paragraph.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to prohibit an individual who qualifies for practice privileges under this section from applying for a Wyoming certified public accountant certificate.

**33-3-117. Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.**

**33-3-118. Certified public accountant firms.**

(a) A certified public accounting firm that has been issued a permit under this act may practice in any form of organization allowed by state law.

(i) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.

(ii) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.

(iii) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.

(b) The board shall grant or renew a permit to a certified public accounting firm demonstrating its qualifications in accordance with this section:

- (i) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.
- (ii) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.
- (iii) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.
- (iv) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.
- (v) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.
- (vi) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.
- (vii) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.
- (viii) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.
- (ix) Repealed By Laws 2009, Ch. 99, § 2.
- (x) Repealed By Laws 2009, Ch. 99, § 2.
- (xi) Repealed By Laws 2009, Ch. 99, § 2.
- (xii) Repealed By Laws 2009, Ch. 99, § 2.

(xiii) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the following shall be required to hold a permit issued under this section:

(A) Any firm with an office in this state performing any attest services as defined in W.S. 33-3-102(a)(vi) or any compensated public accounting services described in W.S. 33-3-109(c) for members of the general public provided by certified public accountants who are subject to the jurisdiction of the board under this act;

(B) Any firm with an office in this state that uses the title "CPA" or "CPA firm".

(C) Repealed by Laws 2019, ch. 2, § 2.

(xiv) A firm which does not have an office in this state may perform attest services described in W.S. 33-3-102(a)(vi) or compilation services described in W.S. 33-3-102(a)(ix) for a client having its home office in this state and may use the title "CPA" or "CPA firm" without a permit issued under this section if:



(A) The firm has the qualifications described in paragraph (xvi) of this subsection and W.S. 33-3-132; and

(B) The firm performs the services through an individual with practice privileges under W.S. 33-3-116(a).

(xv) A firm which is not subject to the requirements of paragraph (xiii) or (xiv) of this subsection may perform other professional services while using the title "CPA" or "CPA firm" without a permit if:

(A) The firm performs the services through an individual with practice privileges under W.S. 33-3-116(a); and

(B) The firm can lawfully perform those services in the state where the individual with practice privileges has his principal place of business.

(xvi) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, at least a simple majority of the ownership of the firm, in terms of financial interests and voting rights of all partners, officers, shareholders, members or managers, shall belong to holders of a certificate who are licensed in some state and those partners, officers, shareholders, members or managers whose principal place of business is in this state and who perform professional services in this state shall hold a valid certificate issued under W.S. 33-3-109 or the corresponding provision of prior law. Firms may include noncertificate holder owners but the firm and its ownership shall comply with rules promulgated by the board;

(xvii) Any firm may include nonlicensed owners provided that:

(A) The firm designates a certificate holder of this state, or in the case of a firm which is required to have a permit pursuant to W.S. 33-3-116(a) (iv) a licensee of another state who meets the requirements of W.S. 33-3-116(a), who is responsible for the proper registration of the firm and the firm identifies that individual to the board;

(B) All nonlicensed owners shall be active individual participants in the firm or the firm's affiliated entities;

(C) The firm complies with any other requirements imposed by board rules;

(D) Any firm which is not in compliance with the requirements of this paragraph due to changes in firm ownership or personnel after receiving or renewing a permit shall take corrective action to bring the firm back into compliance. The board, through rule and regulation, shall specify a period of time for firms to take corrective action. Failure to take corrective action may be grounds for suspension or revocation of the permit issued under this section.

(c) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.

(d) This section shall not be applied to prohibit any officer or employee of the state or federal government or political subdivision thereof from performing his official duties.

**33-3-119. Accounting offices; registration.**

An applicant for initial issuance or renewal of a permit to practice under W.S. 33-3-118 shall register the firm and provide a list of all offices of the firm within the state to the board and shall provide evidence that all attest and compilation services rendered in the state are under the charge of a person holding a valid license issued under W.S. 33-3-109 or the corresponding provision of prior law or the laws of some other state. The board shall by regulation prescribe the procedure to be followed in effecting these registrations.

**33-3-120. Permits; annual fee; renewal; requirements.**

(a) Permits to engage in the practice of public accounting as a certified public accountant firm in Wyoming shall be issued by the board to certified public accountant firms registered under this act if all offices of the registrant in Wyoming are maintained and registered as required under W.S. 33-3-119.

(b) There shall be an annual permit fee to be determined by the board in accordance with W.S. 33-1-201. All permits shall expire on the last day of December of each year and may be renewed annually for a period of one (1) year by registrants who meet the requirements specified in subsection (a) of this section and upon payment of the annual permit fee. In accordance with W.S. 33-1-201 the board may by rule establish a fee in

addition to the annual permit fee to reactivate an expired firm permit.

(c) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.

(d) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.

(e) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.

(f) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.

(g) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.

**33-3-121. Certificates and permits; disciplinary action; grounds.**

(a) After notice and hearing, the board may revoke, refuse to renew, reprimand, censure, limit the scope of practice, place on probation with or without terms, conditions or limitations, or may suspend for a period not to exceed two (2) years, any certificate issued under this act or practice privilege or may revoke, suspend, limit the scope of practice, or refuse to renew any permit issued under this act or may censure the holder of a permit for any of the following causes:

(i) Fraud or deceit in obtaining a certificate as certified public accountant or in obtaining a permit under this act;

(ii) Dishonesty, fraud or gross negligence by a certificate holder or individual granted practice privileges:

(A) In the practice of public accounting; or

(B) In the filing or failure to file the holder's or the individual's own income tax return.

(iii) Violation of any of the provisions of this act;

(iv) Violation of any rule promulgated by the board under the authority granted by this act;

(v) Conviction of a felony that relates to the practice of accounting or to the ability to practice accounting under the laws of Wyoming or any other state or of the United States;

(vi) Conviction of any crime, an element of which is dishonesty or fraud, under the laws of Wyoming or any state or of the United States;

(vii) Cancellation, revocation, suspension or refusal to renew the authority to practice as a certified public accountant by any other state for any cause other than failure to pay a fee;

(viii) Permanent revocation of the right to practice before any state or federal agency;

(ix) Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.

(x) Failure of a certificate holder to furnish evidence showing the satisfaction of the requirements of continuing education required by the board;

(xi) Failure of a certificate or permit holder to show compliance with W.S. 33-3-132 regarding practice monitoring programs;

(xii) Making any false or misleading statement or verification in support of an application for a license filed by another;

(xiii) Performance of any fraudulent act while holding a license or privilege issued under this act or prior version of this act.

(b) Upon receipt from the department of family services of a certified copy of an order from a court to withhold, suspend or otherwise restrict a certificate or permit issued by the board or a practice privilege, the board shall notify the party named in the court order of the withholding, suspension or restriction of the certificate, practice privilege or permit in accordance with the terms of the court order. No appeal under the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act shall be allowed for a certificate, practice privilege or permit withheld, suspended or restricted under this subsection.

(c) In lieu of or in addition to any disciplinary action specifically provided in subsection (a) of this section, the board may require a certificate, practice privilege or permit holder to complete such continuing professional education programs as the board may specify or undergo peer review or preissuance review as the board may specify.

(d) The board may recover from a disciplined person any of the following:

(i) Reasonable costs associated with an investigation that leads to disciplinary action including a reasonable hourly rate for the time devoted by board members, expert witnesses or attorneys investigating or prosecuting the matter and all reasonable related travel costs;

(ii) Direct costs to the board of conducting a disciplinary hearing that leads to disciplinary action.

**33-3-122. Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.**

**33-3-123. Initiation of disciplinary proceedings; conduct of proceedings.**

The board may initiate proceedings under this act on its own motion or on the written complaint of any person. All proceedings before the board shall be conducted under the rules and regulations adopted by the board and in accordance with the provisions of the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act.

**33-3-124. Reinstatement of certificate or permit for good cause shown.**

(a) Upon written application and after a hearing attended by the applicant or the applicant's legal representative and for good cause shown, the board may do any of the following:

(i) Issue a new certificate to the applicant whose certificate has been revoked;

(ii) Reissue or modify the suspension of any certificate;

(iii) Restore an applicant's scope of practice, practice privilege or permit which has been revoked or suspended.

(b) If the applicant or the applicant's legal representative fails to appear at the hearing, the board may proceed to hear evidence against the applicant and may enter an appropriate order, which shall be final.

(c) A certificate, practice privilege or permit suspended or restricted under W.S. 33-3-121(b) may be reissued without the hearing required under this section if the department of family services provides notice that the applicant has complied with the terms of the court order that resulted in the suspension or restriction of the certificate, practice privilege or permit.

(d) The applicant shall bear all costs related to a reinstatement hearing before the board.

**33-3-125. Certified public accountant; use of designation; requirements.**

(a) Except as permitted by the board under W.S. 33-3-109(f) and (g), no person shall assume or use the title or designation "certified public accountant" or the abbreviation "CPA" or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card or device tending to indicate that the person is a certified public accountant unless the person has received a certificate as a certified public accountant under the provisions of this act or has a practice privilege under W.S. 33-3-116(a).

(b) No organization shall use the title or designation "certified public accountant" or the abbreviation "CPA" or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card or device tending to indicate that the organization is composed of certified public accountants unless the organization is registered as a certified public accountant firm under the provisions of this act and the certified public accountant firm holds a permit or is exempt from registration under W.S. 33-3-118(b)(xiv) or (xv).

(c) Repealed by Laws 2019, ch. 2, § 2.

(d) Repealed by Laws 2019, ch. 2, § 2.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall not be a violation of this act for a firm which does not hold a valid permit under W.S. 33-3-118 and which does not have an office in this state to provide its professional services and practice public accounting in this state if it complies with the requirements of W.S. 33-3-118(b)(xiv) or (xv).

**33-3-126. Use of misleading terms or abbreviations prohibited.**

No person or organization shall use the title or designation "certified accountant", "chartered accountant", "enrolled accountant", "registered accountant", "accredited accountant" or any other title or designation likely to be confused with "certified public accountant" or any of the abbreviations "CA", "RA", or "AA", or similar abbreviations likely to be confused with "CPA". This section shall not prohibit the use of the term "public accountant" or the initials "PA".

**33-3-127. Certified public accountant firm; wording used; requirements.**

No person shall assume or use the title or designation "certified public accountant" in conjunction with names indicating or implying that there is an organization, or in conjunction with the designation "and Company" or "and Co." or a similar designation if there is in fact no bona fide organization registered under the provisions of this act or under the provisions of a similar state act.

**33-3-128. Repealed By Laws 2005, ch. 1, § 2.**

**33-3-129. Unlawful act or practice; injunction or other order.**

Whenever any person has engaged in any acts or practices which constitute or will constitute a violation of any provision of W.S. 33-3-125 through 33-3-127, the board may make application to the appropriate court for an order enjoining such acts or practices, and upon a showing by the board that the person has engaged in any illegal acts or practices, an injunction, restraining order or other appropriate order shall be granted by such court without bond.

**33-3-130. Violation; penalty.**

Any person who violates any provision of W.S. 33-3-125 through 33-3-127 is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or be imprisoned not more than twelve (12) months, or both.

**33-3-131. Unlawful use of terms; advertising; prima facie evidence of violation.**

The display or uttering by a person of a card, sign, advertisement or other printed, engraved or written instrument or device bearing a person's name in conjunction with the words

"certified public accountant" or the abbreviation "CPA" is prima facie evidence in any action brought under W.S. 33-3-129 or 33-3-130 that the person whose name is so displayed caused or procured the display or uttered the card, sign, advertisement or other printed, engraved or written instrument or device and that the person is holding himself out to be a certified public accountant. In any action, evidence of the commission of a single act prohibited by this act is sufficient to justify an injunction or a conviction without evidence of a general course of conduct.

**33-3-132. Practice monitoring program.**

(a) As used in this article:

(i) "Peer review" means a study, appraisal or review of one (1) or more aspects of the professional work of a person or firm in the practice of certified public accountancy by a person who holds certificates and who is not affiliated with the person or firm being reviewed;

(ii) "Practice monitoring program" means a program consisting of peer reviews which are conducted in conformity with standards promulgated by the peer review committees of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or successor organization;

(iii) "Reviewer" means a certified public accountant active in public practice and fulfilling requirements for peer reviewers as established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or successor organization.

(b) The board may require, on a uniform basis, that certificate and permit holders undergo practice monitoring conducted in a manner the board may specify by rule and regulation.

(c) Except in any action before the board to enforce its rules and regulations regarding the practice monitoring program, any report, statement, memorandum, transcript, finding, record or working paper prepared and any opinion formulated in connection with any practice monitoring program, which is in the possession of the board or the reviewer, shall be considered privileged and shall not be subject to discovery, subpoena or other means of legal compulsion for release to any person or entity or be admissible as evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding.



ARTICLE 2 - ACCOUNTANT LIABILITY

**33-3-201. Accountants; liability; definitions.**

(a) As used in this article, "accountant" means:

(i) Any individual holding a certificate as a certified public accountant under W.S. 33-3-109;

(ii) Any individual holding a practice privilege under W.S. 33-3-116;

(iii) Any certified public accountant firm registered with the state board of certified public accountants under W.S. 33-3-118;

(iv) Any firm that is exempt from registration pursuant to W.S. 33-3-118(b) (xiv) or (xv); or

(v) Any employee, agent, partner, manager, member, officer or shareholder of any partnership, corporation or any other allowable form of organization registered with the state board of certified public accountants.

(b) This section governs any action based on an act, error or omission occurring on or after July 1, 1995 brought against any accountant or firm of accountants practicing in this state by any person claiming to have been injured as a result of financial statements or other information examined, compiled, reviewed, certified, audited or in the course of an engagement to provide other public accountancy services.

(c) No action may be brought under this section unless:

(i) The plaintiff:

(A) Is the issuer, or his successor, of the financial statements or other information examined, compiled, reviewed, certified, audited or otherwise reported or opined on by the defendant; and

(B) Engaged the defendant accountant to examine, compile, review, certify, audit or otherwise report or render an opinion on such financial statements or to provide other public accountancy services; or

(ii) The defendant accountant or firm:

(A) Was aware at the time the engagement was undertaken with the accountant's client that the financial statements or other information were to be made available for use in connection with a specified transaction by the plaintiff and the transaction was specifically identified to the defendant; and

(B) Was aware that the plaintiff intended to rely upon such financial statements or other information in connection with the specified transaction.

(d) In order to be entitled to the limitation on liability contained in this article, an accountant shall:

(i) Identify the purpose of the document and the persons or entities that are entitled to receive and rely upon the financial statement or other information examined, compiled, reviewed, certified, audited or otherwise reported or opined on by the accountant in the document prepared by the accountant; and

(ii) Include thereon a statement in a prominent place that advises users of the document that the liability of the accountant to third parties who use the document may be limited pursuant to this article.