

Meeting: Standards Board

Location: Virtual

Date: 5 September 2024, 13.30 – 15.00

PRESENT:

The Chair (Richard Cooper), Michael Guthrie, Michelle Hourican and Yin Jones.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director – Regulation and Conduct (Stefan Pegram), Lead – Regulator Reporting (Laura Murphy), Secretariat Manager (Edel Quinn) and Officer – Secretariat (Catriona Calnan).

1. MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes from the meeting held on 2 May 2024.

The Board noted the actions log.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Each member of the Board confirmed that they had no conflicts of interest.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair confirmed there was no update.

5. WORK PLAN FOR 2023-24 COUNCIL YEAR AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Board noted the work plan for the 2023-24 Council year and the Terms of Reference.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

RULEBOOK CHANGES – 15 DECEMBER 2024

6. CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Custody of Client Assets

The Board approved proposed amendments to the Code of Ethics and Conduct to implement a new regulation 350.28 which clarifies that a firm must complete reconciliations of monies held by them through a client account at least every 50 days.

RULEBOOK CHANGES – 1 JANUARY 2025

7. GLOBAL PRACTISING REGULATIONS

PCAQ Decoupling

The Board approved proposed amendments to the Global Practising Regulations to decouple the Practising Certificate and the Audit Qualification, including the implementation of a new definition of “Principal” and changes to the use of the term “Partner”.

Introduction and definitions

The Board approved proposed amendments to the introductory paragraph and regulation 2(1) of the Global Practising Regulations to include references to "non-members" and "Rulebook". The Board also noted that these changes will be replicated in the Membership Regulations, Authorisation Regulations, Designated Professional Body Regulations, Regulatory Board and Committee Regulations, Complaints and Disciplinary Regulations, Appeal Regulations, Interim Orders Regulations, and Health Regulations.

Citation, commencement and application

The Board approved proposed changes to regulation 1 of the Global Practising Regulations to expand the references to the annexes in the regulations to include the appendices to those annexes.

Qualifications for a practising certificate limited to Zimbabwe

The Board approved proposed changes to regulation 7(1)(b) of the Global Practising Regulations to clarify how the training for a practising certificate limited to Zimbabwe shall be recorded.

Conduct

The Board approved proposed changes to regulation 13 of the Global Practising Regulations to address a gap in the Conduct regulations and include additional standards issued by the IAASB which apply to relevant assignments.

Quality management standards

The Board approved proposed amendments to regulation 14(1) in Appendix 1 of Annex 1 and regulation 14(1) in Appendix 1 of Annex 2 of the Global Practising Regulations to amend references to quality control standards following the adoption of International Standards on Quality Management by the relevant competent authorities in the UK and Ireland.

Additional Practising Regulations for South Africa

The Board approved proposed changes to Annex 5 and the creation of a new Annex 6 of the Global Practising Regulations to separate the regulations relating to registered tax practitioners and registered auditors and registered candidate auditors in South Africa.

8. COUNCIL REGULATIONS

The Board noted the Council Regulations 2025, which incorporate proposed changes to address gender neutrality. The Board noted that the proposed changes will be approved by Council at its meeting in November 2024.

9. MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS

PCAQ Decoupling

The Board approved proposed amendments to regulations 2(1), 3(c)(ii), 3(e)(vi)(bb), 3(e)(vi)(cc), 8(2)(a)(iii) and 8(2)(a)(i)(ii) of the Membership Regulations arising from the decoupling of the Practising Certificate and the Audit Qualification in the Global Practising Regulations.

Admission fees and annual subscription

The Board approved proposed changes to regulation 4(3)(e) of the Membership Regulations to reflect annual changes to the rates for admission fees and annual subscriptions.

10. AUTHORISATION REGULATIONS

PCAQ Decoupling

The Board approved proposed amendments to regulations 2(1), 5(2)(b), 5(2)(f), 5(6), 5(7), 7(2)(b), and 7(2)(f) of the Authorisation Regulations arising from the decoupling of the Practising Certificate and the Audit Qualification in the Global Practising Regulations.

Costs

The Board approved a proposed change to regulation 10 of the Authorisation Regulations to reinstate the regulation on Costs.

11. DESIGNATED PROFESSIONAL BODY REGULATIONS

PCAQ Decoupling

The Board approved proposed amendments to regulations 1(3), 2(1), 3, 3(2), 3(3), 3(5), 3(6)(vi), 4, 5(1), 5(3)(h)(ii), 5(3)(j), 7(7)(a)(i), 7(8)(a), 7(8)(b), 7(8)(c), 7(8)(d), 7(9) and 10(2)(d)(iv) of the Designated Professional Body Regulations arising from the decoupling of the Practising Certificate and the Audit Qualification in the Global Practising Regulations.

12. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

PCAQ Decoupling

The Board approved proposed amendments to regulation 2(1) of the Complaints and Disciplinary Regulations arising from the decoupling of the Practising Certificate and the Audit Qualification in the Global Practising Regulations.

RULEBOOK CHANGES – DATE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

13. GLOBAL PRACTISING REGULATIONS

Republic of Ireland Sustainability Assurance Regulations

The Board approved additional proposed amendments to Annex 2 of the Global Practising Regulations which reflect the legislation transposing the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive in Ireland on 6 July 2024.

14. PROPOSED RULEBOOK CHANGES FOR REGULATORY BOARD APPROVAL

The Board approved a paper to the Regulatory Board setting out the background to the proposed changes to the ACCA Rulebook that have been agreed by the Standards Board at its meeting in September 2024, subject to the amendments identified at the meeting.

ITEMS FOR NOTE

15. SCHEDULE OF REGULATION CHANGES FOR THE ACCA RULEBOOK

The Board noted updates to the schedule of proposed Rulebook changes to be considered in 2024 and 2025.

16. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board noted the dates of Standards Board meetings in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 Council years.