

Notice No. PN2024-004

INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP CREDENTIALS AND CATEGORIES

1. Background

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Malawi (the Institute/ICAM) is pleased to inform its members that the ICAM Council, at its 44th meeting, approved the introduction of new membership credentials for Public Accountants on its register in the Practicing and Non practicing categories.

This is in order to recognize different levels of qualification within an ever evolving accountancy profession. It is also in fulfilment of its mandate in the Public Accountants and Auditors Act, 2013 Section 41 (v) (w) and (x) of “(V) laying down the requirements for different classes of its membership; (w) considering any application for registration made under this Act for different classes of its membership; (x) registering persons as members of the Institute who qualify to be chartered accountants or diplomate accountants, chartered accountants in public practice, student members, *or such other class of membership as the Institute may establish*,” and has thus established such pursuant to this notice.

A Public Accountant is a person who is registered by the Institute, and subsequently by recorded by the Malawi Accountants Board (MAB) in its register, after following due process, as required by Section 25 and 27 of the PAA Act, as a chartered accountant or diplomate accountant; performs functions of an accountant or auditor, and for that purpose holds himself or herself out as an accountant or auditor, and places his services at the disposal of the public for reward, but does not include services which are substantially at the command of and for the exclusive use of any one person, or of the Government.

The additional membership credentials are as follows:

2. “Graduate Accountant”

This credential is within the non-practicing category. This credential is for holders of accountancy degrees accredited by MAB but are yet to complete qualifying professional accountancy examinations with a PAO recognized by MAB or completed CA Malawi qualification Level 1 or its equivalent. This aims to acknowledge progress made towards becoming a professional accountant.

3. “Affiliate”

This credential is within the non-practicing category. This credential is for those who have completed qualifying examinations of a PAO recognized by MAB but is yet to attain full membership status of that PAO. This is to recognize progress made towards becoming a professional accountant.

4. Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA)

This credential is applicable to both the practicing and non-practicing category. This is a membership credential for Chartered Accountants, either practicing or non-practicing, that have acquired extensive post-qualification professional work experience of 5 years or more, and have a distinguished track record. These distinguished accountancy professionals will be entitled to use the credential “Fellow Chartered Accountant” or “FCA”.

5. “Registered Auditor”

This credential is within the practicing category. This is a credential for Chartered Accountants that provide both audit and non-audit assurance services to the public.

An audit is an independent examination of financial statements by an auditor or practitioner to enable him or her express an opinion on whether financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an identified financial reporting framework.

6. “Registered Tax Practitioner”

This credential is within the practicing category. This is a membership credential for Chartered Accountants that provide tax advisory services to the public.

Tax advisory services include but are not limited to preparing and reviewing tax returns, handling tax disputes and preparing tax opinions. Tax practitioners may also have a compliance focus with tax controversy and advisory services provided in support of such compliance work.

7. “Registered Accountancy Practitioner”

This credential is within the practicing category. This is a membership credential for Chartered Accountants that provide non-audit assurance and accountancy or advisory services (general financial consulting) to the public.

Accountancy Services includes the recording, review, analysis, calculation, or reporting of financial information, and includes professional bookkeeping services, preparation of financial statements, liquidation and management services, financial assurance, and broader consulting services provided using accounting and financial experience or on the basis of being considered an accountant, preparing or signing accounts or certificates of financial information concerning a person’s or organisation’s financial affairs. Strictly, accountancy services include tax advisory services, however due to the specialist nature of such services, a separate category has been established for tax practitioners.

The Institute will invite all chartered accountants in good standing to apply for the appropriate membership credential through an online medium which will be shared with all qualifying CAs and all unregistered accountants through its website.

ICAM recognises the need for protection of public interest in provision of accountancy services and therefore requires that, prior to the approval of the new membership fee structure for the new categories, all accountancy services practitioners should immediately register as providers of these services within the appropriate new categories. However, this requirement is not applicable to the Registered auditor category.

If accountants are providing these services while unregistered with the institute, they contravene the requirements of the PAA Act and must therefore immediately comply by registering with ICAM. In this event fees for the resident non-practicing category will be applicable to this application.

The Institute would like to advise that transition to the new credentials will be immediate while the related fee structure will only commence in January 2025 after members approve proposed membership fees for the respective categories at the AGM.



CA. Moffat Ngalande
ICAM President
18th June 2024