



RULE-MAKING ORDER
(RCW 34.05.360)

CR-103 (7/10/97)

Agency: Board of Accountancy

- Permanent Rule**
- Emergency Rule**
- Expedited Adoption**
- Expedited Repeal**

(1) Date of adoption: 4/28/00

(2) Purpose:

To prescribe the procedures the Board will follow when designating a professional accounting credential issued by a foreign country as substantially equivalent to a Washington CPA certificate

(3) Citation of existing rules affected by this order: New sections:

- Repealed:** WAC 4-25-781 What are the rules governing reciprocity for accountants from foreign countries?
- Amended:** WAC 4-25-782 How do I apply for an initial Washington state license and/or certificate through foreign reciprocity?
- Suspended:** WAC 4-25-783 How do I renew a Washington CPA certificate and/or license granted through foreign reciprocity?

(4) Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.04.055 and RCW 18.04.183

Other authority:

PERMANENT RULE ONLY (including EXPEDITED ADOPTION):

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 00-07-013 on 3/3/00 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None

EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- (a) That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- (b) That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding:

EXPEDITED REPEAL ONLY

Under Preproposal Statement of Inquiry filed as WSR _____ on _____ (date).

(5.3) Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes
 - No
- If Yes, explain:

(6) Effective date of rule:

**Permanent Rules
or Expedited Rule Making**

- 31 days after filing
- Other (specify) 6/30/00*

*(If less than 31 days after filing specific finding in 5.3 under RCW 34-05.380(3) is required)

Emergency Rules

- Immediately
- Later (specify) _____

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

Dana M. McInturff, CPA

SIGNATURE

TITLE
Executive Director

DATE
05/09/00

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

CODE REVISER'S OFFICE
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

MAY 15 2000

TIME 2:07 AM

WSR 00-11-076 PM

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New _____	Amended _____	Repealed _____
Federal rules or standards:	New _____	Amended _____	Repealed _____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New _____	Amended _____	Repealed _____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New _____ Amended _____ Repealed _____

The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New 3 Amended _____ Repealed _____

The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New 3 Amended _____ Repealed _____

The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New _____	Amended _____	Repealed _____
Pilot rule making:	New _____	Amended _____	Repealed _____
Other alternative rule making:	New <u>3</u>	Amended _____	Repealed _____

NEW SECTION

WAC 4-25-781 What are the rules governing reciprocity for accountants from foreign countries? (1) Under the authority provided by RCW 18.04.183, the board may rely on the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, or other professional bodies for evaluation of foreign accounting credential equivalency.

(2) The board may accept your foreign accounting credential in partial satisfaction of CPA certification requirements if:

(a) You met the foreign issuing body's education and examination requirements used to qualify its domestic candidates;

(b) Your foreign accounting credential is valid and in good standing at the time you apply for a Washington state CPA license and/or certificate; and

(c) The foreign issuing body granting your foreign accounting credential permits Washington CPAs an equivalent opportunity to receive the foreign accounting credential by reciprocity.

The board will, by policy, identify acceptable foreign accounting credentials and acknowledge reciprocal agreements with bodies granting foreign accounting credentials.

(3) The board may require a qualifying examination(s) to determine if you possess adequate knowledge of U.S. practice standards and the board's regulations. The board will, by policy, specify the form of qualifying examination(s) and passing grade(s).

(4) The board will require you to demonstrate satisfactory experience in a foreign or domestic professional accounting firm. The board will, by policy, specify experience standards for each foreign accounting credential accepted by the board.

(5) If you hold a Washington state CPA license and/or certificate issued through foreign reciprocity, you must report any investigations undertaken, or sanctions imposed, by a foreign credentialing body against your foreign credential within thirty days of your receiving notice that an investigation has begun or a sanction was imposed.

NEW SECTION

WAC 4-25-782 How do I apply for an initial Washington state license and/or certificate through foreign reciprocity? (1) Pursuant to RCW 18.04.183 the board may issue a certificate and/or license if you meet the board's requirements for application through foreign reciprocity. To apply for an initial Washington state CPA license and/or certificate you must use the foreign reciprocity application form provided by the board and satisfy continuing professional education (CPE) requirements in WAC 4-25-830.

(2) You need to fully complete the form, have your signature notarized or the foreign equivalent of a notarization, and submit the form, all applicable fees, and all required documentation to the board's office.

(3) An application is not complete and cannot be processed until all fees, required information, and required documentation are received by the board. When the processing of your application is complete, notification will be mailed to the last address you provided to the board.

(4) Your Washington state CPA license and/or certificate will expire on June 30 of the third calendar year following initial licensure and/or certification.

(5) You may not use the title CPA and you may not hold out as a CPA in public practice until you have filed a complete application with the board. A licensee may only practice public accountancy in a licensed CPA firm licensed by the Washington state board of accountancy.

NEW SECTION

WAC 4-25-783 How do I renew a Washington CPA certificate and/or license granted through foreign reciprocity? To renew a CPA certificate originally issued in reliance on a foreign professional accounting credential, you must:

(1) Submit an application for renewal, including appropriate fees and documentation, at the time and in the same manner prescribed for all Washington state CPAs; and

(2) Submit documentation from the foreign issuing body certifying:

(a) Your foreign credential is in good standing and valid for the practice of public accountancy in the foreign jurisdiction; and

(b) You are not currently under disciplinary investigation or action; or

(c) If you are currently under disciplinary investigation or action, a statement as to the nature of the allegations.

(3) If you no longer hold the foreign credential used to qualify for a Washington state CPA license and/or certificate, you must submit documentation from the foreign issuing body certifying that you were not the subject of any investigations or disciplinary proceedings at the time the foreign credential lapsed.