

March 28, 2007

Dear Accountancy Board Colleagues and Fellow CPAs:

Much has happened since I last reported to you in early December on the status of the 2008 Practice Analysis. The Practice Analysis Oversight Group (PAOG) approved the sampling methodology recommended by the Psychometric Oversight Committee (POC), and agreed that the target population for the surveys should be CPAs with between two and fifteen years of experience. Meanwhile, preparations for the distribution of surveys have been progressing well. I am happy to say that the 2008 Practice Analysis is proceeding on schedule.

### **Survey Development**

The December 12 -14, 2006 meeting of subject matter experts proved to be very successful in further revising the practice analysis surveys. These revisions have been approved by the Content Committee and incorporated into the text. The surveys are now in final review in preparation for the national distribution scheduled to take place in May.

### **Survey Recipients**

The PAOG approved the use of the AICPA database for the principal practice analysis surveys because it is the only national source from which representative samples can be extracted. Additionally, the PAOG addressed the concerns expressed by some CPA Examination stakeholders that the use of the AICPA membership database would exclude a significant number of CPAs from participation. As a result, the PAOG authorized a comparison survey of non-members, based on data provided voluntarily by state boards.

The PAOG invited each state board to submit data on two hundred of its licensees with between two and fifteen years of experience. We are pleased to report that sufficient data have now been submitted to allow us to develop a comprehensive sample of CPAs who are not members of the AICPA. Practice analysis surveys will be distributed to both groups. Both sets of results will be analyzed, summarized, and forwarded to the Content Committee to inform its deliberations in developing the new Content and Skill Specifications (CSOs/SSOs).

### **Survey Distribution**

Invitations will be mailed in April to obtain the participation of CPAs in completing the principal and comparison practice analysis surveys. Several versions of the surveys will be distributed in an online environment, each designed to be completed in about one hour. The surveys will be made available to invited CPAs in May.

The PAOG would very much appreciate your support in urging those who receive invitations to complete the surveys. The participation of the selected CPAs is essential in order to obtain the data needed to update the CSOs/SSOs.

### **New Practice Analysis Terminology**

At its meeting on January 25, 2007, the PAOG considered how best to refer to the candidate population whose knowledge and skill requirements are to be captured by the practice analysis. The PAOG approved the use of “entry-level CPA” as the term to describe this candidate population. At the recommendation of its Content Committee, the AICPA Board of Examiners (BOE) approved the following definition of “entry-level CPA” for use in the practice analysis context: “For purposes of identifying and developing CPA Examination content necessary to protect the public interest, an entry-level person is one who has the knowledge and skills typically possessed by a person with up to two years of experience.”

Also at the January meeting, the PAOG decided that the practice analysis should be identified by the year in which it ends. This means that the current practice analysis will be known, from now on, as the “2008 Practice Analysis.”

### **A Special “Thank You”**

A number of CPAs have contributed time and effort to the practice analysis project but the ten individuals who participated in the December 2006 meeting of subject matter experts deserve special recognition. They devoted three days to a meeting on practice analysis surveys after having spent a considerable amount of time on the initial review and update of the surveys which had been used in the 2001 practice analysis study. The PAOG would like to thank the following for their generosity in volunteering their time and professional expertise “above and beyond the call of duty:”

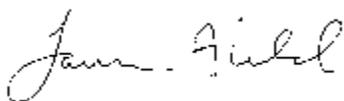
- Michael L. Brand, CPA, Partner, Johnson, Reigley, Newton and Brand, LLP, Athens, AL
- Paul A. Dayer, CPA, Partner, Gaines Kriner Elliott LLP, Buffalo, NY
- Richard Dull, CPA, CISA, Assistant Professor, Clemson University, Clemson, SC
- L. Michael Howard, CPA, Auditor, State of Ohio, Columbus, OH
- Joe Marchbein, CPA, Manager, Jack P. Fitter, CPA, APC, Chesterfield, MO
- David Palmer, CPA, Partner, Watkins Uiberall, PLLC, Memphis, TN
- Allen Purdy, CPA, Financial/Accounting Manager, Pioneer Hi-Bred Int’l, Inc., Des Moines, IA
- James Christopher Reimel, CPA, Chief of Information Systems Audit, Office of Internal Audit, NJ Department of Labor
- Scott Seamands, CPA, Partner, Lindquist, von Husen & Joyce, CPAs, San Francisco, CA
- Ayseli Sen, CPA, CIA, Senior, Ernst & Young, Rochester, NY

### **PAOG Membership Changes**

Two new members have been added to the PAOG: Ron Nielsen, Chair of the Content Committee, and Ken Clark who has special BEC expertise. In addition, Barbara Plake replaced Bruno Zumbo as the representative of the Psychometric Oversight Committee. A revised PAOG roster is enclosed.

I will, of course, continue to keep you informed of progress on the practice analysis project. Meanwhile, please contribute to the success of the practice analysis by urging CPAs to complete the surveys. We need their cooperation and their responses!

Sincerely,



Lawrence Field  
Chair  
Practice Analysis Oversight Group (PAOG)

**AICPA BOARD OF EXAMINERS (BOE)**

**PRACTICE ANALYSIS OVERSIGHT GROUP (PAOG)**

**Lawrence Field**

PAOG Chair  
Member, Board of Examiners

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Executive Director  
Tennessee Board of Accountancy

**Ken Clark**

Member, Board of Examiners

**Gary L. Fish**

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**Michael A. Henderson**

Member, State Board Committee

**John Katzenmeyer**

Member, NASBA Board of Directors

**Nina Kavich**

Member, Board of Examiners

**Ron Nielsen**

Chairman, Content Committee

**Barbara Plake**

Member, Psychometric Oversight Committee

**D. Gerald Searfoss**

Member, Content Committee

**Janice B. Wilson – Marcum**

Member, NASBA Examinations Committee