

**AICPA Peer Review Board Termination Resolution
(Adopted April 29, 1996 with amendments through January 1, 2009, May 3, 2011 and August 8, 2012)**

WHEREAS, a firm enrolled in the AICPA Peer Review Program is required to have a peer review once every three years performed in conformity with the AICPA *Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews*; and

WHEREAS, a firm enrolled in the AICPA Peer Review Program is required under the AICPA *Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews* to cooperate with the peer reviewer, administering entity and the AICPA Peer Review Board in all matters related to the review, that could impact the firm's enrollment in the program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: A firm is deemed as failing to cooperate once the review has commenced by actions including but not limited to:

- Not responding to inquiries,
- Withholding information significant to the peer review, for instance but not limited to failing to discuss communications received by the reviewed firm relating to allegations or investigations in the conduct of accounting, auditing or attestation engagements from regulatory, monitoring or enforcement bodies,
- Not providing documentation including but not limited to the representation letter, quality control documents, engagement working papers, all aspects of functional areas,
- Not responding to MFCs or FFCs timely,
- Limiting access to offices, personnel or other,
- Not facilitating the arrangement for the exit conference on a timely basis,
- Failing to timely file the report and the response thereto related to its peer review, if applicable,
- Failing to cooperate during oversight, or
- Failing to timely acknowledge and complete required corrective actions or implementation plans.

The firm will be advised by certified mail that the AICPA Peer Review Board will appoint a hearing panel to consider whether the firm's enrollment in the AICPA Peer Review Program should be terminated. A firm enrolled in the AICPA Peer Review Program that has been notified that it is the subject of such a hearing may not resign until the matter causing the hearing has been resolved. After a hearing is held, a firm whose enrollment in the AICPA Peer Review Program has been terminated has the right to appeal the panel's decision to the AICPA Joint Trial Board within 30 calendar days of the hearing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a firm's failure to cooperate with the administering entity would also include failing to receive a report with a rating of pass after (1) receiving at least two consecutive peer reviews prior to the third that had a report with a peer review rating of *pass with deficiencies* and/or *fail* (previously referred to as modified or adverse reports) AND (2) receiving notification via certified mail after the second consecutive report with a peer review rating of *pass with deficiencies* and/or *fail* (previously referred to as modified or adverse reports), that a third consecutive failure to receive a report with a peer review rating of pass (previously referred to as an unmodified report) may be considered a failure to cooperate with the administering entity. Report Reviews¹ containing significant comments are considered equivalent to failing to receive a

¹ Although standards no longer permit the performance of Report Reviews as of January 1, 2009, a firm's last peer review could have been a Report Review.

report with a peer review rating of pass (previously referred to as an unmodified report) for the purposes of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The administering entity has the authority to determine if a firm's response is substantive. If the administering entity determines that a response is not substantive, and the firm does not revise its response or submits additional responses that are not substantive as determined by the administering entity, this would also be deemed as a firm's failure to cooperate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The administering entity has the authority to determine if erroneously provided or omitted information by a firm discovered after acceptance of the firm's review that results in a significant change in the planning, performance, evaluation of results, or peer review report is a matter of non-cooperation. The firm's failure to provide substantive responses during the process of resolving such a matter may also be deemed as a firm's failure to cooperate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a firm's failure to cooperate with the administering entity would also include failing to timely notify the administering entity that it is performing a type of engagement(s) or engagement(s) in an industry in which the firm had previously represented by written communication to the administering entity that it was no longer performing and had no plans to perform, in response to a related corrective action or implementation plan wherein the corrective action or implementation plan was eliminated by the administering entity based on the representation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: A firm's enrollment in the AICPA Peer Review Program will be terminated for failure to cooperate in any of the preceding situations, without a hearing, upon receipt of a plea of guilty from the firm; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That pursuant to the *AICPA Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews*, the fact that a firm's enrollment in the AICPA Peer Review Program has been terminated, whether with or without a hearing, will be published in such form and manner as the AICPA Council may prescribe.