

CHRISTMAS TIDINGS FROM SANTA BoA

Business Mirror Debit Credit



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DEBIT CREDIT

It is the day after Christmas...and Santa Claus still has some Christmas good tidings and gifts for the accountants in the Philippines. These gifts are the good news from the Board of Accountancy (BoA) on important concerns of all accountancy stakeholders.

The BoA will be releasing soon the procedures to streamline the procedures for the common transactions that accountants have with the BoA. These include the accreditation of the Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) of the various sectors and the Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

On the accreditation, presently the CPAs from the public practice, academe and commerce and industry are required to be accredited with the BoA before they can practice their profession. This process is oftentimes a tedious and lengthy process. The BoA has been keen on putting in place measures that will streamline and speed up the procedures despite the bureaucratic environment in government. The recommendations of the BoA to the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) include reduction of the documents required for submission by the CPA applying for accreditation and reducing the number of signatories in the PRC for the approval of the accreditation. The visitation process of the principal office of the CPAs applying for accreditation in public practice will also be streamlined. With these recommendations in place, the process and time for completing the accreditation will definitely be simplified and fast tracked. Also, instead of having two different dates for the renewal of the professional license and the accreditation, one uniform date of the birth month will soon be prescribed for both transactions. This will minimize the number of times that CPAs will be transacting with PRC. The BoA also is developing information technology (IT) solutions that will allow the online transaction and tracking of the accreditation applications. With this system in place, the applicants for accreditation will be able to easily monitor the progress of processing of their papers and can interact and transact with PRC and Boa without the need to go to far away office in Manila. Finally, the BoA will be releasing next month the rules that will allow the CPAs in public practice, whose pending applications still have not been approved, to be granted provisional accreditation that will permit them to proceed with their practice, including the signing of auditors' opinion and compilation services reports. Of course, those CPAs in

commerce and industry are already enjoying this treatment since they can sign the Certificate of Compilation Services in the preparation even if their application for accreditation is still pending pursuant to BoA Resolution 68-2016. For this, the CPA should just indicate in the Certificate that will be signed the notation “CPA accreditation filed on (date) still in process.” To accommodate the requests of many CPAs in commerce and industry, the BoA will also be extending the December 31, 2016 deadline for them to file their applications with the PRC. Our external auditors will also be pleased that in 2017, they will be receiving the financial statements from their clients not later than two months from the end of their client’s accounting period pursuant to BoA Resolution 68-2016. With this, the auditors will now have ample time to complete their audit.

On the CPD, new requirements are now required. These are contained in Republic Act 10912, PRC Resolution No.2016-990 and BoA Resolution No. 358-2016. The important changes in these measures are the mandatory presentation of completion of CPD requirements prior to the renewal of the professional license and the increase to 80 CPD units that must be completed by CPAs over three years in 2017. The CPD unit requirement will be gradually increased to 100 units in 2018 and 120 units in 2019. The BoA commits to streamline the implementation of these requirements so as not to unduly cause inconvenience on the CPAs. This includes the encouraging of CPD providers to offer online courses that will allow the CPA to take the CPD in the convenience of his office or residence without the need to go to a seminar venue. Tracking of the CPD units earned will also be facilitated via the IT tracking system that the BoA will soon roll out.

Accountants also have the chance to get actual gifts from Santa BoA. The BoA will be giving “I am Accountant” novelty items to lucky CPAs who participate in the 2016 sectoral surveys. There are three different online surveys for CPAs is public practice (PP) accounting education (AE), and commerce and industry (CI). These surveys pertain to issues in the three accountancy sectors which the BoA would like to get feedback on. The links for the 3 surveys are:

AE - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPASurveyAE>

PP - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPASurveyPP>

CI - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPASurveyCI>

With all of these in place or soon forthcoming, it is truly a Merry Christmas and an Expanding Horizon New Year from Santa BoA.

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This column accepts contributions from accountants, especially articles that are of interest to the accountancy profession, in particular, and to the business community, in general. These can be e-mailed to boa.secretariat@gmail.com