

(B) COUNCIL GENERAL GUIDELINES, 2008
THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
OF INDIA (ICAI)

(Set up under The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949)

Council Guidelines No.1- CA(7)/02/2008,
dated 8th August,2008

GUIDELINES FOR THE MEMBERS OF ICAI

(Issued under the provisions of The Chartered
Accountants Act, 1949)

Chapter I

Preliminary

1.0 Short title, commencement, etc.

- (a) These Guidelines have been issued by the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India under the provisions of The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, as amended by The Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Act 2006, in supersession of the Notifications issued by the Council under erstwhile Clause (ii) of Part II of the Second Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.
- (b) These Guidelines be called the 'Council General Guidelines, 2008'.

1.1 Definitions

1.1.1 For the purpose of these Guidelines:

- (a) 'Act' means the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.
- (b) "Chartered accountant" means a person who is a member of the Institute.
- (c) "Council" means the Council of the Institute constituted under section 9 of the Act.
- (d) "Institute" means the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India constituted under the Act.

1.1.2 All other words and expressions used but not defined herein have the same meaning as assigned to them within the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 and the Rules, Regulations and Guidelines made there under.

1.2 Applicability of the Guidelines

These guidelines shall be applicable to all the Members of the Institute whether in practice or not wherever the context so requires.

Chapter II

Conduct of a Member being an employee

2.0 A member of the Institute who is an employee shall exercise due diligence and shall not be grossly negligent in the conduct of his duties.

Chapter III

Appointment of a Member as Cost auditor

3.0 A member of the Institute shall not accept:-

- (i) The appointment as Cost auditor of a Company under Section 233B of the Companies Act, 1956 while he-
 - (a) is an auditor of the Company appointed under Section 224 of the Companies Act or
 - (b) is an officer or employee of the Company; or
 - (c) is a partner, of any employee or officer of the Company; or
 - (d) is a partner or is in the employment of the Company's auditor appointed under Section 224 of the Companies Act, 1956; or
 - (e) is indebted to the Company for an amount exceeding one thousand rupees, or has given any guarantee or provided any security in connection with the indebtedness of any third person to the Company for an amount exceeding one thousand rupees;

OR

- (ii) After his appointment as Cost Auditor, he becomes subject to any of the disabilities stated in items (i) (a) to (e) above and continues to function as a cost auditor thereafter.

3.1 A member of the Institute in practice shall not accept the appointment as auditor of a Company under Section 224 of the Companies Act, 1956, while he is an employee of the cost auditor of the Company appointed under Section 233B of the Companies Act, 1956.

Chapter IV

Opinion on financial statements when there is substantial interest

4.0 A member of the Institute shall not express his opinion on financial statements of any business or enterprise in which one or more persons who are his "relatives" within the meaning of [AS-18]¹ have, either by themselves or in conjunction with such member, a substantial interest in the said business or enterprise.

Explanation: For this purpose and for the purpose of compliance of Clause (4) of Part I of the Second Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the expression "substantial interest" shall have the same meaning as is assigned thereto under Appendix (9) to the Chartered Accountants Regulations, 1988.

Chapter V

Maintenance of books of account

5.0 A member of the Institute in practice or the firm of Chartered Accountants of which he is a partner, shall maintain and keep in respect of his / its professional practice, proper books of account including the following:-

- (i) a Cash Book;
- (ii) a Ledger.

Chapter VI

Tax Audit assignments under Section 44 AB of the Income-tax Act, 1961

6.0 A member of the Institute in practice shall not accept, in a financial year, more than the

“specified number of tax audit assignments” under Section 44AB of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

Provided that in the case of a firm of Chartered Accountants in practice, the “specified number of tax audit assignments” shall be construed as the specified number of tax audit assignments for every partner of the firm.

Provided further that where any partner of the firm is also a partner of any other firm or firms of Chartered Accountants in practice, the number of tax audit assignments which may be taken for all the firms together in relation to such partner shall not exceed the “specified number of tax audit assignments” in the aggregate.

Provided further that where any partner of a firm of Chartered Accountants in practice accepts one or more tax audit assignments in his individual capacity, the total number of such assignments which may be accepted by him shall not exceed the “specified number of tax audit assignments” in the aggregate.

Provided also that the audits conducted under Section 44AD, 44AE and 44AF of the Income Tax Act, 1961 shall not be taken into account for the purpose of reckoning the “specified number of tax audit assignments”.

6.1 Explanation:

For the above purpose, “the specified number of tax audit assignments” means -

- (a) in the case of a Chartered Accountant in practice or a proprietary firm of Chartered Accountant, [60]² tax audit assignments, in a financial year, whether in respect of corporate or non-corporate assesses.
- (b) in the case of firm of Chartered Accountants in practice, [60]² tax audit assignments per partner in the firm, in a financial year, whether in respect of corporate or non-corporate assesses.

6.1.1 In computing the “specified number of tax audit assignments” each year’s audit would be taken as a separate assignment.

6.1.2 In computing the “specified number of tax audit assignments”, the number of such assignments, which he or any partner of his firm has accepted whether singly or in combination with any other Chartered Accountant in practice or firm of such Chartered Accountants, shall be taken into account.

6.1.3 The audit of the head office and branch offices of a concern shall be regarded as one tax audit assignment.

6.1.4 The audit of one or more branches of the same concern by one Chartered Accountant in practice shall be construed as only one tax audit assignment.

6.1.5 A Chartered Accountant being a part time practicing partner of a firm shall not be taken into account for the purpose of reckoning the tax audit assignments of the firm.

6.1.6 A Chartered Accountant in practice shall maintain a record of the tax audit assignments accepted by him in each financial year in the format as may be prescribed by the Council.

Chapter VII

Appointment of an Auditor in case of non-payment of undisputed fees

7.0 A member of the Institute in practice shall not accept the appointment as auditor of an entity in case the undisputed audit fee of another Chartered Accountant for carrying out the statutory

audit

under the Companies Act, 1956 or various other statutes has not been paid:

Provided that in the case of sick unit, the above prohibition of acceptance shall not apply.

7.1 Explanation 1:

For this purpose, the provision for audit fee in accounts signed by both - the auditee and the auditor shall be considered as "undisputed" audit fee.

7.2 Explanation 2:

For this purpose, "sick unit" shall mean where the net worth is negative.

Chapter VIII

Specified number of audit assignments

8.0 A member of the Institute in practice shall not hold at any time appointment of more than the "specified number of audit assignments" of Companies under Section 224 and/or Section 228 of the Companies Act, 1956.

Provided that in the case of a firm of Chartered Accountants in practice, the "specified number of audit assignments" shall be construed as the specific number of audit assignments for every partner of the firm.

Provided further that where any partner of the firm of Chartered Accountants in practice is also a partner of any other firm or firms of Chartered Accountants in practice, the number of audit assignments which may be taken for all the firms together in relation to such partner shall not exceed the "specified number of audit assignments" in the aggregate.

Provided further where any partner of a firm or firms of Chartered Accountants in practice accepts one or more audit of Companies in his individual capacity, or in the name of his proprietary firm, the total number of such assignments which may be accepted by all firms in relation to such Chartered Accountant and by him shall not exceed the "specified number of audit assignments" in the aggregate.

8.1 Explanation:

For the above purpose, the "specified number of audit assignments" means –

- (a) in the case of a Chartered Accountant in practice or a proprietary firm of Chartered Accountant, thirty audit assignments whether in respect of private Companies or other Companies.
- (b) in the case of Chartered Accountants in practice, thirty audit assignments per partner in the firm, whether in respect of private Companies or other Companies.

Provided that out of such "specified number of audit assignments, the number of audit assignments of public Companies each of which has a paid-up share capital of rupees twenty-five lakhs or more, shall not exceed ten.

8.2 In computing the "specified number of audit assignments"-

- (a) the number of audit of such Companies, which he or any partner of his firm has accepted whether singly or in combination with any other Chartered Accountant in practice or firm of such Chartered Accountants, shall be taken into account.
- (b) the audit of the head office and branch offices of a Company by one Chartered Accountant or firm of such Chartered Accountants in practice shall be regarded as one audit assignment.

- (c) the audit of one or more branches of the same Company by one Chartered Accountant in practice or by firm of Chartered Accountants in practice in which he is a partner shall be construed as one audit assignment only.
- (d) the number of partners of a firm on the date of acceptance of audit assignment shall be taken into account.

8.3 A Chartered Accountant in practice, whether in full-time or part-time employment elsewhere, shall not be counted for the purpose of determination of “specified number of audit of Companies” by firms of Chartered Accountants.

8.4 A Chartered Accountant being a part time practicing partner of a firm shall not be taken into account for the purpose of reckoning the audit assignments of the firm.

8.5 A Chartered Accountant in practice as well as firm of Chartered Accountants in practice shall maintain a record of the audit assignments accepted by him or by the firm of Chartered Accountants, or by any of the partners of the firm in his individual name or as a partner of any other firm, as far as possible, in the following format:

S. No.	Name of the Company	Regis- tration Number	Date of Appoint- ment	Date of Accep- tance	Date on which Form 23-B filed with Registrar of Companies
1	2	3	4	5	6

Chapter IX

Appointment as Statutory auditor

9.0 A member of the Institute in practice shall not accept the appointment as statutory auditor of Public Sector Undertaking(s)/ Government Company(ies)/Listed Company(ies) and other Public Company(ies) having turnover of Rs. 50 crores or more in a year where he accepts any other work(s) or assignment(s) or service(s) in regard to the same Undertaking(s)/ Company(ies) on a remuneration which in total exceeds the fee payable for carrying out the statutory audit of the same Undertaking/company.

Provided that in case appointing authority(ies)/regulatory body(ies) specify(ies) more stringent condition(s)/restriction(s), the same shall apply instead of the conditions/restrictions specified under these Guidelines.

9.1 The above restrictions shall apply in respect of fees for other work(s) or service(s) or assignment(s) payable to the statutory auditors and their associate concern(s) put together.

9.2 For the above purpose,

- (i) the term “other work(s)” or “service(s)” or “assignment(s)” shall include Management Consultancy and all other professional services permitted by the Council pursuant to Section 2(2)(iv) of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 but shall not include:-
 - (a) audit under any other statute;
 - (b) certification work required to be done by the statutory auditors; and
 - (c) any representation before an authority;
- (ii) the term “associate concern” means any corporate body or partnership firm which renders the Management Consultancy and all other professional services permitted by the Council wherein the proprietor and/or partner(s) of the statutory auditor firm

and/or their “relative(s)” is/are Director/s or partner/s and/or jointly or severally hold “substantial interest” in the said corporate body or partnership;

- (iii) the terms “relative” and “substantial interest” shall have the same meaning as are assigned thereto under Appendix (9) to the Chartered Accountants Regulations, 1988.

9.3 In regard to taking up other work(s) or service(s) or assignment(s) of the undertaking/company referred to above, it shall be open to such associate concern or corporate body to render such work(s) or service(s) or assignment(s) so long as aggregate remuneration for such other work(s) or service(s) or assignment(s) payable to the statutory auditor/s together with fees payable to its associate concern(s) or corporate body(ies) do/does not exceed the aggregate of fee payable for carrying out the statutory audit.

Chapter X

Appointment of an auditor when he is indebted to a concern

10.0 A member of the Institute in practice or a partner of a firm in practice or a firm shall not accept appointment as auditor of a concern while indebted to the concern or given any guarantee or provided any security in connection with the indebtedness of any third person to the concern, for limits fixed in the statute and in other cases for amount exceeding Rs. 10,000/-

Chapter XI

Directions in case of unjustified removal of auditors

11.0 A member of the Institute in practice shall follow the direction given, by the Council or an appropriate Committee or on behalf of any of them, to him being the incoming auditor(s) not to accept the appointment as auditor(s), in the case of unjustified removal of the earlier auditor(s).

[Repealed - Chapter XII

Minimum Audit Fee in respect of Audit]³

Chapter XIII

Repeal and Saving

13.0 The Notifications as specified in the Schedule hereto, issued under erstwhile Clause (ii) of Part II of the Second Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 by the Council from time to time shall stand repealed from the date herein.

13.1 Notwithstanding such repeal:-

- (a) Anything done or any action taken or purported to have been done or taken, any enquiry or investigation commenced or show cause notice issued in respect of the said notifications shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of these guidelines.
- (b) Any application made to the Council or Director (Discipline) under the said Notifications and pending before the Director (Discipline), Board of Discipline, Disciplinary Committee and the Council shall be deemed to have been made under the corresponding provisions of these Guidelines.

¹ The Council at its 299th meeting held from 27th to 28th October, 2010 decided that for the purpose of Chapter IV of the Council General Guidelines, 2008 (Opinion on financial statements when there is substantial interest) the term 'relative' shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in AS-18.

² The Council at its 331st meeting held from 10th to 12th February, 2014 decided to increase the "specified number of tax audit assignments" for practicing Chartered Accountants, as an individual or as a partner in a firm, from 45 to 60. The said limit will be effective for the audits conducted during the financial year 2014-15 and onwards.

³ Chapter XII of the Council General Guidelines, 2008 regarding Minimum Audit Fee in respect of Audit has been repealed by the Council at its 306th Meeting held from 7th to 8th June, 2011.