

September 25, 2009

To Accountancy Board Chairs/Presidents, Executive Directors, and Other Interested Parties:

We are very pleased to announce the date of CBT-e launch – January 1, 2011. This date has just been approved by the AICPA Board of Examiners (BOE) for the introduction of what will, in effect, be a new Uniform CPA Examination – an examination transformed in structure, content, and format, and supported by enhanced technology. CBT-e implementation will be important for CPA candidates, all examination stakeholders, and the profession as a whole.

On January 1, 2011, new Content and Skill Specification Outlines (CSOs/SSOs) for the Uniform CPA Examination – including the testing of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) – will go into effect. The decision to synchronize the implementation of the new CSOs/SSOs with the CBT-e launch was made some time ago, when the BOE consulted with accountancy boards and other stakeholders about whether it would be preferable to introduce major examination changes all at once or over a protracted period of time. The clear consensus was that simultaneous implementation would be the better option as it would be less confusing to candidates.

On January 1, 2011, a new release of authoritative literature – with codified FASB Accounting Standards – and a new research task format will be introduced on the CPA Examination. Although not originally scheduled to be included with CBT-e changes, the authoritative literature component was recently added to the CBT-e launch schedule, again on the principle that major changes should be implemented all at the same time. A new tutorial and sample tests will be released in the Fall of 2010 to allow candidates time to become familiar with the new authoritative literature release and research task format.

Over the next several months, a series of announcements will be made with more details about each of the scheduled CBT-e changes to be implemented – from the transfer of written communication tasks to the Business Environment and Concepts (BEC) section to the introduction of new Task-Based Simulations (TBS).

Please note that the new CSOs/SSOs are now available – in final form – on the CPA Examination website, www.cpa-exam.org. The Fall 2009 issue of *The Uniform CPA Examination Alert* contains additional information about the changes that CBT-e will bring. The two previous issues of this newsletter (available on www.cpa-exam.org) include information about the development of the CBT-e initiative.

As we move toward the CBT-e launch date, we will be issuing regular announcements to provide more information about the changes to come. Please be sure to look for our messages and to check the CPA Examination website. Meanwhile, thank you for your input and assistance. We have benefited greatly from your advice throughout the CBT-e development process.

Sincerely,



Colleen K. Conrad, CPA
Chair, Board of Examiners



Craig N. Mills, Ed.D.
Vice President - Examinations