



Washington State Board of Accountancy

Policy Number: 2002-1

Title: Substantial Equivalency

Revised: October 17, 2008*

Effective: January 25, 2002

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edwin G. Jolicoeur".

Edwin G. Jolicoeur, CPA, Chair

*This policy rescinds and supersedes any previous Board policy.

Purpose:

To provide guidance to:

- Individuals applying for a Washington state CPA license under the interstate reciprocity provision of WAC 4-25-746 (2) and
- CPAs licensed in other jurisdictions exercising practice privileges under RCW 18.04.350 (2) and WAC 4-25-747.

I. Individuals Applying for a CPA License under the Interstate Reciprocity Provisions of WAC 4-25-746 (2)

Individuals deemed by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as being substantially equivalent to the education, examination, and experience requirements of the Uniform Accountancy Act are deemed to have met the requirements of WAC 4-25-746 (1)(c).

An individual holding a valid license from a substantially equivalent state is deemed to have met this requirement.

However, if the individual did not complete an ethics exam as part of applying for their home jurisdiction license, the individual must complete the AICPA's self-study course "Professional Ethics for CPAs" with a grade of 90% or better.

II. Exercise of Practice Privileges under RCW 18.04.350 (2)(a)

Individuals who hold a valid license issued by one of the states deemed "substantially equivalent" by NASBA are deemed to have met the requirements of RCW 18.04.350 (2)(a).

III. Exercise of Practice Privileges under RCW 18.04.350 (2)(b)

The qualification of individuals licensed in other than a substantially equivalent state may be determined by the Board to meet the substantially equivalent requirement. For purposes of exercising practice privileges, the Board will exempt individuals from the 150 semester hour education requirement of RCW 18.04.350 (2)(a) provided the individual holds a valid license issued by any other state issued prior to January 1, 2012 and meets the other requirements of RCW 18.04.350 (2)(a).

IV. Substantially Equivalent States

A. The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy has found the following jurisdictions to have CPA licensure requirements that are substantially equivalent to those of the Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA). The Board recognizes these states as "substantially equivalent" states for purposes of issuing a Washington State CPA license under the interstate reciprocity provisions of WAC 4-25-746 (2) and exercise of practice privileges under RCW 18.04.350 (2)(a):

Alabama**	Mississippi
Alaska	Missouri
Arizona	Montana**
Arkansas***	Nebraska**
California***	Nevada
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	New Jersey
Connecticut	New Mexico
Delaware***	New York
Dist. of Columbia**	North Carolina
Florida	North Dakota
Georgia	Ohio
Guam	Oklahoma**
Hawaii	Oregon
Idaho	Pennsylvania***
Illinois**	Rhode Island
Indiana	South Carolina
Iowa	South Dakota
Kansas**	Tennessee
Kentucky	Texas
Louisiana	Utah
Maine	Virginia
Maryland	Washington
Massachusetts	West Virginia
Michigan	Wisconsin
Minnesota	Wyoming***

** Multi-tiered States: Only includes individuals authorized to practice public accounting including professional services for which a report expressing assurance is prescribed by professional standards.

***These states have more than one path to licensure, with at least one path meeting the 3E criteria of the UAA (degree with 150 hours, 1 year experience and Uniform CPA Examination). These states will retain substantial equivalency status until January 1, 2012. Any state offering a path for licensure other than 3E path after January 1, 2012 will lose its substantial equivalency state status. Individuals may still qualify for individual substantial equivalency at that time.

- B. NASBA has not found the following jurisdictions to have CPA licensure requirements that are substantially equivalent to those of the Uniform Accountancy Act. The Board does not recognize these states as "substantially equivalent" states for purposes of issuing a Washington state CPA license under the interstate reciprocity provisions of WAC 4-25-746 (2):

Colorado
New Hampshire
Puerto Rico
Vermont
Virgin Islands