



MEMBER ALERT

Being asked to “look over” or “check the accuracy of” financial information and/or financial statements as a CPA?

It is concerning that a CPA would accept an engagement of this nature as it is unclear what kind of communication will be attached with the work done and the degree of reliance on that work done.

For assurance and compilation engagements, work must be performed in accordance with the applicable professional standards in the CPA Canada Handbook. For services such as advisory or consulting engagements, a CPA is still required to adhere to the Rules of Professional Conduct and exercise due care and professional judgment. In all cases, clarity around the scope of the engagement is necessary to ensure you are appropriately registered and licensed with CPA Saskatchewan.

The baseline of the communication for any reports, certifications or disclaimers is a compilation engagement at minimum. Issuing compilation engagement reports or any assurance reporting of any kind is a reserved area of practice that requires an assessment and validation of competence leading to licensure. In requests for these types of services, there is reliance placed or implied by that third party user and the public on the CPA to have the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities to identify when something is misstated or undisclosed, to be looking out for fraud or falsified transactions, or to find errors. This can only be confirmed through the process to become licensed and to maintain a licence, which is separate from member registration.

Providing services while unlicensed or failing to follow applicable standards can result in non-compliance with regulatory obligations, fines of up to \$3,000, disciplinary action, and reputational harm. Reference the [CPA Canada Handbook Roadmap Tool: Assurance](#) to assess the level of practitioner involvement required and [our website](#) to assess whether firm registration and licensure is required to provide the services requested. We advise CPAs who do not hold appropriate licensure to refrain from carrying out any services for other parties outside of your employment where some form of assurance is made or implied with that service, even when there is no compensation involved.

For questions or clarification regarding licensing requirements, please contact licensing@cpask.ca.