

**STATEMENT 1.202
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
DESCRIPTIONS**

(Issued May 1984; revised April 1999)

THE STATEMENT

1. Clauses 22 and 25 of the Professional Accountants By-Laws, Cap.50, provide that members of the Society shall be divided into four classes to be styled associates, fellows, certified public accountants and public accountants.

Associates and Fellows

2. Clause 22 of the above-mentioned By-Laws provides as follows:
- (1) Subject to paragraph (2), a professional accountant shall -
- (a) be designated as an ASSOCIATE OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS;
- (b) be entitled to use the initials "A.H.K.S.A." after his name
.....
- (2) A professional accountant who satisfies the conditions specified in paragraph (3) shall on application to the Council in such form as it may specify and on payment of the fee fixed by the Council -
- (a) be designated as a FELLOW OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS;
- (b) be entitled to use the initials "F.H.K.S.A." after his name
.....
- (3) The conditions referred to in paragraph (2) are that the professional accountant -
- (a) is a member of an approved institute or any other accountancy body accepted by the Council under sub-paragraph (ii) of section 24(1)(c) of the Ordinance and who has been a Fellow or associate member of such approved institute or accountancy body for an aggregate period of not less than seven years;
- (b) has been an Associate of the Society for not less than seven years; or
- (c) has been for an aggregate period of not less than seven years as Associate of the Society and an associate of an approved institute or any other accountancy body accepted by the Council under sub-paragraph (ii) of Section 24(1)(c) of the Ordinance.

Certified public accountants and public accountants

3. Clause 25 of the Professional Accountants By-Laws, Cap.50, provides as follows:
- (1) A professional accountant registered as such by virtue of Section 24(1) of the Ordinance (Professional Accountants Ordinance, Cap.50,) and holding a practising certificate (issued under Section 30 of the Ordinance) shall describe himself as a "CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT" and use the initials "C.P.A."

- (2) A professional accountant registered as such by virtue of Section 24(2) of the Ordinance (Professional Accountants Ordinance, Cap.50) and holding a practising certificate (issued under Section 30 of the Ordinance) shall describe himself as a "PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT" and use the initials "P.A."
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It will be noted that the designations contained in Clause 25 (as mentioned above) can be used in addition to those contained in Clause 22 of the Professional Accountants By-Laws, Cap.50.

Firms

4. Clause 25(3) of the Professional Accountants By-Laws, Cap.50, provides as follows:

If a firm is carrying on the business of public accountancy and some of the partners of the firm are entitled to describe themselves as "Certified Public Accountants" and others as "Public Accountants", the members of such firm shall collectively describe themselves as "Public Accountants".

General

Members in overseas countries

5. Outside Hong Kong, the rights of members to use the description and designatory letters to which they are entitled as members of the Society depends upon the law of the country concerned.