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United States and South Africa Accounting Bodies Renew Mutual Recognition Agreement

Agreement supports streamlined path for cross-border practice

NEW YORK and NASHVILLE (April 23, 2026) -- Professional accounting bodies in the United States and South Africa have signed a renewed Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA), supporting cross-border practice between the two nations.

The MRA was signed in late January by officials of the U.S. International Qualifications Appraisal Board (representing the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy and the American Institute of CPAs) and the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA). It builds on a previous MRA signed in 2019 and extends through June 30, 2031.

“Our relationship with SAICA is built on trust and shared expectations for the profession,” said NASBA President and CEO Daniel J. Dustin, CPA. “This renewal strengthens that foundation and reflects the consistency between our countries’ regulatory systems. It also makes it easier for qualified professionals to navigate opportunities between our countries while maintaining the standards each of our organizations expects.”

“By renewing this partnership with NASBA and the AICPA, we are ensuring our members remain at the forefront of the global accounting profession while continuing to maintain the integrity, quality, and brand of the profession in South Africa,” said SAICA CEO Patricia Stock.

The Mutual Recognition Agreement creates a streamlined path for qualified cross-border professionals to work across borders with fewer administrative hurdles. CPAs in the United States and chartered accountants in South Africa may obtain professional mobility in each other’s jurisdictions if they meet established eligibility requirements and remain in good standing.

“This renewal builds on our strong and trusted partnership with SAICA,” said Jim Knafo, the AICPA’s Director of Global Alliances and CEO of the Global Accounting Alliance. “We’re reinforcing our commitment to supporting cross-border opportunities for accounting professionals in both the U.S. and South Africa.”

More information about international mutual recognition agreements can be found on NASBA's [resource page](#) on the topic.

About NASBA

Since 1908, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) has served as a forum for the nation's Boards of Accountancy, which administer the Uniform CPA Examination, license approximately 653,000 certified public accountants and regulate the practice of public accountancy in the United States.

NASBA's mission is to enhance the effectiveness and advance the common interests of the Boards of Accountancy in meeting their regulatory responsibilities. The Association promotes the exchange of information among accountancy boards, serving the needs of the 55 U.S. jurisdictions.

NASBA is headquartered in Nashville, TN, with operations in San Juan, PR. To learn more about NASBA, visit www.nasba.org.

About the American Institute of CPAs

The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) is the world's largest member association representing the CPA profession, with 397,000 members and a history of serving the public interest since 1887. AICPA members represent many areas of practice, including business and industry, public practice, government, education, and consulting. A founding member of the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants, the AICPA sets ethical standards for the profession, attestation standards, and U.S. auditing standards for private companies, not-for-profit organizations, and federal, state, and local governments. It develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination, offers specialized credentials, partners across the profession to build future talent, and drives continuing education to advance the vitality, relevance, and quality of the profession.

About SAICA

The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) is South Africa's leading professional accountancy body. Established in 1894, SAICA supports and regulates a community of more than 48,000 members and associates, including Chartered Accountants (CA(SA)), Associate General Accountants (AGA(SA)), and Accounting Technicians (AT(SA)). SAICA plays a central role in advancing ethical leadership, high-quality education, and professional excellence, while contributing to the development of the profession and the broader South African economy. Through active engagement in international accounting and assurance bodies, SAICA helps shape global standards and promotes the international mobility of accounting professionals.

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