

Technical Amendment to the CPE Requirements of the 2003 Revision of *Government Auditing Standards*

The Comptroller General of the United States is issuing a technical amendment to paragraph 3.45 and related footnotes of the continuing professional education (CPE) requirements contained in the Competence standard of the 2003 revision of *Government Auditing Standards*. Specifically, as amended, auditors who are only involved in performing field work but not involved in planning, directing, or reporting on the audit or attestation engagement and who charge less than 20 percent annually of their time to audits and attestation engagements conducted under generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS) are required to take 24 hours of training in each 2-year period in subjects and topics directly related to government auditing, the government environment, or the specific or unique environment in which the audited entity operates but do not have to comply with the remainder of the 80-hour CPE requirement. Paragraph 3.45 and related footnotes are revised as follows:

3.45 Auditors performing work under GAGAS, including planning, directing, performing field work, or reporting on an audit or attestation engagement under GAGAS, need to maintain their professional competence through continuing professional education (CPE). Therefore, each auditor performing work under GAGAS should complete, every 2 years, at least 80 hours of CPE that directly enhance the auditor's professional proficiency to perform audits and/or attestation engagements. At least 24 of the 80 hours of CPE should be in subjects directly related to government auditing, the government environment, or the specific or unique environment in which the audited entity operates.³⁶ At least 20 hours of the 80 should be completed in any 1 year of the 2-year period.

[Footnote 35 to paragraph 3.45 has been deleted.]

³⁶Auditors who are only involved in performing field work but not involved in planning, directing, or reporting on the audit or attestation engagement and who charge less than 20 percent annually of their time to GAGAS audits and attestation engagements are required to take 24 hours of government-related CPE in each 2-year period but do not have to comply with the remainder of the 80-hour CPE requirement.

This technical amendment is effective for CPE measurement periods beginning on or after June 30, 2005. Early application is encouraged. The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is also issuing guidance pertaining to CPE requirements to assist auditors and audit organizations in exercising professional judgment in complying with the CPE requirements. This document, *Government Auditing Standards: Guidance on GAGAS Requirements for Continuing Professional Education*, can be found on GAO's Government Auditing Standards Web page (<http://www.gao.gov/govaud/ybk01.htm>).

This technical amendment has been made in response to comments related to the existing CPE requirements contained in an October 2004 exposure document of the CPE guidance. Accordingly, GAO has not separately exposed this technical amendment for comment prior to its issuance.

For additional information or for questions related to this technical amendment on the CPE requirements or the document *Government Auditing Standards: Guidance on GAGAS Requirements for Continuing Professional Education*, please contact

- Michael C. Hrapsky, Senior Project Manager, at (202) 512-9535
- Marcia B. Buchanan, Assistant Director, at (202) 512-9321
- Jeanette M. Franzel, Director, at (202) 512-9406