(NBAA)

NATIONAL BOARD OF ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS TANZANIA

REVISED EXEMPTION POLICY

1. General Requirementsto Consider in Granting Exemption

In considering the requests for exemption it is proposed that the following requirements be considered:

(i) Examination-based papers

Only those papers/modules which are assessed by means of examination shall be considered. Further the examinations which are acceptable are those which are taken under closed book examinations.

(ii) Examination Duration

The examination duration must not be less than what NBAA similar paper is tested – currently, all the NBAA papers are of three hours duration.

(iii) Style and Standard

The style and standard of questions in each examination paper must be comparable to the NBAA paper being considered.

(iv) Accounting and Auditing Standards

The Students must have beentrained and tested using international accounting and auditing standards. Incase the national standards are used, they must have been adapted to suit the country's environment.

2. Criteria to Grant exemption

Assessment of students'qualifications shall take into account a number of variables, which may cause students with similar qualifications to be awarded differing levels of exemption. These variables include:

(i) The institution or campus where studies were undertaken;
(ii) The type of qualification that was awarded;
(iii) The programme of study undertaken;
(iv) The subject major stated on the completion of certificate, transcript or other documents;
(v) The modules studied during the course of qualification;
(vi) The year studies were commenced or completed;
(vii) The date students registered or claimed exemption from NBAA;
(viii) Recognitionof the institutions by the relevant authorities such asthe Tanzania Commission for Universities andtheNational Council for Technical Educationfor non-university institutions;

(ix) The status of an institution with the Tanzania Commission for Universities or National Council for Technical Education (if it is a foreign institution or the status of professional body with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC);

(x) An assessment guideline developed by NBAA to ensure that consistency in assessing institutions and programmeseeking exemption isachieved.

3. Examination Levels' Exemptions

(i) Paper by paper basis

Under the previous examination scheme and syllabus, the exemption policy generally considered exemptions on level/module basis.

It is proposed that the revised exemption policy provide for exemption on a paper by paper basis. By so doing a more robust and consistent approach to exemption shall be achieved specifically so to those qualifications which are majoring in certain subjects (e.g. Business Law, Statistics, or Economics) to gain exemptions in those papers.

This means that holders of various qualifications shall be granted exemption in those papers which they demonstrate sufficient coverage of course content in their respective programme(s) and have met the stipulated requirements stipulated in para 2 above.

(ii) Exemption at the Intermediate and Final Levels

It is further proposed that the exemption should **not** be granted at the intermediate (skills and analysis level) and final (professional analysis, application and evaluation level). By so doing this approach would give the Board a greater control over the quality of accounting education.

4. **Transitional Arrangements for Exemptions from the Accountancy Training Institutions**

It is proposed that the Accountancy Training Institutionsin the country currently enjoying exemption in parts of the Board's examinations should continue enjoying exemptions though the exemption are lower than what these institutions used to enjoy.

The exemptions proposed are as follows:

(i) Three years' Accounting Degree or equivalent programmes:

The three years' accounting degree or equivalent programme obtained from the recognized institution in the country be exempted from ATEC I & II and the Foundation Level (Knowledge and Skills level) and start at the Intermediate level (Skills and Analysis level).

(ii) Two-years' Accounting Diploma or equivalentprogramme

The two years' accounting diplomaprogramme obtained from the recognized institution in the country be exempted from ATEC I & II and start at the Foundation level (Knowledge and Skills level).

(iii) One Year Accounting Certificate or equivalent programme

The one year accounting certificate or equivalent programme obtained from the recognized institution in the country be exempted from Accounting Technician Level I and start at the Accounting Technician Level II.

5. **Accountancy Qualifications (Degree, Diploma/Certificate) from East African Community MemberCountries**

It is proposed that the accounting qualification programmes obtained from recognized institutions within East African Community Member Countries shall be considered for exemption on similar basis as those accounting qualifications obtained within the country as long as these programmes are from the accredited institutions and are recognized by TCU or NACTE and also meet the requirement stipulated in para 2 above.

7. **Accountancy qualifications (Degree/diploma/certificate) obtained elsewhere**

It is proposed that the accounting qualification programmes obtained elsewhere around the world be considered for exemption on paper by paper basis depending on area of specialty. As with other accounting qualifications, the institution offering such a qualification has to be an accredited institution and recognized by the TCU/NACTE and further that there is adequate proof that the requirements stipulated in para 2 above have been met.

8. Qualifications obtained from Accountancy Professional Bodies recognized by IFAC

(i) Partially Completed Accounting Qualification obtained from IFACMember body

It is proposed that a holder of an accounting qualification obtained from an IFAC member body be considered for exemption on a paper to paper basis. Exemption should not, however, be granted at the Intermediate and Final levels to a holder who has not completed the examination requirements of the examining body.

(ii) Fully completed accounting qualification obtained from IFAC member body

It is proposed that a holder of an accounting qualification obtained from IFAC member body be considered for exempted in all papers in the Board's examination scheme save for the variant papers (Business Laws and Taxation).

9. Exemption Limit

It is proposed that any qualification seeking exemption in parts of the Board's examinations should be considered for exemption only if that exemption is sought within five years of completing the programme. Unless it has been proven that a student had enrolled and obtained another higher qualification thereafter.

Holders of qualifications which seek exemption beyond the set limit shall either start at the Foundation Level/Accounting Technician level depending on the qualification obtained.