

Registered Company Auditor (RCA) factsheet

In order to audit the financial statements of companies who are required to have an audit under the Corporations Act 2001, you must be a registered company auditor (RCA). Other legislation may also require this qualification to provide audit and other assurance services to other kinds of entities.

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) is responsible for registering RCAs. Its guidance on registering as a company auditor is contained in [Regulatory Guide 180 Auditor Registration](#).

Registration as an RCA

Criteria for registration as an RCA

There are two options for registration. You can apply for registration based on your qualifications and experience. Under this option you need to:

- Hold a prescribed tertiary accounting qualification of at least three years that includes an audit component and two years of commercial law.
- Have at least 3000 hours work in auditing in the five years immediately before the date of your application, including at least 750 hours supervising audits of companies.
- Meet a fit and proper person test.
- Prepare a capability report.
- Hold appropriate professional indemnity insurance.

ASIC has the discretion to allow you to register if you do not meet the prescribed practical experience requirements but have the equivalent of the prescribed practical experience (i.e gained on other kinds of entities). More information is available in RG 180.

Alternatively you can apply for registration based on your qualifications and demonstration of the audit skills contained in the approved [Audit Competency standard](#). This option requires you to:

- Hold a prescribed tertiary accounting qualification of at least three years that includes an audit component and two years of commercial law.
- Provide ASIC with a [logbook](#) that demonstrates how you meet each component of the competency standard.
- Meet a fit and proper person test.
- Prepare a capability report.
- Hold appropriate professional indemnity insurance.

Both options require you to provide statements from RCAs who have supervised your work.

Costs of registration

There is a [fee](#) associated with registration. The fee is lower for online applications than for paper based applications.

Ongoing requirements:

RCAs are required to complete at least 120 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) activities over each triennium (three-year period commencing on 1 July of the first financial year following their admittance to membership). Each CPD activity must be a learning activity that could reasonably be expected to enhance the auditor's technical skills or professional service delivery. As the RCA designation is a statutory registration 36 hours (40%) of CPD¹ must be related to audit during each three year period. Where a member holds a registration for only part of a triennium, the specialised CPD is calculated on a pro-rata basis, based upon the registration date. RCAs must document their CPD.

RCAs must comply with [APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants](#).

RCAs must document, maintain and comply with quality assurance procedures as required by [ASA 220 Quality Control for an Audit of a Financial Report and Other Historical Financial Information](#).

RCAs must maintain appropriate professional indemnity insurance as set out in Corporations Regulation 9.2.08(c)

RCAs must implement and maintain complaints handling procedures as set out in Corporations Regulation 9.2.08(d).

RCAs must comply with any other conditions of their registration imposed by ASIC.

RCAs must submit an [annual statement](#) to ASIC within one month of the anniversary of their registration and pay the associated fee.

RCAs will generally require a [Certificate of Public Practice](#).

Authorised audit companies

ASIC also registers Authorised Audit Companies (AACs). More information on AACs can be found in RG 180.

¹ Where a member holds more than one statutory registration, they need to complete 40% of their CPD in a related subject area (e.g. Tax Agent in tax). But as of 1 July 2015, members may count an activity towards more than one registration, if relevant. E.g. if they attend a 5 hours Tax and Audit conference, they may count 5 hrs towards tax and 5 hrs towards audit.

More information

To assist in keeping up to date with RCA requirements, members can visit our [Auditor regulation webpage](#) or subscribe to our fortnightly [Reporting & Assurance News](#) bulletin.

More information about the competency standard and using it to apply for registration can be found on our [website](#).

Further ASIC guidance, forms and the online registration process can be accessed on the [ASIC website](#).

SMSF auditors have different [registration requirements](#).

Applicable legislation

[Corporations Act 2001](#)

[Corporations Regulations 2001](#)

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