

The CGMA Designation and the Practice of Public Accounting in the United States

The CGMA designation identifies management accountants, who combine accounting and financial knowledge with strategic insight. The designation indicates that the CGMA holder provides management accounting services in areas such as: leading strategically to make more informed decisions; helping organizations manage change, risk and uncertainty; protecting corporate assets; and promoting operational efficiency and effectiveness.

While CGMA designation holders are primarily found in business, industry, and academia, they may also work in CPA firms. The CGMA designation, however, is not a public accounting designation, and should not be used to solicit or imply special competency in relation to the performance of attest services or any other services that encompass the practice of public accounting in the United States.

There may be times when CGMA professionals are employed in a U.S. CPA firm and may choose to display their designation. Use of the CGMA designation in this or any capacity should strive to ensure that its use is not misconstrued by clients or the public, and that it does not confer rights to perform, sign, nor issue audit reports, compilations, or reviews. It is important to note that CPAs are regulated by their state boards of accountancy. Additionally, all CPA firms, including those that have CPA, CGMAs and/or non-CPA, CGMAs, are regulated by their state boards. All CGMAs in the United States must comply with applicable state and federal laws.

It would not be permissible for individuals to create a “CGMA firm” to offer public accounting services in the United States.

In referencing their AICPA membership, non-CPA CGMA associate members must do so using the specific language, “non-CPA associate member of AICPA.” Regular members who are no longer CPAs must use the language, “non-CPA member of AICPA.”

CGMAs who are members of the AICPA are reminded that misleading or impermissible use of the CGMA designation is a violation of the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct, which provides guidance and rules for AICPA members in the performance of their professional responsibilities. CGMA members found in violation of the Code are subject to discipline and sanctions that may include the revocation of the CGMA designation and AICPA membership.

For questions about the use of CGMA designation and the practice of public accountancy in the United States, please contact state@aicpa.org.