

FAQ – CODE OF ETHICS FOR CGMAS

Q. TO WHOM DOES THE CGMA CODE APPLY?

A. The CGMA code applies to all AICPA and CIMA members who are professional accountants in business and hold the CGMA designation.

Q. IS THE CGMA CODE A NEW COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT?

A. No. It reinforces the ethical standards expected of CGMA designation holders; compliance remains with the respective CIMA and AICPA codes. Furthermore, as both of these codes are consistent with the CGMA code, a CGMA designation holder who complies with the respective code of their membership organisation will also be in compliance with the CGMA code.

Q. IF THE AICPA AND CIMA ALREADY HAVE ETHICAL CODES, WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR AN ALIGNED VERSION?

A. Our separate codes are reflective of our differing jurisdictions. We believe it is in the public interest for CGMA designation holders around the world to be subject to a uniform set of ethical standards.

Q. IF A CGMA DESIGNATION HOLDER CONTRAVENES THE CGMA CODE, WILL HE OR SHE BE SUBJECT TO POTENTIAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY BOTH ORGANISATIONS?

A. No. The CGMA designation holder would only be subject to potential disciplinary action by the individual's membership organisation. In addition, any such disciplinary action would be enforced through the organisation's individual code.

Q. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CGMA CODE, THE AICPA CODE AND THE CIMA CODE?

A. The CGMA code is not an "enforceable" code and has been issued as non-authoritative guidance for CGMA designation holders. AICPA and CIMA codes are both enforceable and provide authoritative ethical standards. Both organisations have retained their respective codes for compliance purposes, but have worked together to align the two parts of their codes which relate to professional accountants who work in business. The CGMA code sits within the CIMA code at Part C and likewise is mapped to Part 2 of the revised AICPA code. Some provisions of the CGMA code only apply to AICPA members and other elements to CIMA members—this is clearly indicated in the code. The scope of the content reflects the range covered by both extant codes, though the terminology is slightly different in parts.

Q. IS THE CGMA CODE THE SAME AS PART C OF THE IFAC INTERNATIONAL ETHICS STANDARDS BOARD FOR ACCOUNTANTS (IESBA) CODE?

A. In part, but not completely. The fundamental principles and conceptual framework approach drawn from the CIMA code are derived directly from the IESBA code. The AICPA code was developed independently of the IESBA code but many of the AICPA ethical standards have been converged with that of the IESBA and the new codified version of the AICPA code adopts the same conceptual framework approach as IESBA which is reflected in the CGMA code too.

Q. IF A CGMA DESIGNATION HOLDER NEEDS ETHICAL GUIDANCE, WHICH ORGANISATION SHOULD THEY CONTACT?

A. The CGMA.org website already provides a whole host of ethics resources, including reports, tools and checklists. Likewise, the AICPA and CIMA websites provide further resources which can be accessed by CGMA designation holders of both organisations. For helpline support, CGMAs should contact their respective membership organisation to ensure they receive guidance in accordance with the relevant laws and practice.

Q. WILL FUTURE REVISIONS TO THE AICPA AND/OR CIMA CODES BE REFLECTED IN THE CGMA CODE?

A. It is the intent of AICPA and CIMA to maintain consistent ethical standards in their respective codes applicable to professional accountants in business who hold the CGMA designation. Any future revisions to the codes are expected to also be reflected in the CGMA code.