

SUPERANNUATION BULLETIN

An update publication for our clients

SMSF Auditor Registration

The Government has released further details on the proposed SMSF auditor registration requirements.

From 1 July 2013, auditors will have to be registered with ASIC to sign-off on SMSF audit reports. To be eligible for registration, auditors will be required to meet minimum requirements. Transitional arrangements will simplify the registration process for some existing SMSF auditors.

Registration is expected to be available from 31 January 2013.

Registration Criteria

Subject to transitional arrangements, the standard registration criteria will require auditors to:

- Hold a tertiary accounting qualification that includes an audit component or have successfully completed study in audit as part of a professional accounting body program;
- Meet a fit and proper test;
- Hold professional indemnity insurance;
- Have 300 hours of SMSF audit experience in the 3 years prior to registration; and
- Pass a competency exam.

It not clear what documentation (if any) will need to be provided with the registration application.

A registration application fee of \$100 is expected to apply and an additional fee of \$100 to sit the competency exam.

Transitional Arrangements

Transitional arrangements will apply for existing SMSF auditors based on the number of audits completed in the 12 months prior to applying for registration.

Auditors who sign off 20 or more SMSF audits in the 12 month period prior to applying for registration will not be required to sit a competency exam and will be exempt from the 300 hours experience test. Auditors who sign off at least 1 but less than 20 SMSF audits in the 12 month period prior to applying for registration will be exempt from the 300 hours experience test only.

On-going Requirements

Registered auditors will be required to meet ongoing professional obligations including:

- Undertaking at least 120 hours of CPD training every three years; and
- Comply with APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.



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Auditors will be required to lodge an annual statement with ASIC confirming registration details. An annual fee of \$50 will be payable with the statement.

Regulatory Responsibility

ASIC will be responsible for managing the registration process and for maintaining the database of registered auditors.

We expect the ATO will review auditor compliance with registration requirements on an ongoing basis. We also expect the ATO will increase its focus on the fund auditor as a part of its small funds compliance work.

Further Information

Please ask either your regular Pitcher Partners tax contact or any of the contacts in the Pitcher Partners firms below for further details on the issues raised in this Bulletin:

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