

Know Your Ethics

Ethical Issues in Question-Answer Form

Q. Whether a member in practice will be liable, if he fails to disclose a material fact known to him which is not disclosed in a financial statement, but disclosure of which is necessary to make the financial statement not misleading?

A. Yes, as per Clause (5) of Part I of Second Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, a member in practice shall be deemed to be guilty of professional misconduct, if he fails to disclose a material fact known to him which is not disclosed in a financial statement, but disclosure of which is necessary to make the financial statement not misleading.

Q. Whether the Chartered Accountant who is appointed as a liquidator of a company can do the audit of that company?

A. No, Clause (4) of Part I of the Second Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 and Regulations framed there under may be referred in this regard.

Q. Can an auditor write the books of accounts of the auditee?

A. No, Council directions under Clause (4) of Part I of the Second Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 prescribes that an auditor is not permitted to write the books of accounts of his auditee clients. Undertaking assignment of accounting and bookkeeping in case of Companies Act 2013, is prohibited to be done simultaneously by the auditor.

Q. Whether a member in practice will be liable if he fails to report a material mis-statement known to him to appear in a financial statement with which he is concerned in a professional capacity?

A. Yes, as per Clause (6) of Part I of Second Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, a member in practice shall be deemed to be guilty of professional misconduct, if he fails to report a material mis-statement known to him to appear in a financial statement with which he is concerned in a professional capacity.

Q. Whether a member in practice will be liable in a case where he was alleged to have signed

two balance sheets on two different dates for the same financial year, the first one with a clean report and the second one with a qualified report?

A. Yes, the action of the Chartered Accountant in signing two Balance Sheets on two different dates for the same financial year will constitute professional misconduct under Clause (7) of Part I of Second Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, which states that a member in practice shall be deemed to be guilty of professional misconduct, if he is grossly negligent in the conduct of his professional duties..

Q. Whether a member of the Institute will be liable, if he contravenes any of the provision of the Act or the Regulations or the Guidelines issued by the Council?

A. Yes, as per Clause (1) of Part II of Second Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, a member in practice shall be deemed to be guilty of professional misconduct, if he contravenes any of the provisions of Chartered Accountants Act or the Regulations made under or any Guidelines issued by the Council.

Q. Whether a member in practice will be held liable for failing to keep moneys of his client in a separate banking account or to use such moneys for purposes other than they are intended for?

A. Yes, as per Clause (10) of Part I of Second Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, a member in practice shall be deemed to be guilty of professional misconduct, if he fails to keep moneys of his client other than fees or remuneration or money meant to be expended in a separate banking account or uses such moneys for purposes other than they are intended for.

Q. Whether a statutory auditor can accept the system audit of same entity?

A. Yes, the statutory auditor can accept the assignment of a system audit of the same entity, provided it did not involve any scrutiny/review of financial data and information. ■

* Contributed by the Ethical Standards Board of the ICAI