I am in Industry or Government

Do I need CPE?

We are finding that a number of CPAs outside of public accounting are still confused as to whether or not they are required to obtain Continuing Professional Education (CPE).

The fact that a CPA is working in industry or government is not in itself a determining factor. The requirement to earn/report CPE is decided by whether or not the CPA is utilizing their CPA designation and/or performing any type of accounting. This includes payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, financial analysis, or just about any function related to accounting. Any type of accounting work subjects a CPA to CPE reporting requirements. Only in cases where a CPA performs work completely unrelated to accounting would they be eligible to claim an exemption from CPE. Examples would be marketing, retail sales, and management (unrelated to accounting) positions.

When registering with the Oklahoma Accountancy Board, you may not claim an inactive exemption from CPE if you are performing any type of bookkeeping, accounts receivable, accounts payable, pension accounting or any other type of accounting.

Any CPA holding a permit to practice must earn/report CPE each year. Remember, that if you do *not* hold a permit you are still required to earn CPE, unless you qualify for a valid reporting exemption. Unless otherwise exempt, all CPAs are required to report CPE each year…whether they hold a valid permit or not.

When in doubt, please feel free to contact the Board offices for assistance. Michael Mount is the CPE coordinator and can be reached at 405-522-3092.