

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FOR FIRMS



Membership Types

There are two types of Members within APSCA:

- **Firms**, employing at least one APSCA **Certified Social Compliance Auditor (CSCA)**
- Auditors who are individuals, who may be **Associate Social Compliance Auditors (ASCA)** or **Certified Social Compliance Auditors (CSCA)**.

Scope

This document relates only to **Member Firms**.

Benefits to APSCA Membership

APSCA serves as the foremost Professional Standards Body for independent social compliance auditors, collectively representing the majority of firms engaged in social compliance audits. Our primary objective is to adeptly advocate for our Members across various levels, fostering collaboration with stakeholders and the broader community. Membership in APSCA offers numerous advantages, including:

- participation in a professional community and network that shares best practices.
- enrolment and progression to certification of social compliance auditors.
- recognition and acknowledgement that a member's independence, ethics and processes meet industry standards.
- the right to use the APSCA logo and declare APSCA membership for marketing purposes, in any way that does not imply a status above that of other members.

Requirements of APSCA Member Firms

The obligations of APSCA Member Firms are synonymous with eligibility requirements.

APSCA **Member Firms** shall enroll all auditors conducting **Social Compliance Audits** with APSCA.

APSCA **Member Firms** and Member Auditors shall ensure:

- membership fees are paid annually.
- documentation is signed:
 - APSCA Confidentiality Framework Agreement and Contractual Clauses
 - APSCA Code and Standards of Professional Conduct

- maintain the Foundational Skills and conduct audits of the Foundational Knowledge Areas set out in the APSCA Competency Framework
- comply with the APSCA Code and Standards of Professional Conduct and Bylaws this document as amended from time to time.
- Refer to APSCA Inc Bylaws affecting APSCA membership, Article 2 Members
- All requested APSCA reporting requirements are met including (but not limited to)
 - **Quarterly Reporting** - report where non enrolled auditor, auditor not "In Good Standing" or auditor at the incorrect level was used.
 - **Monthly Reporting** – report numbers of audits conducted where APSCA Audit Fee was collected.
 - **Annual Ethics & Integrity Reporting** (per the format supplied by the Ethics & Integrity Team) which will generally cover an annual summary of complaint handling activities, including the number of complaints received alleging violations of the code or standard source of a complaint, including the percentage of anonymous complaints, breakdown by type of complaints, percentage of substantiated versus unsubstantiated allegations, disciplinary action taken by type and the number.

Membership List

APSCA maintains a list of **Member Firms** which is publicly available on APSCA's website.

Member Firms irrevocably grant APSCA the right to publish their names, business descriptions (as provided by the **Member Firm** and edited as APSCA sees fit), reasons for applying for APSCA membership (including any quotes and the names and titles of the person to whom the **Member Firms** credit them), dates of membership, and categories of membership, along with non-exclusive royalty-free licenses to use their trademarks or other logos. APSCA may publish them in its newsletters, on its website, and elsewhere.

Membership Fees

Membership fees are updated as necessary and are available on the APSCA website [Schedule of Fees](#).

Transfer / Assignment of Membership

Refer to APSCA Bylaws 2.8

Membership Suspension / Revocation

Refer to APSCA Bylaws 2.6

APSCA may revoke a **Member's** Membership if:

- the **Member Firm** fails to pay APSCA Membership fees as per the Finance Policy.
- the **Member Firm's** Membership has been suspended for any reason for a period exceeding 90 days.
- the **Member Firm** has committed a material breach of its obligations under the APSCA Code and Standards of Professional Conduct, Competency Framework, or Bylaws.
- the **Member Firm** has committed a material breach of any undertaking to APSCA.
- in the view of APSCA, the **Member Firm** has prejudiced APSCA, its reputation, or the fulfillment of its objectives or becomes reasonably likely to do so; or
- in the view of APSCA, the **Member Firm** ceases to be a fit and proper firm to be a **Member Firm** of APSCA.

A **Member Firm's** Membership of APSCA will automatically and immediately terminate if:

- the **Member Firm** resigns.
- the **Member Firm** loses the right to carry on business under local laws.
- the **Member Firm** is declared bankrupt, enters liquidation or administration or is subject to a similar insolvency procedure.

Use of APSCA Logo:

- The APSCA logo is trademarked and is the property of APSCA. It is only able to be used by current APSCA **Member Firms**.
- APSCA **Member Firms** can use the APSCA logo on their website or promotional material, in relation to their **Social Compliance Audit** work.

A **Member Firm** of APSCA, who is in good standing, is defined as having paid the annual membership fees and completed the required tasks identified by APSCA.

Note: APSCA Membership (Firm or Auditor) does not include any partner or affiliate organizations associated with a Member Firm. Use of APSCA Logo by these non-member firm organizations is prohibited.

These requirements may be amended by APSCA from time to time.

Document Name:
Version & Date:
Replaces:

Membership Information for Firms – D-023
Version 7 – August 2023
Version 6 – January 2021

Author/Owner:
Authorized by:
Date Printed:

President & CEO
Executive Board
19 October 2023

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Use of the logo outside of these parameters is strictly prohibited without explicit approval by APSCA's Executive Board.

To obtain an electronic copy of this logo access the ["Member Firm Login"](#) page of APSCA's website.

Competition

APSCA shall not:

- interpret any provisions of the APSCA **Code and Standards of Professional Conduct**, **Competency Framework**, or Bylaws, or
- exercise any discretion in any way as to illegally restrict:
 - competition in a market, or
 - entry into business or the profession of independent social compliance auditors.

Note: Refer to Glossary of Terms for definitions of all words noted in **blue** above.

Document Name: Membership Information for Firms – D-023
Version & Date: Version 7 – August 2023
Replaces: Version 6 – January 2021

Author/Owner: President & CEO
Authorized by: Executive Board
Date Printed: 19 October 2023

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