

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Issued by:*



### **SAICA releases the new Companies Act guide**

***The guide will assist companies when implementing the Act***

***Johannesburg, Tuesday, 11 September 2012*** - The Companies Act No 71 of 2008 (the Act), which became effective on 1 May 2011 brought with it a myriad of changes which have had a significant impact on all aspects of conducting business in South Africa. The implementation of the Act has presented both challenges and opportunities to most companies.

In response to all the challenges that businesses experienced while trying to apply the changes introduced by the Act, the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) formed the Ad-hoc Committee on Corporate Law, under the chairmanship of Tom Wixley, who is well known for his knowledge on corporate governance.

The purpose of this guide is to provide companies with an indication of some of the important issues that arise from the Act, which could affect businesses, based on the changes to the corporate landscape.

According to SAICA's Project Director, Juanita Steenekamp, this Ad-hoc Committee commented on the Companies Bills to the Department of Trade and Industry and the Portfolio Committee on the Companies Amendment Bill.

"The Ad-hoc Committee on Corporate Law compiled a guide based on their interpretation resulting from years of working and commenting on the Act. The final product is the SAICA Guide to the Companies Act 71 of 2008", says Steenekamp.

Some of the key highlights in the guide include, among others;

- the alterable provisions in the Act,
- certain important and relevant annexures to assist in the application of the Act,
- special resolutions required in terms of the Act, and
- some guidelines on determining whether the company should be audited, independently reviewed or even have no assurance requirement.

“SAICA always strives to assist businesses to thrive and this guide is one of the many attempts by the institute to offer the support required by the corporate world. We believe that this guide will help simplify all the challenges that have been encountered by companies to date”, Steenekamp concludes.

**Note to the editors:**

- SAICA published the draft guide for public comment and based on the comments received the final product has now been released.
- Visit [www.saica.co.za](http://www.saica.co.za) – Technical Information – Legal and Governance – Companies Act or contact SAICA Call Centre to purchase a copy of the guide.

Ends

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

<b>Bontle Tsikwe</b> Communications Coordinator: Corporate SAICA Communications & Marketing Division Tel: 011 621 6712 Email: <a href="mailto:bontlet@saica.co.za">bontlet@saica.co.za</a>	<b>Nkolola Halwindi</b> Project Director: Communication SAICA Communications & Marketing Division Tel: 011 621 6713 Email: <a href="mailto:NkololaH@saica.co.za">NkololaH@saica.co.za</a>
---	--

**ABOUT SAICA:**

The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), South Africa’s pre-eminent accountancy body, is widely recognised as one of the world’s leading accounting institutes. The Institute provides a wide range of support services to more than 33 000 members who are Chartered Accountants and hold positions as CEOs, MDs, board directors, business owners, chief financial officers, auditors and leaders in their spheres of business operation. Most of these members operate in commerce and industry, and play a significant role in the nation’s highly dynamic business sector and economic development.

SAICA serves the interests not only of the Chartered Accountancy profession, but also of society in general through its key objective of upholding professional standards and integrity. The pre-eminence of South African Chartered Accountants [CAs(SA)] nationally and internationally attests to the successes achieved by SAICA on a broad global canvas.

SAICA's members enjoy the privilege of using the highly regarded and prestigious CA(SA) designation. Members of SAICA are subjected to a Code of Professional Conduct, which provides guidelines for ethical and professional behaviour. Fundamental ethical principles to which CAs(SA) are expected to achieve include:

- Integrity;
- Objectivity;
- Professional Competence and Due Care;
- Confidentiality; and
- Professional Behaviour.

SAICA members serve on international accounting bodies including; the Trustees of the International Financial Reporting (IFRS) Foundation, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), the IFRS Interpretations Committee, the IFRS Advisory Council and the Council of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). SAICA is also a member of The Global Accounting Alliance (GAA).

For more information visit [www.saica.co.za](http://www.saica.co.za)

Bontle Tsikwe

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

**SAICA Communications & Marketing Division**

T 011 621 6712 C F | [www.saica.co.za](http://www.saica.co.za) | [www.sustainabilitysa.org](http://www.sustainabilitysa.org) | [www.accountancysa.org.za](http://www.accountancysa.org.za) |

**Contact Centre : 08610 SAICA (72422)**