



# Certified Audit Program

**A unique innovation in tax compliance.**

## What Is the Certified Audit Program?

The Certified Audit Program is a cooperative effort between the Florida Department of Revenue and the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants (FICPA). This program gives taxpayers the opportunity to hire qualified CPA firms to review their sales and use and local option tax compliance. As an incentive to incur the cost of a certified audit, penalties are waived and interest abated if tax is owed as a result of the audit. Additionally, except in cases of fraud or misrepresentation, the Department will not audit taxpayers for the same year(s) or tax covered by the certified audit. The program was enabled by section 213.285, Florida Statutes.

## What Are the Benefits to the Taxpayer?

- Taxpayers receive a waiver of all penalties, abatement of the first \$25,000 of interest and an additional 25 percent of any interest liability in excess of the first \$25,000. (These incentives do not apply where tax was collected but not remitted.)
- Once the Certified Audit Report is approved by the Department, the taxpayer will not be audited for sales and use tax for the year(s) covered by the audit, unless it is later determined there was misrepresentation or fraud.
- The cost of hiring the CPA firm is deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense.

## Why Was the Certified Audit Program Created?

The Certified Audit Program was created to increase voluntary compliance by taxpayers. It also serves to decrease state involvement in business. The program also extends Florida's tax collection capabilities and permits more effective use of audit resources.

## Who Pays for the Audit?

All fee arrangements are strictly between the CPA and the taxpayer.

## What are the Eligibility Criteria?

Taxpayers who have not been mailed a *Notice of Intent to Audit* (DR-840) from the Department are eligible for the program. Other eligibility requirements apply. Please contact the Certified Audit Program Manager at 850-921-2224 if you are interested in participating.

## How Do I Apply?

You may hire a Florida CPA who has successfully completed the certification course and who is employed by a qualified firm to submit for you a Request to Participate in the Certified Audit Program. The FICPA can supply you with a list of CPAs qualified to perform certified audits. Please contact the Continuing Professional Education Program Development Manager at 850-224-2727, ext. 419, or visit their website at [www.ficpa.org](http://www.ficpa.org).

## For More Information on the Certified Audit Program

Contact:

Certified Audit Program  
Compliance Support Process  
Florida Department of Revenue  
PO Box 5139  
Tallahassee FL 32314-5139  
Telephone: 850-921-2224

You may fax questions to 850-922-7747.

### Reference Material

**Tax Laws** – Our online Tax Law Library contains statutes, rules, legislative changes, opinions, court cases, and publications. Search the law library for section 213.285, Florida Statutes, *Certified Audits*; or Rule 12-25, Florida Administrative Code, *Contract Auditing*.

### For Information on Other Department Programs and General Tax Questions

Information and forms are available on our Internet site at: [www.myflorida.com/dor](http://www.myflorida.com/dor)

To speak with a Department of Revenue representative, call Taxpayer Services, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., ET, at 800-352-3671.

Persons with hearing or speech impairments may call our TDD at 800-367-8331 or 850-922-1115.

For a written reply to tax questions, write:

Taxpayer Services  
Florida Department of Revenue  
5050 W Tennessee St Bldg L  
Tallahassee FL 32399-0112

### Get the Latest Tax Information

Sign up to get e-mail notices automatically when we post:

- Tax Information Publications (TIPs).
- *Facts on Tax*, a quarterly publication.
- Proposed rules, notices of rule development workshops, and more.

Sign up at: [www.myflorida.com/dor](http://www.myflorida.com/dor)