

～ Missions of Certified Public Tax Accountants (CPTAs) ～

Certified Public Tax Accountants (CPTAs) and CPTAs Corporations (hereinafter referred to as “CPTAs etc.”) are professional specialists on taxes. Their public mission is to respond to the trust of a person with a tax obligation in line with the principles of the self-assessment system, and achieve proper tax compliance as provided for in the tax laws and regulations, based on their independent and fair standpoint.

As of March-end 2017, 76,493 persons are registered as CPTAs, and 3,519 CPTAs corporations are established.

1 Services and roles of CPTAs

CPTA services are ① tax proxy, ② preparation of tax documents and ③ tax consultation service. These operations must not be performed by persons other than CPTAs etc., even at no charge¹. At the same time, CPTAs etc. are required to fulfill various obligations and responsibilities. For example, they are prohibited from providing tax evasion consultation and engaging in conduct which harms the credibility or dignity of CPTAs etc.

Taxpayers are able to use CPTAs etc. services to properly file returns and pay taxes. In addition, because corporations and sole business proprietors often ask CPTAs etc. to process accounting books or seek advice on accounting, they also play important roles in promoting correct bookkeeping that constitutes the basis for filing tax returns.

2 Coordination and cooperation with Certified Public Tax Accountants' Associations, etc.

To achieve the proper and smooth administration of the self-assessment system, CPTAs undertaking the public mission play extremely important roles. Therefore, we are endeavoring to coordinate and cooperate with the Certified Public Tax Accountants' Associations and Japan Federation of Certified Public Tax Accountants' Associations (hereinafter referred to as “CPTAs' Associations, etc.”), for example, by conducting consultations and exchanging opinions with CPTAs' Associations, etc. about a wide range of issues.

Specific activities are (1) and (2) below.

(1) Promotion of the document attached by CPTAs, etc.

The documents attached by CPTAs, etc. to tax returns as provided for in the Certified Public Tax Accountant Act contributes to achieving proper tax compliance by clarifying the specific roles played by CPTAs in preparing tax returns. Also, this system was established, purporting the smooth operation of tax administration with NTA's respect for such roles played by CPTAs.

Specifically, this system allows CPTAs, etc. to attach to tax returns the documents regarding the calculation, information arrangement, or consultation service that they provided for the preparation of tax returns. If the Tax Office intends to provide notification of the date, time and place it will conduct a tax examination to a taxpayer who filed a tax return along with such documents, then the CPTAs, etc. possessing the certificate evidencing the authority of tax proxy must be given the opportunity to state an opinion on the items written in the attached documents, before the taxpayer is notified.

Because this system contributes to the correct preparation and filing of tax returns, facilitation and simplification of tax administration, and eventually establishment of a trusted CPTA system, the NTA is actively consulting with Certified Public Tax Accountants' Associations and Japan Federation of Certified Public Tax Accountants' Associations (hereinafter referred to as “CPTAs' Associations, etc.”) with an aim to enhance the content of attachments and raise the percentage of returns with attachments. The NTA is also respecting this system. It is thereby further promoting and establishing this system.

¹ In compliance with Article 51 of the Certified Public Tax Accountant Act, CPTA services can also be performed by lawyers and legal professional corporations that have notified their practice of CPTA services to the Regional Commissioner with jurisdiction over the district where CPTA services are to be provided, as well as CPTAs and CPTAs Corporations.

(2) Promotion of e-Tax usage

CPTAs etc. play important roles in promoting use of e-Tax. The NTA requests CPTAs' Associations etc. for cooperation to promote the use of e-Tax, as well as dispatching lecturers to training sessions arranged by CPTAs' Associations etc.

3 Appropriate guidance for and supervision of CPTAs, etc.

In order to ensure proper operation in the CPTA system, the NTA utilizes every opportunity to alert people and prevent violation of the Certified Public Tax Accountant Act by CPTAs, etc. Also, the NTA conducts appropriate examinations of CPTAs, etc., and take strict action against CPTAs, etc. who violate the Certified Public Tax Accountant Act and so called "fake CPTAs" who conducts CPTA services without licenses, by applying disciplinary actions and filing accusations seeking prosecution.

The NTA discloses the names of disciplined CPTAs etc. in the official gazette and via the NTA website.

■ Number of disciplinary actions against CPTAs etc.

Fiscal year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of disciplinary actions	41	50	59	41	39

(cases)

CPTAs' Associations and Japan Federation of CPTAs' Associations

In order to improve the work of CPTAs, CPTAs' Associations are designated in the Certified Public Tax Accountant Act as organizations which provide guidance, liaison and supervision to CPTAs and CPTAs corporations. There are now 15 CPTAs' Associations throughout Japan. CPTAs' Associations engage in a wide range of activities, including ① Training to enhance the qualities of CPTAs, ② Dispatch of lecturers for tax workshops in elementary, junior and senior high schools, universities, etc. to fulfill the tax education and ③ Free tax consultation for small taxpayers.

The Japan Federation of Certified Public Tax Accountants' Associations is the only organization in Japan specified in the CPTA Act, consisting of member CPTAs' Associations. The Federation provides guidelines, liaison, and supervision for CPTAs' Associations and their members. It also handles the administration to register members, and conducts research on the CPTAs etc. system. For further details, please visit the website of the Federation at <http://www.nichizeiren.or.jp/eng/>