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CPA License Renewal Process Made Simpler, Quicker

Formerly, the state's certified public accountant (CPA) licensing renewal process was both inconvenient and frustrating for applicants. Not only did the biannual renewal period have to be completed in two mailings instead of one, it took place right before tax season — a CPA's busiest time of year.

Faster Response: Eliminated 8 days of mail delivery time.

Customers Impacted: 17,672 registered and licensed accountants.

With its customers in mind, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau (CSCL) set out to change the process to better accommodate the industry. After a review of its rules and policies, the CSCL moved the renewal period submittal date from December to July. This allows CPAs ample time to send in their documentation and receive from the federal government, their IRS Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN) in time for tax season.

Additionally, the CSCL streamlined the two-part process into one, simple submission and created a web environment for licensees to report their continuing professional education (CPE) and submit documents online. The single mailing and online process now enables applicants to submit proof of their continuing education credits along with their renewal application while allowing them to receive their IRS PTIN sooner.

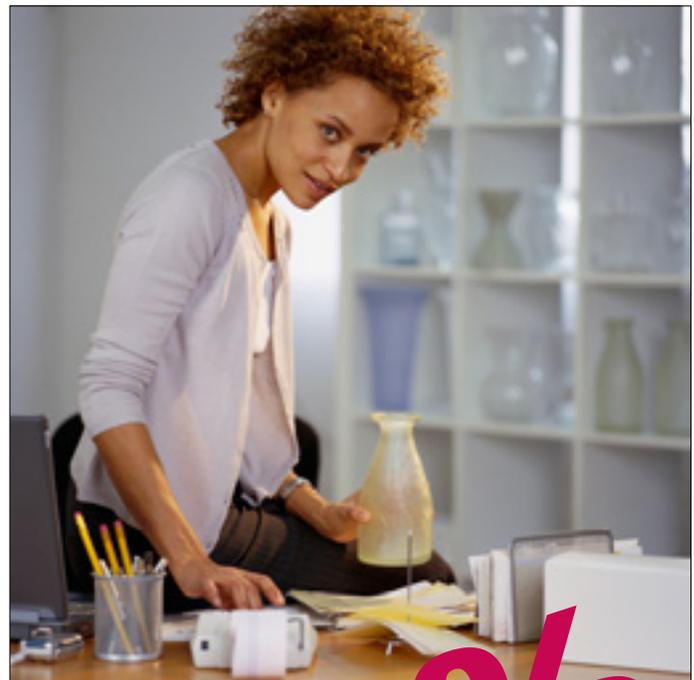
The online process not only saves weeks of data entry time for department staff and eliminates delays in processing time, it also saves customers eight days of mail delivery time which they can now spend on business.

In 2013, 17,672 accountants renewed their licenses. Unlike past years, when the CSCL issued licenses by December 31, they were issued as early as December 2, allowing CPAs to receive their licenses more than 25 days sooner.

For president and CEO of the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA), Peggy Dzierzawski, the state's accommodations have been beneficial.

"The Michigan Association of CPAs appreciated the opportunity to work with LARA in its effort to improve and

streamline the license reporting process for Michigan CPAs," said Dzierzawski. "The effort resulted in a more efficient process for CPA license renewal while also strengthening oversight. We are proud of the joint effort to communicate these changes to licensees and look forward to working together in the future."



99%
CPA LICENSES RENEWED 99% FASTER