



CISA

CERTIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDITOR

June 29, 2011

Dear All,

Rapid automation of business operations has led to the need for having Information Systems Audit.

The fast disappearance of paper trail means that auditors must equip themselves with the skills to undertake information systems audit. Most regulators like the RBI, SEBI and IRDA have been mandating IS audits.

The global professional qualification that will help you conduct such audit is CISA. This qualification is ideal for chartered accountants (in industry and in practice), DISA professionals, students of CA, compliance officers, bankers, IT administrators and those who aspire to work in the field of information security.

Prime Academy a pioneering institution that trains students to take up the CA examination has been conducting classes for CISA Aspirants both in India and abroad. The sessions would run for 90+ hours, would be scheduled for week ends and would commence on Saturday, 16th July 2011. Candidates will also have access to the Academy's online testing site (www.primeonlinetest.com) comprising of 800+ questions which would help them prepare well for the exams. Recently we have introduced facility to take test on your mobile as well.

The faculty for the course is R.Chandrasekhar. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant, a CISA, CISSP, a Post Graduate Diploma holder in Cyber Crime and Information Security, and ISO27001, Lead Auditor practicing in the field of Information Security Assurance Services. He has handled sessions both in India and abroad.

If you are interested to join the program or would like to depute people from your organization you can register at Prime Academy's office or through website www.primeacademy.com A brief write-up about the course is enclosed herewith.

Introductory session will be at 6.45 pm on Thursday, 7th July 2011 at Kesari High School Mylapore, Chennai 600 004 - OPEN TO ALL.

Should you require any clarifications you can get in touch with me.

S Vaidyanathan
DEAN
(M) 98409 18013

Classes to commence
on July 16th 2011 - Saturday
Weekend Classes

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDIT

WHAT IS INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDIT (IS AUDIT)?

IS Audit refers to audit of systems (especially computer based) which provide information (like Accounts, Payroll, MIS etc.) to assure management that the information generated from these systems are reliable. It includes:

- Test of application controls
- Drafting/implementing of information security policy
- Drafting/implementing of Business Continuity Policies
- Audit of physical and environmental controls etc.

NEED FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDIT

Most organizations today

- Banks,
- Insurance Companies,
- Mutual Funds,
- Manufacturing companies,
- BPOs

are 100% computerised. While this has led to speeding up processes and to ease of operations, it has also led to the slow but sure disappearance of paper based audit trails and internal controls as existed in the manual environment.

Hence an urgent need for Auditors/Chartered Accountants to understand answers to various questions like:

- What is systems audit?
- How to audit various aspects of information systems?
- How to check the existence and reliability of internal controls on computer based systems?
- What would be impact of computer failure on business continuity?

STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

The need for information systems audit has been more than emphasized by almost all regulatory bodies both in India and abroad.

To Quote: "The Annual Policy Statement of April 2006 encouraged banks to ensure compliance with the findings of information systems audit on a time-bound basis in order to maintain robustness of IT systems"- *Information Systems Security and Audit: Security of IT-based Delivery Channels- Statement by Dr. Y. Venugopal Reddy, Governor, Reserve Bank of India on the Mid-Term Review of Annual Policy for the Year 2006-07.*

IRDA has initiated systems audit for Insurance Companies since December 2008 and very recently IS Audit has been made mandatory for Mutual Funds as well.

It is only a matter of time before Systems Audit will become mandatory for all listed companies. (Thanks to developments like Clause 49)

HOW DOES CERTIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDITOR (CISA) COURSE HELP IN THIS REGARD?

CISA has been recognised as one of the **top 10 security certifications world wide**. It has also recently been accredited by American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Department of Defence (DoD). Almost all regulators as well as private sector companies consider this an essential qualification for allotting assignments in the field of information security audits.

"Further, the Information Systems Audit has to be performed by persons with suitable skills/expertise thereof, say CISA (Certified Information Systems Auditor) or CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professionals) personnel" Information Systems Security Guidelines for the Banking and Financial Sector, RBI.

CISA equips the auditor to understand the controls in a computerised environment and judge the reliability of digital evidence. This helps him form an Audit Opinion.

OVERVIEW OF CISA COURSE

The overview of the CISA Course is as follows:

- There are 5 Topics/Domains:
 - The Process of Auditing Information Systems (14%)
 - Governance and Management of IT (14%)
 - Information Systems Acquisition, Development and Implementation (19%)
 - Information Systems Operations, Maintenance and Support (23%)
 - Protection of Information Assets (30%)
- Course consists of One exam for 4 hours- single sitting- paper based exam conducted by ISACA (USA)
- 200 Multiple choice questions
- No negative mark for wrong answer
- Will be declared successful on obtaining 450+ (on a common scale of 200-800)

The exams are held twice a year: June and December at various centres. (Most of the metros in India covered)

Who SHOULD ATTEND?

This course is intended for:

- Chartered Accountants in practice with clients in the financial and manufacturing sector.
- Chartered Accountants in Industry who are looking for a shift in carrier/upward mobility
- Students of Chartered Accountancy as this would be an added advantage when they apply for positions in industry
- Compliance officers
- Aspirants in the field of information security and assurance
- Bankers in the Computer Service Department (CSD)/ Computer Policy and Planning Departments (CPPD) who are/in the process of implementing CBS and members of the Inspection and Audit Department.