



Washington State Board of Accountancy

Policy Number: 2003-1

Title: Safe Harbor Report Language for Use by
Non-CPAs

Revised: July 19, 2024

Approved: _____
Kate Dixon, Chair

Purpose:

RCW 18.04.345 (9) (c) states that persons or firms composed of persons not holding a license under RCW 18.04.215 (i.e., non-CPAs) may offer or render certain services to the public, including the preparation of financial statements and written statements describing how such financial statements were prepared, provided they do not:

- Designate any written statement as an “audit report,” “review report,” or “compilation report,”
- Issue any written statement which purports to express or disclaim an opinion on financial statements which have been audited, and
- Issue any written statement which expresses assurance on financial statements which have been reviewed.

The Board has approved two alternatives as “safe harbor” report language for use by non-CPAs. Non-CPAs may use the language in the following paragraphs without challenge by the Board as a violation of RCW 18.04.345. The words “audited,” “reviewed,” “compiled,” or “compilation” may not be inserted or substituted for the language found in the letters.

Licenses with an inactive status are prohibited from the practice of public accounting, and therefore are prohibited from using the safe harbor report language concurrent with the CPA-inactive title.

Safe harbor report language Sample #1:

The accompanying balance sheet of ABC Company, as of December 31, 2024 and related statement of income for the year then ended have been prepared by me (us).

These statements have been prepared from information furnished by management (owner), and accordingly, I do not express any assurance on them.

Safe harbor report language Sample #2:

The accompanying balance sheet of ABC Company, as of December 31, 2024, and related statement of income for the year then ended have been prepared by me (us).

My engagement was limited to presenting in the form of financial statements information that is the representation of management (owner), and accordingly, I do not express any assurance on them.

Effective: January 31, 2003

Revised: July 19, 2024; October 17, 2013