



VIRTUAL SUMMIT

FINANCE



All About Audits and Attestations

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What are attestation services?

- Attestation services refers to a broad array of services that are provided by CPA's to verify or validate financial information.
- The service is provided by a licensed certified public accountant
 - The CPA must be independent
 - There are different levels of attestation services which vary in cost, time commitment
 - Attestation services are either with assurance or without assurance.

What are the different types of Attestation Services available?

- Attestation Services with assurance
 - Audit – Most comprehensive of all attestation services. A report is issued at the conclusion of the engagement in which an opinion is rendered to outside parties as to the accuracy of the financial information.
 - Review – The CPA performs a high level review of the financial statements and at the conclusion of the engagement issues a statement that they are not aware of any material modifications need to be in compliance with GAAP (Generally accepted accounting procedures)
 - Bullet four
 - Bullet five
- Attestation services without assurance
 - Compilations – Often used by smaller companies to lend credibility to their financial statements.
 - The CPA does NOT issue an opinion on the accuracy of the financial statements but instead insures they are presented properly.
 - Agreed Upon Procedures
 - These engagements vary in scope and can be financial or non-financial, for example an engagement evaluating internal control procedures or demonstrating due diligence before a major asset purchase or contract compliance.
 - The specific details of the engagement will be described in the engagement letter
 - The CPA will report findings without rendering an opinion or giving assurance.

What type of Attestation Service does my business need

- Things to consider
 - Who relies on the financial statements, lenders, insurers, potential clients, investors.
 - Current and future business transactions such as venture capital infusions, selling the business.
 - The size of the business and the complexity of accounting transactions.

How to prepare for the engagement and what to expect

- Engagement Letter
- Budget
- Time commitment
- Advance preparation