

ACCA and HMRC shared working vodcast

HMRC is working closely with ACCA and other professional bodies to develop ways of sharing information in preparing returns to benefit SMPs and their clients.

■ Working together, ACCA and HMRC have produced a vodcast, a video version of a podcast, introducing agents to the new self-assessment toolkits from HMRC, which will be available from June 2009. Visit www.accaglobal.com/hmrcvodcast to view the vodcast, full transcript and PowerPoint presentation.

The vodcast is presented by Glenn Collins, ACCA UK's head of advisory services and Brian Redford, deputy director in HMRC who is responsible for working with agents and employers.

The vodcast gives an overview of HMRC's new self-assessment toolkits, the timetable for their introduction and highlights the perceived benefits to clients, agents and HMRC. In addition, the presentation explores the ways in which you can contribute to the further development of the toolkits.

HMRC recognises the way you work with them and highlight the key risk areas, providing guidance on how the risks can be mitigated and ensuring that support is directed to clients and agents.

The toolkits are designed to:

- increase your understanding of risk and highlight areas where errors occur
- help to reduce the need for HMRC to carry out compliance checks
- link you directly to the latest guidance notes so that you can be confident that

your work is focused to the high tax error areas

- help demonstrate to your clients that you have taken reasonable care.

Brian Redford, HMRC, discusses the support available for SMPs: 'by sharing more information with you through these toolkits it will not only help you to reduce error, but will also be something that you find useful and will improve your experience of dealing with us.'

'The idea for the toolkits really came from work that we have been doing with professional bodies like ACCA', says Brian.

'In the first place the toolkits will give you an improved understanding of where we in HMRC see risk of errors occurring in returns. Also what you can do to prevent those errors occurring in the returns that you complete and the advice that you give, to your clients'.

The vodcast is just one of the many new media opportunities that ACCA is involved in. Clive Booth, director of public affairs and media relations, ACCA, said: 'The average age of an ACCA member is 41, and the most popular unofficial ACCA Facebook page has over 7,600 members. ACCA's youthful membership is our future, just as the new forms of media are the



future. Working with HMRC on the vodcast for the self-assessment toolkits was an ideal opportunity to show that we are ready to make tax issues more user friendly, and more 21st century'. ■

Besides the new vodcast, ACCA is actively involved in a range of new media:

- **Twitter** – ACCA 'tweets' regularly on www.twitter.com/ACCANews
- **podcasts** – ACCA produces podcasts on a variety of topics: www.accaglobal.com/podcasts/
- **email updates** – ACCA sends regular email updates to subscribers: www.accaglobal.com/members/engage/acca_news
- **blogs** – ACCA's president and a number of ACCA students blog regularly: www.accaglobal.com/blogs/