From:	Zander Lategan
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Subject:	SAICA's official stance on the use of AI in preparation for APC Exam

USE OF AI IN PREPARATION FOR APC EXAM

26 November 2025

Dear Training Officers and Training Office Administrators,

We would like to share **SAICA's official stance on the use of AI** in preparation for APC Exam.

The APC regulations contain the following:

> *"SAICA accepts that candidates may use generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies (e.g. ChatGPT) in preparing for the assessment during the pre-release period. The candidates are expected to use the AI tools responsibly and appropriately."*

We also need to emphasise what is allowed and is not allowed during the Pre-release period as detailed in the APC Regulation 9:

Candidates MAY ONLY work with, seek, or obtain from or give assistance to **other candidates registered for the current-year APC** regarding the pre-release information during the pre-release period.

The purpose of pre-releasing the pre-release information is to **simulate a professional assignment** to the extent possible in a written assessment. Candidates are expected to **use this information to prepare for the potential assessment tasks**, which are only presented on the day of the APC. Once the scenario is received as part of the pre-release period, candidates should prepare by: acquiring a good understanding of the relevant industry and the environment in which the hypothetical entity in the case study operates; the challenges the entity is facing and is likely to face and the identification of possible technical challenges that may arise on the day of the assessment (as presented in the Information on the Day).

Candidates are required to use the **pre-release period to undertake research that will prepare them for the Assessment Day**, promoting fairness, given the diverse spread of training experience of candidates (different training contract electives). **The pre-release period forms part of the assessment period.**

The **objective of the research** undertaken during this period should primarily be to:

1. Update candidates' technical knowledge, as required and as indicated by the signals (triggers) in the pre-release information;
2. Obtain a more detailed understanding of the industry selected for the pre-release information;
3. Absorb, reflect on and synthesise the details of the pre-release information; and
4. Perform detailed analyses with complex calculations as deemed necessary and as indicated by signals (triggers) in the pre-release information.

Candidates should always start by undertaking their own research, after all the candidate is the one providing their own written response on the day of the APC. In addition, further information is presented on the day of the APC which mean candidates have to apply themselves to this additional information. Candidates may undertake further research in conjunction with other 2025 APC candidates. **Consultation with any or all other persons is prohibited during the assessment period.**

Candidates may have at their employer's discretion, **access to certain employer resources** such as the internet, information databases to access information which is available in the public domain (this excludes any confidential information as prescribed by the SAICA CPC and employer policies) and a physical workspace. While making **use of any resources, candidates must bear in mind their ethical obligations** in terms of the SAICA CPC and By-laws.

We appreciate your cooperation and support in ensuring a smooth exam experience for your trainees.

Kind regards,
Exams Team