IIA Professional Designations Adopted in UK, Ireland

Agreement offers three-year transition to claim, qualify for CIA, QIAL

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla. (April 21, 2015) — Responding to the increasingly global demands on the profession, the largest internal audit organization in the United Kingdom and Ireland will adopt two internationally recognized professional designations offered by The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA).

Leaders from the IIA’s global headquarters and IIA–United Kingdom and Ireland negotiated a three-year period for members to transition to the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and Qualification in Internal Audit Leadership (QIAL) from the current IIA Diploma (PIIA) and IIA Advanced Diploma (CMIIA).

“The CIA and QIAL represent the pinnacle of professional internal audit certifications around the world,” said IIA President and CEO Richard F. Chambers, CIA, QIAL, CGAP, CCSA, CRMA. “This agreement will transition that same declaration of high-level professional attainment to the IIA Diploma and IIA Advanced Diploma.”

Under the agreement, the CIA and QIAL will be offered instead of the IIA Diploma and IIA Advanced Diploma starting June 22. In addition, all other IIA certifications will be supported and promoted in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

“Increasingly, internal auditors are telling us they need a global qualification because they are operating globally, their companies are operating globally, and they need to meet global standards,” said Ian Peters, CEO of the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors. “By adopting the CIA we are able to provide that global qualification.”

Current holders of the PIIA designation will be eligible to claim the CIA designation, as they have already demonstrated competence and commitment to the profession through successful completion of the related exams. PIIA holders will be given a one-year transition period in which to make their CIA application starting Oct. 5.

Holders of CMIIA designation who meet certain requirements will be eligible to transition to the QIAL designation or claim partial credit. Because CMIIA holders have demonstrated expertise in the strategic and technical skills required to be an effective internal audit leader through
completion of their exams, they will be allowed to apply their experience in the field to claim the QIAL or credit toward it.

The QIAL is an advanced leadership qualification launched last July at The IIA’s International Conference in London. The program is aimed at helping top internal auditors, including chief audit executives (CAEs), develop skills proven to be key indicators of success specific to internal audit leadership. The QIAL program focuses on internal audit leadership skills, organizational abilities, ethics, and innovation and change.

All current PIIA and CMIIA holders will be able to maintain these designations, whether they apply for the CIA or QIAL designations or not. IIA-UK and Ireland will continue to award the CMIIA designation linked to attainment of the QIAL.

Students who are currently studying for the IIA Diploma or the IIA Advanced Diploma will have a three-year period in which to complete their studies or transition to the global programs.

IIA-UK and Ireland is one of the largest of more than 100 IIA Institutes around the world, with approximately 8,700 members. The institute plans to contact each of its members to explain the changes and how they might affect them.

About the IIA

The Institute of Internal Auditors (The IIA) is the internal audit profession’s most widely recognized advocate, educator, and provider of standards, guidance, and certifications. Established in 1941, The IIA today serves more than 180,000 members from more than 170 countries and territories. The association’s global headquarters are in Altamonte Springs, Fla., USA. For more information, visit www.globaliia.org