

AUDIT & INSPECTION, CO-ANNEX, SAIFABAD, HYDERABAD

Empanelment of Concurrent Auditors

1. Invitation for empanelment

- 1.1. Union Bank of India conducts process for Empanelment of Concurrent Auditors, once in a year. This document is published as part of process for Empanelment of Concurrent Auditors for the FY 2022-23.
- 1.2. Union Bank of India invites applications in the prescribed format from practicing firms of Chartered Accountants who are willing to have their firm empanelled as Concurrent Auditor with Union Bank of India for select Branches/Units. Only one application should be submitted **ONLINE**. No other mode of application will be entertained.
- 1.3. This supplementary empanelment would be valid for one year i.e., up to 31st March 2023 and shall be utilised for allotting the branches/units . However, the Bank reserves the right to allot any other Branch/unit where the firm is having Office and willing to take up the assignment. The Bank may allot the Concurrent Audit assignment during empanelment period as and when there is a requirement.
- 1.4. APPLICATION FORMS NEED NOT BE PRINTED AND SENT TO THE BANK. SELF ATTESTED COPIES ARE TO BE UPLOADED WHILE APPLYING ONLINE, SUBJECT TO EACH ATTACHMENT SHOULD BE BELOW 2MB ONLY. HOWEVER, IT IS MANDATORY FOR APPLICANT TO SUBMIT DULY SIGNED APPLICATION FORM AND OTHER REVELVANT DOCUMENTS AS AND WHEN ADVISED BY THE BANK.
- 1.5. Last date for filing of Online Application is 01.03.2022, 23.59 hrs.
- 1.6. Mere submission of application does not, in any way, constitute any right for allotment of any audit job from the Bank. After empanelment, the work will be allotted as and when need arises at the sole discretion of the Bank.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Sl No.	Criteria
1	Firm should be a partnership firm of Chartered Accountants.
2	Firm should be Registered with ICAI having Registration number
3	Firm should be Registered with RBI having Unique Code Number
4	The Firm should have, as partner/s, Chartered Accountant/s who have



	undergone the "Certificate Course on Concurrent Audit of Banks" conducted by ICAI.
5	The firms should have as partner/s qualified Information System Auditor (CISA/DISA) with necessary exposure to systems Audit.
6	Preference will be given to firms where the partners themselves are ex-Bankers or the firm has got tie-up with ex-Bankers or has ex-Bankers as its employee, with requisite experience and exposure.
7	The firm should have necessary office set-up and adequate personnel to ensure proper deployment and timely completion of assignments.
8	Firms with common partners should not submit applications separately. Such Firms should submit application on behalf of only one firm.
9	Auditing, Reporting and closure of reports is to be mandatorily done through on line Web Based Audit Management Solution (eTHIC Package) and hence Concurrent Auditor and audit assistant should be computer literate.
10	The Firm should not have any credit relationship with the Bank/branch other than borrowings against their own deposits/jewels.
11	The firm should not be subject to any of the disqualifications under Section 141 of the Companies Act, 2013 for being appointed as External Concurrent Auditors in our bank.
12	Whenever any of the partner of the Firm is related to any of the staff or director of the Bank, such relationship shall be specifically mentioned in the application.
13	Firms which are under Cooling Period are not eligible for submission of applications online for empanelment

3. The following type of Audit firms are not eligible to participate for empanelment process:

- i) If Firm / any partner has been disqualified / de-empanelled or whose appointment has been terminated by RBI/ ICAI/ Bank / any other Bank on an earlier occasion.
- ii) The Audit firm or its associate concerns should not be conducting Statutory / Concurrent Audit of Union Bank of India or any of its Branches/Offices/departments/Other Units etc.,. The Audit firm or its associate concern, whose Statutory Audit term is yet to expire may apply for Concurrent Audit empanelment provided concerned Audit firm or its associate concern sacrifices the Statutory Audit assignment. If any divergence is observed/noticed by the bank during the empanelment process such matter will be referred to controlling authorities such as ICAI/RBI etc. No further claims will be entertained by the bank.

"Associate concerns means any corporate body or partnership firm wherein the proprietor and/or partner(s) of the Statutory Audit firm and/or their relative(s) is/are Directors or partners and/or jointly or severally hold 20% or more of the interest in the corporate body or partnership.



“Relative” for this purpose will mean the spouse or any lineal ascendant or descendant of the proprietor or partner of the Statutory Audit firm.”

- iii) Any canvassing, influence or reference to appointment of audit firms will render the application invalid.

4. Evaluation of CA firm for allotment of Concurrent Audit

4.1. The CA firm will be evaluated based on the following parameters

- i) Eligibility criteria as mentioned above.
- ii) Preference will be given to Audit firm having office in the same centre as that of Auditee Branch/Unit.
- iii) Experience of Concurrent Audit with Union Bank of India and/or Other Public Sector Bank.
- iv) Weightage will be given to firms where the partners themselves are ex-Bankers or the firms has got tie-up with ex-Bankers/or has ex-Bankers as employees with requisite experience and exposure.
- v) Efforts will be made to allot the branches/units to the CA firms based on minimum category suggested by RBI and Internal Concurrent Audit Policy of Bank. However, in case CA firm of requisite category is not available in particular location, then Bank will select suitable CA firm either from lower or higher category.

Regarding appointment of Concurrent Auditors from RBI panel as per gradation based on Advances position of Branch, it is proposed to allot Branches to Concurrent Auditors as under:

Sr. No.	Grade of Auditor	Branches to be allotted for Concurrent Audit.	Suggested level of advances of the Branch
i.	I	Premier Branches, Large Corporate (IFB,MID-Corporate, SME branches) Exceptionally Large Branches (ELBs),Exceptionally Large (Lite) Branches (ELB Lites), Stressed Asset Management Branches (SAMB) Very Large Branches (VLBs), Very Large (Lite) Branches (VLB Lites), Overseas Branches, Treasury, Audit for Outsourced activities of various CO Verticals,	Rs. 125.00 Crores and above

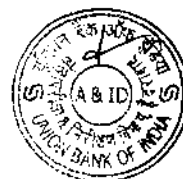


		ATM Division & Credit & Debit Card Division, Data Centre Process Audit, Large Branches Asset Recovery branches (ARBs)	Rs.50.00 crores to Rs.125.00 crores
iii.	III	Medium and Small Branches, Service Branches, CMS Branches, Digital Banking CO Verticals etc, Central Pension Processing Centre, Centralized Account Opening Centre, Any other Branch/Unit not covered above,	Below Rs.50.00 Crores
iv.	IV	SARALs & SARAL Lites, Currency Chests ULPs, USKs, e-Focal branch, Any other audit branch/unit not mentioned above	Irrespective of level of advances

- 4.2. Merely meeting the eligibility criteria shall not automatically entitle the CA firm for empanelment. After empanelment, the work will be allotted as and when need arises at the sole discretion of the Bank. The empanelment will not give any right to the empanelled firm for carrying out the assignments. The Bank reserves its right to cancel any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.

5. Terms and Conditions

- 5.1. At any one point of time, not more than one audit assignment shall be awarded to single firm. An audit assignment that needs to be carried out across branches/units at different locations shall be considered as a single assignment for this purpose. Hence the existing Concurrent Auditors who have not completed three years tenure as Concurrent Auditor at the present branch/office of Union Bank of India are not eligible to apply



- 5.2. Concurrent Auditors shall not undertake any other activities on behalf of the branch without obtaining concurrence of Audit & Inspection Department in writing.
- 5.3. The firm shall execute undertaking of fidelity and secrecy on its letterhead in the format prescribed by Bank.
- 5.4. In order to avoid conflict of interest, an undertaking shall be obtained from the Concurrent Auditors that they do not have any professional or commercial relationship with the borrowers of the Branch/Department which they are auditing.
- 5.5. The Concurrent Auditor shall sign the Do's & Don'ts statement in order to have proper arms length relationship with the Branch / Department of which they are conducting Audit.
- 5.6. A declaration shall be furnished by the firm that credit facilities availed by the firm or partners or firms in which they are partners or directors including any facility availed by a third party for which the firm or its partners are guarantors have not turned or are existing as non-performing assets as per prudential norms of RBI. In case the declaration is found incorrect, the assignment shall get terminated besides the firm being liable for any action under ICAI / RBI guidelines.
- 5.7. All necessary certificates including monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, annual closing of Book of Accounts, Appropriation of recoveries in NPA accounts, Leakage of Income etc., that need to be given by audit firm as a part of Concurrent Audit assignment shall be given under prescribed formats or on its letterhead ,as advised by the bank, without any additional certification fee.
- 5.8. A detailed checklist and other latest operating guidelines, view ID, required Menus for verification of details shall be provided to the Concurrent Auditors.
Web based checklist will be provided to concurrent auditors for conducting audit and for submission of reports. Finacle report server access will be provided for specific audit menus in verification of records, leakage of income, security details, charge creation etc. for view and identification of irregularities and other lapses.
- 5.9. Appointment of Concurrent Audit shall be purely at discretion of the Bank and no rights whatsoever accrue to the firm for such appointment.
- 5.10. Audit firms shall submit monthly/quarterly/half-yearly reports in structured formats within stipulated period i.e. within 10 days of the completion of month /quarter /half-year. Any persistent delay shall be viewed negatively at the time of review of the CA firm & Bank also reserves the right to levy



penalty as specified hereunder :

Delayed submission of reports will be viewed seriously and a penalty of 10% will be deducted if the report is submitted after 10th but before 20th of the next month to which the report pertains. In case the report is submitted after 20th but before the end of the month a penalty of 20% will be deducted from the fees payable.

- 5.11. Bank shall monitor the performance of audit firms closely. Performance of the Firms shall be evaluated monthly for their quality and coverage of reporting (Refer to Annexure - II). In case, CA firm is not attending audit work properly, continuous delay in submission of reports, non-reporting of serious irregularities/deviations, non-detection of fraud, non-detection of Leakage of income in branches where they are conducting Concurrent Audit, Bank reserves the right to terminate the assignment, without assigning any reason by giving 7 days notice. In case of termination of assignment, the remuneration for the incomplete month shall not be payable by the Bank. Moreover, the firm shall be debarred from empanelment for three financial years.
- 5.12. Similarly, the CA firm may terminate the Agreement of Concurrent Audit assignment with one month prior notice. In such case too, the remuneration for the incomplete month shall not be paid by the Bank. However, as far as possible, the CA firm shall complete the Audit for the month including submission of Report for the month, before effecting its termination. Cooling period for such termination cases will be three financial years, if the same is without any cogent reasons.
- 5.13. Concurrent Auditors shall not be permitted to mobilize any credit related proposals for any of the Branches of the Bank during the tenure of their assignment
- 5.14. The Firm should undertake that they will not subcontract the audit assignment.
- 5.15. As per the extant Concurrent Audit Policy, appointment of Concurrent Auditors will be made initially on financial year basis, irrespective of audit allotment date. The term may be extended, solely at the discretion of the Bank, for a further period of two (1+1) financial years on receiving satisfactory feedback from Auditee Branch/Unit and respective Zonal Audit office about their overall performance. A cooling period of 1 year shall be given after completion of three financial years of audit.
- 5.16. Bank conducts review/renewal process of Concurrent Audit assignment and appointment of new Concurrent Auditors as of March every year. However if an auditor is assigned with the Concurrent Audit in between as per the exigencies of Bank the initial tenure shall be only for the remaining period



up to the end of Financial Year . For example if the assignment is made during the month of May, Oct, Dec etc., it shall be reviewed for second year by next year March based on the performance feedback received from Auditee Branch and respective Zonal Audit office.

- 5.17. If the Branch/Unit under Concurrent Audit is closed / merged or removed from Concurrent Audit due to official exigencies and for any other reasons whatsoever, the tenure of the Concurrent Auditor of that Branch will stand terminated automatically. In such cases Bank will not be liable to give alternate Branch for audit to the CA firm whose Concurrent Audit assignment is so terminated.
- 5.18. Due to official exigencies and for any other reasons whatsoever, if one branch/unit under concurrent audit is merged with another branch/unit without concurrent audit, the existing concurrent auditor firm of the merged branch is to be considered for concurrent audit of Retained branch basing on the merits at the discretion of the competent authority of A&I (CGM/GM, A&I)
- 5.19. Due to official exigencies and for any other reasons whatsoever, if Retained branch/unit and Merged branch/unit both are under concurrent audit, then the Retained branch/unit concurrent auditor only is to be considered for concurrent audit of retained branch basing on the merits at the discretion of competent authority of A&I (CGM/GM, A&I).The merged branch concurrent auditor services will stand terminated.
- 5.20. On change of identity / change of firm name, during the currency of audit term, due to merger / amalgamation / reconstitution / any other reason, the Bank reserves it's right to allow the new firm to continue with the Concurrent Audit assigned to the old firm provided the new firm fulfils all the eligibility criteria given in our tender document.
- 5.21. The Bank reserves its discretion to accept or reject the application of any Firm based on the guidelines issued by the regulators or by the Bank.
- 5.22. The applicants shall opt for the Centre wherever they have their own offices with a minimum of one qualified partner/2 Chartered accountants.
- 5.23. The Firms shall provide the particulars of assignments currently at hand in the column provided in the application form. The allotment will be done based on the number of qualified personnel available and the current assignments in hand. In case the Bank feels that it will be difficult for the firm to undertake the work, then that firm will not be considered for allotment of concurrent audit.
- 5.24. Application which is incomplete is liable to be rejected.
- 5.25. Bank reserves its right to maintain a separate panel of Audit Firms for



undertaking specialized audits viz., Forex, Risk Management, System Audit etc., from the applications received in present process. Audit Firms are advised to indicate their specialization/qualifications of auditing for these specific areas.

5.26 The Audit firms allotted with the audit of branches that are designated to carry out Forex business should have necessary expertise to carry out the audit of Forex operations with adequate earlier experience of auditing such branches.

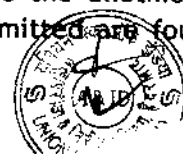
6. Documents to be submitted along with the application as and when requested by Bank.

6.1 CA firms shall scan and upload following documents, only after receiving intimation from the Bank. All enclosures must be self attested as true copy under seal by the partners.

- i) Duly filled and signed application downloaded from website by entering the required information.
- ii) Copies of certificate of experience / appointment letters of Concurrent Audit etc., in relation to similar assignment performed elsewhere, if any.
- iii) Copy of Registration Certificate issued to the firm by ICAI.
- iv) Copy of Certificate issued by ICAI of having completed "Course on Concurrent Audit of Banks" conducted by ICAI.
- v) Copy of certificate of CISA / DISA.
- vi) Copy of letter from RBI on allotting Unique Code No.
- vii) Due Diligence of staff/employees. (Annexure - B)

The following annexures are to be submitted to respective ZAOs after empanelment and along with acceptance of audit assignment on allotment of audit.

- viii) Letter of confirmation regarding non-disqualification of audit firms/Consultant. (Annexure - C)
 - ix) Do's & Don'ts. (Annexure - D)
 - x) Declaration of Fidelity & Secrecy. (Annexure - E)
 - xi) Undertaking shall be obtained from the Concurrent Auditors that they do not have any professional or commercial relationship with the borrowers of the Branch/Department where they are auditing.
 - xii) Undertaking shall be obtained from the Concurrent Auditor that none of the credit facilities availed by the firm or any of its partners are declared as NPAs with any Bank.
- 6.2 **The allotment is subject to verification of correctness of the documents. The Bank reserves the right to cancel/terminate the allotment at any point of time if the information/documents submitted are found to be**



incorrect. In such cases of termination, the cooling period will be three financial years.

7. Payment and Fees:

- 7.1. No out of pocket expenses or travelling allowance/halting allowance shall be paid to the Concurrent Audit firms for carrying out the assignment. However GST shall be paid as applicable from time to time in addition to basic fees.
- 7.2. The Concurrent Auditors shall be reimbursed actual out of pocket expenses incurred in connection with travel involved for conducting Inspections.
- 7.3. Payment to Concurrent Auditors shall be subject to deduction of tax at source at applicable rates.
- 7.4. All necessary certificates that need to be given as part of Concurrent Audit assignment shall be given by the audit firm without any additional certification fee.
- 7.5. Fees payable to Concurrent Auditors is based on the level of advances as of 31st December 2021 shall be taken into account for fixation of fees while assigning the Concurrent Audit assignment during March. However, in case of specialized/other units it is consolidated fee payable as mentioned below. Applicable GST will be paid extra.

Level of Advances and No.of Cash Credit A/cs in Standard category	Fee structure for Concurrent Audit
Advances above Rs.22500 Crores a) More than 50 accounts b) upto 50 accounts	Rs.50000/- Rs.42500/-
Advances above Rs.7500 crores upto Rs. 22500 Crores a) More than 50 accounts b) upto 50 accounts	Rs.42500/- Rs.35000/-
Advances above Rs.500 crores upto 7500 Crores a) More than 50 accounts b) upto 50 accounts	Rs.35000/- Rs.30000/-
Advances above Rs. 100 crores upto Rs.500 crores a) More than 50 accounts b) upto 50 accounts	Rs.32,500/- Rs.25000/-
Advances upto Rs.100 crores	Rs.25000/-
Specialised/other Units	
Treasury	Rs. 50,000/-
Data Centre Process Audit	Rs. 30,000/-
ATM Division & Credit Card Division	Rs. 30,000/-



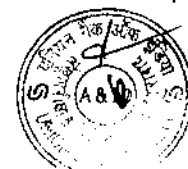
Stressed Asset Management Branch	Rs. 25,000/-
Select Regional Office	Rs. 25,000/-*
Service Branches	Rs. 20,000/-
Asset Recovery Branch	Rs. 20,000/-
CMS Division	Rs. 15,000/-
Vostro Branch	Rs. 15,000/-
Centralised processing Units such as SARALs, ULPS, USKs, NPC etc	Rs. 15,000/-
Various Departments in Central Office like CCD, SSD, TBD etc.	Rs. 15,000/-
Currency Chest	Rs. 12,000

- includes the fee for quarterly management audit

7.6. The Concurrent Audit fees once fixed shall remain the same till next renewal of the Concurrent Audit assignment irrespective of the level of Advances thereafter, provided revision in fees accorded by Bank's Board. The only exception may be in case of transfer/shifting of entire advances of another branch to the auditee branch due to rationalization of branches, the fees is payable as per level of advances of retained branch. Bank decision will be final in this regard.

8. Conduct and Performance Monitoring

- 8.1. Each Branch / Audit Unit shall identify Nodal Officer as a single point contact for coordinating the Concurrent Audit work.
- 8.2. Respective Zonal Audit Office shall provide the Concurrent Auditor with requisite initial information of the branch activities and further support to conduct audit.
- 8.3. Minor irregularities pointed out by Concurrent Auditors are to be rectified on the spot. The Branch should ensure rectification of deficiencies without any loss of time so as to achieve the very purpose of Concurrent Audit.
- 8.4. Pending issues of previous reports shall be mentioned as persisting irregularities / deficiencies in the subsequent reports.
- 8.5. Concurrent auditor has to close the concurrent audit reports of the branch /units after satisfying with 90% compliance of the irregularities pointed out by him. A detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will be made available to the concurrent auditors at the time of appointment.
- 8.6. Persisting irregularities which are not ensured for compliance by branches/ units to be submitted to concerned controlling authorities/verticals of CO and zonal audit offices by email/ letter for information and necessary follow up for compliance and closure of such items within a specified timelines



- 8.7. Persisting irregularities not ensured for compliance even after a lapse of 3 months or 90 days period are to be submitted by Concerned FGMO to CO, Annexe, Hyderabad with the reasons for non receipt of compliance for placing before ACB.
- 8.8. FGMO/ Regional offices concerned are to explore the possibility of conducting staff accountability on braches/ units and necessary actions to be initiated on the concerned.
- 8.9. A formal wrap up discussion with the Branch / Units shall be arranged before submission of report by the Concurrent Auditor. In case of any difficulty in interpretation of existing guidelines of the Bank by the Branch/Concurrent Auditor, the same shall be referred to the Controlling Office/Concerned Zonal Audit Office before finalization of the report.
- 8.10. Quality of compliance with the Concurrent Audit reports shall be covered and commented upon by Internal Auditors.
- 8.11. Zonal Audit Office shall ensure that deficiencies pointed out in the Concurrent Audit reports are rectified and the Audit Reports are closed within one month of submission. Regional Offices shall be responsible for follow up with Branches to ensure compliance.
- 8.12. Regional Offices along with Zonal Audit Office,by inviting Dy Zonal Head and Nodal Officer of RBCA at FGMO shall interact with Concurrent Auditors at least once in a quarter.
- 8.13. The Bank reserves its right to review the appointment at any point of time and if necessary, can cancel the appointment.
- 8.14. In case the firm fails to report serious irregularities / high value income leakage, Bank reserves right to report the matter to RBI / ICAI / IBA and initiate appropriate action. Such firms will be de-empanelled/black listed and they will not be eligible for assignment of audit work with Bank for next five years. Concurrent Audit has very important role in identifying System lapses, irregularities of every type, income leakage, ensuring compliance of terms of sanction for advances, detecting frauds, pointing out symptoms of sickness in time, etc.
- 8.15. Quality of Concurrent Audit is reflected in reducing number of irregularities, absence of persisting irregularities as RBI envisages that Auditor should also educate staff about hazards of deviation from Systems and Procedures.
- 8.16. If Concurrent Audit is effective, it should also result in up gradation of the Branch in annual inspection and / or maintaining higher-level ratings obtained (Low - Medium risk under RBIA)



- 8.17. If the RBIA rating of the Branch is downgraded, the performance of the Concurrent Auditor shall be critically examined and reviewed for deciding continuance of service or otherwise.
- 8.18. If the Concurrent Auditor fails to detect and report irregularities/deviations from laid down policies/norms, his services are liable to be terminated.
- 8.19. If the Concurrent Auditor fails to attend the Branch on day-to-day basis or the attendance of the Partner of the firm is found to be poor, his services are liable to be terminated.

-----END OF DOCUMENT-----

