

Likewise, any interested NGO can appeal to CEPAA to revoke the accreditation of a certification firm on the basis, for example, of evidence demonstrating a pattern of improper or incomplete audits or any other violation of the accreditation standard.

The Timetable

The Advisory Board to CEPAA has assisted in drafting SA8000, which will be reviewed annually and revised appropriately. To test the draft Standard, CEPAA has conducted pilot audits in Mexico, Honduras, New York and Pennsylvania; prior to the audits, the audit teams consulted with local NGOs. After review and comment on the draft SA8000 the document will be posted on the World Wide Web for further discussion. SA8000 will then be finalized and publicly announced. That version of the standard will be in effect for approximately the first two years of the system; it will be subject to appropriate updating periodically. The guidance document to SA8000 auditing and audit processes is very detailed; it will be updated yearly. It reflects all parties' experience with the system and contains improvements in system implementation. The formal, public launch of the program is scheduled for January 1998; all aspects of it will benefit by periodic updating and improvement.

Advisory Board of The Council on Economic Priorities Accreditation Agency

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About the Advisory Board:

The CEPAA Advisory Board (CEPAB) provides direction and advice about the operation of and policy matters relating to the function of CEPAA. CEPAB members are appointed for their experience and knowledge of particular sectors, to ensure that the interests of the sectors are represented, or as experts in a particular discipline, to provide impartial expert advice. They are appointed in their own right to maintain the balance of interests on the advisory board, but do not represent any particular sector or organization.