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**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
OF BANGLADESH**

**ACCOUNT CODE**

**Issued by the Comptroller & Auditor General of Bangladesh**

## Preface to the Updated Account Code

The Account code in four volumes was first published on 23 December 1938. After the Partition of British India, the Code was reprinted in Pakistan with revisions as a consequence of the partition. In Bangladesh, the Code was reprinted in March 1983 with the substitution of the word, "Pakistan", by the word, "Bangladesh".

Following liberation, fundamental changes occurred in the accounting system and financial administration. Accounting functions, previously performed by the Treasury under the district administration, were taken over by accounts offices under the administrative control of the Controller General of Accounts. This post was created in the place of the erstwhile Accountant General under a scheme of separation of audit from accounting functions. Simultaneously twenty posts of Chief Accounts Officers were created to perform accounting functions for the Ministries.

On the other hand, receipts, payments and accounting functions were extended up to the Thana level. Regional, District and Thana Accounts Officers are now responsible for maintaining government accounts under the jurisdiction of the Controller General of Accounts instead of the District Treasury Officer. As a result of these reforms, the procedure of recording receipts and expenditure, keeping and compiling of accounts, preparing of accounting returns and statements and the process of accounting flows between different accounting and financial authorities have changed. However, all these reforms and changes had been brought about by issue of circulars, letters and memoranda; the Account Code was neither updated nor revised by inserting and consolidating the piecemeal reforms carried out through circulars and memoranda. The Account Code thus became to some extent outdated.

The Government set up a Committee on Reforms in Budgeting and Expenditure Control (CORBEC) in 1991 to examine the budgeting and accounting system. In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, an ODA-aided Project entitled 'Reforms in Budgeting and Expenditure Control', generally known as the RIBEC Project, made a diagnostic study and recommended that existing rules and regulations should be replaced by a hierarchical structure of new financial regulations and departmental manuals of procedures. Accordingly, replacement of accounting and financial rules and regulations were included in the Terms of Reference of the second phase of the ODA-aided Project.

As a preliminary step to revision and replacement of the existing structure of the rules and regulations, the RIBEC Project took up the task of updating the Account Code. All the circulars and memoranda issued till now and the consequential changes taking place over the years have been taken into consideration and necessary provisions have been incorporated and consolidated in the four volumes in relevant places. Provisions in the Code which have become obsolete and inoperative have been deleted. For example, the provisions regarding provincial governments are no longer relevant and have been omitted in this edition. This edition of the updated Account Code thus represents the accounting rules and regulations operative as of to-day. Whatever provisions have been included in the Edition are covered by and based on circulars and memoranda issued by the appropriate authorities and consequential changes following therefrom. It may be clarified that no revision, rationalisation or simplification has been made. It is, however, intended that this process will be initiated at a later stage.

It is expected that the updated Account Code will be an authentic, comprehensive and self-contained document of practical use and serve as an useful and handy guide to all persons dealing with Government accounting. This will especially be of immense utility to accounts offices in Thana, District and region who have no immediate access to the office of the Controller General of Accounts.

In order to facilitate preservation and continuous updating, this edition has been printed and bound in a permanent loose leaf binder format. Every accounts office will receive a copy which should be maintained as a permanent record of the office. The Code as printed in the new format will be for official use of all officers and staff of the office and should not become the personal copy of anybody. Each office will keep the Code always up-to-date by inserting replacement pages as and when amendments take place. A Rules & Regulations Unit has been set up in the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General which will maintain the Account Code up-to-date, get approved amendments printed as replacement pages and circulate them to all the relevant offices. The offices receiving replacement pages must forthwith replace the pages in the loose leaf binder.

Suggestions on the updated Account Code are welcome and will be given due consideration in the next phase of revision, rationalisation, simplification and reorganisation of all accounting and financial rules and procedures of the Government.

M. Hafizuddin Khan,  
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## ACCOUNT CODE VOLUME I

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