

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING 200

(REVISED AND REDRAFTED) **(Mark-up Showing Changes from ED)**

OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR, AND THE CONDUCT OF AN AUDIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON AUDITING

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2009, [date])^{*}

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Introduction

Scope of this ISA

1. This International Standard on Auditing (ISA) establishes the independent auditor's overall responsibilities when conducting an audit of financial statements in accordance with ISAs. Specifically, it sets out the overall objectives of the independent auditor, and explains the nature and scope of an audit designed to enable the independent auditor to meet those objectives. It also explains the scope, authority and structure of the ISAs, and includes requirements establishing the general responsibilities of the independent auditor applicable in all audits, including the obligation to comply with the ISAs. The independent auditor is referred to as "the auditor" hereafter and in the ISAs unless the context requires emphasis of independence.
2. ISAs are written in the context of an audit of financial statements by an ~~independent~~ auditor. They are to be adapted as necessary in the circumstances when applied to audits of other historical financial information.

An Audit of Financial Statements [ISSUE A.1]

- ~~4. The objective of an audit of financial statements is to enable the auditor to express an opinion¹ whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework.~~
- ~~39. An audit of financial statements is an assurance engagement. The auditor is engaged for purposes of expressing an opinion designed~~ The purpose of an audit is to enhance the degree of confidence of intended users in the financial statements. This is achieved by the expression of an opinion by an independent auditor on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework. In the case of most general purpose frameworks, that opinion is on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view or are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the framework. An audit conducted in accordance with relevant ethical and professional requirements enables the auditor to form that opinion. (Ref: Para. A1)
- ~~47. An audit by an independent auditor is premised on the fact that t~~ The financial statements subject to audit are those of the entity, prepared and presented by management of the entity with oversight from those charged with governance,² with the auditor engaged for purposes of forming and expressing an opinion on them. ISAs do not impose responsibilities on management or those charged with governance and do not override laws and regulations that govern their responsibilities. However, an audit in accordance with ISAs is conducted on the premise that management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance have responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of the audit. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management and those charged with governance of their responsibilities. ~~The auditor is also entitled to expect that management and those charged~~

¹ ~~Referred to hereafter and in the ISAs as "the auditor" unless the context requires emphasis of independence.]~~

² ~~The terms "management" and "those charged with governance" are described in [proposed] ISA 260 (Revised and Redrafted), "Communication with Those Charged with Governance."~~

~~with governance will make available to the auditor all the information the auditor requires for the purposes of the audit. (Ref: Para. A2-A11)~~

~~5. As at the basis for the auditor's opinion, ~~the auditor obtains ISAs require the auditor to obtain~~ reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. ~~10. Reasonable assurance, which is required by the ISAs,~~ is a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, because of the inherent limitations of an audit. It is obtained when the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce audit risk (i.e., the risk that the auditor expresses an inappropriate opinion when the financial statements are materially misstated) ~~there is an unidentified material misstatement of the financial statements (i.e., audit risk)~~ to an acceptably low level.~~

~~6A9. Misstatements in the financial statements can arise from fraud or error. The auditor is responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, but is not responsible for the detection of misstatements that are not material to the financial statements taken as a whole. The concept of materiality is used both in planning and performing the audit, and in evaluating the effects of identified misstatements on the financial statements and the opinion in the auditor's report.³ In general, misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if ~~they~~, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements. Judgments about materiality are made in light of surrounding circumstances, and are affected by the auditor's perception of the financial information needs of users of the financial statements, and by the size or nature of a misstatement, or a combination of both. The concept of materiality is used both in planning and performing the audit, and in evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the financial statements and the related auditor's report, as discussed further in [proposed] ISA 320 (Revised and Redrafted), "Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit" and [proposed] ISA 450 (Redrafted), "Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit," respectively. The auditor's opinion deals with the financial statements taken as a whole and therefore the auditor is not responsible for the detection of misstatements that are not material to the financial statements taken as a whole. [Note to IAASB: Editorial changes to this paragraph may be required on finalization of ISAs 320 and 450 (Revised and Redrafted).]~~

~~711. The ISAs ~~are designed to support~~ require the auditor ~~in to~~ obtaining reasonable assurance, and contain requirements that are designed to support the auditor in doing so. They require that the auditor exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit; and, amongst other things:~~

- Identify and assess risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, based on an understanding of the entity and its environment, including the entity's internal control.

³ [Proposed] ISA 320 (Revised and Redrafted), "Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit" and [Proposed] ISA 450 (Redrafted), "Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit."

- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether the assessed risks have given rise to material misstatements, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those risks.
 - ~~Obtain audit evidence about whether the risks have given rise to material misstatements in order to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level.~~
 - Evaluate the effects of identified misstatements in the financial statements.
 - Form an opinion on the financial statements based on an evaluation of the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence obtained.
8. Based on the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence about whether reasonable assurance has been obtained and the financial statement as a whole are free from material misstatement, the auditor expresses an opinion on the financial statements. The form of opinion expressed by the auditor will depend upon the applicable financial reporting framework and any applicable law or regulation. Unless specifically stated otherwise, references in the ISAs to the auditor’s opinion covers both opinions on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, or are presented fairly, in all material respects, and opinions on compliance with the specific requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. (Ref: Para. A12)
9. The ISAs also require the auditor to include clear additional communication in the auditor’s report when, in the auditor’s judgment, such communication is appropriate to draw users’ attention to matters which may be relevant to their understanding of the financial statements or the audit. [ISSUE A.2]
10. The auditor’s reporting responsibilities also include communicating relevant audit matters with management and those charged with governance. In certain circumstances, the auditor may have a responsibility to report to third parties. [ISSUE A.2]

Effective Date

113. This ISA is effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2009~~[date]~~.⁴

Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor [ISSUES A.1 and A.2]

125. In conducting ~~an the~~ audit of financial statements~~so as to achieve its objective~~, the overall objectives of the independent auditor⁵ are:
 (a) To obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, thereby enabling the auditor to express an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework;
 and

⁴ ~~This date will not be earlier than December 15, 2008.~~

⁵ ~~Referred to hereafter and in the ISAs as “the auditor” unless the context requires emphasis of independence.~~

~~(b) To report on the financial statements~~ in accordance with the auditor's findings. ~~(Ref: Para. A1)~~

~~136. The objective of an audit cannot be fulfilled unless the auditor achieves the overall objective of the auditor. In all cases when reasonable assurance the overall objective of the auditor cannot be obtained/achieved, and a qualified opinion in the auditor's report is insufficient in the circumstances for purposes of reporting to the intended users of the financial statements, the ISAs require that the auditor disclaims an modifies the auditor's opinion accordingly or withdraws from the engagement, where withdrawal is legally permitted. [ISSUE A.3]~~

Preparation of the Financial Statements [ISSUE A.1]

~~7. [MOVED TO 4]~~

~~8. [MOVED TO A2]~~

An Audit of Financial Statements, and Related Concepts [ISSUE A.1]

~~9-11. [MOVED TO 3, 5, and 7, RESPECTIVELY]~~

~~12. An audit is not intended to, and cannot, provide a guarantee or absolute assurance, i.e., certainty, that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. This is primarily because there are inherent limitations of an audit that affect the auditor's ability to detect material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.~~

~~13. The following concepts provide the basis for a proper understanding of the overall objective of the auditor and the objectives and requirements of the ISAs:~~

~~(a) Materiality (Ref: Para. A9)~~

~~(b) Audit risk (Ref: Para. A10-A19)~~

~~(c) Sufficiency and appropriateness of audit evidence (Ref: Para. A20-A23)~~

~~(d) Professional judgment (Ref: Para. A24-A25)~~

~~(e) Professional skepticism (Ref: Para. A26-A27)~~

~~(f) Inherent limitations of an audit. (Ref: Para. A28-A40)~~

Auditor Independence [ISSUE A.1]

~~14-15. [MOVED TO A13 and A15, RESPECTIVELY]~~

Definitions

~~146. For purposes of the ISAs, the following terms have the meanings attributed below:~~

~~(a) Applicable financial reporting framework – The financial reporting framework adopted by management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that is acceptable in view of the nature of the entity and the objective of the financial statements, or that is required by law or regulation.~~

For purposes of the ISAs, the term “fair presentation framework” is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the specific requirements of the framework and:

- (i) Acknowledges explicitly or implicitly that, to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements, it may be necessary for management to provide disclosures beyond the specific requirements of the framework; or
- (ii) Acknowledges explicitly that, in extremely rare circumstances, it may be necessary for management to depart from a specific requirement of the framework to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements.

The term “compliance framework” is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the specific requirements of the framework, but does not contain the acknowledgements in (i) or (ii) above.

- (b) Audit evidence – All of the information used by the auditor in arriving at the conclusions on which the auditor’s opinion is based. Audit evidence includes both information contained in the accounting records underlying the financial statements and other information. For purposes of the ISAs:

- (i) Sufficiency of audit evidence is the measure of the quantity of audit evidence. The quantity of the audit evidence needed is affected by the auditor’s assessment of the risks of material misstatement and also by the quality of such audit evidence.

- (ii) Appropriateness of audit evidence is the measure of the quality of audit evidence; that is, its relevance and its reliability in providing support for the conclusions on which the auditor’s opinion is based.

The sufficiency and appropriateness of audit evidence are interrelated. [Note to IAASB: Editorial changes to this definition may be required based on discussions on ISA 500 (Redrafted).]

- (c) Audit risk – The risk that the auditor expresses an inappropriate audit opinion when the financial statements are materially misstated.⁶ Audit risk is a function of the risks of material misstatement and detection risk.

- (d) Auditor – The engagement partner. The term “auditor” is used to describe either the engagement partner or the audit firm. Where it applies to the engagement partner, it describes the obligations or responsibilities of the engagement partner. Such obligations or responsibilities may be fulfilled by either the engagement partner or a member of the audit team. Where it is expressly intended that the obligation or responsibility be fulfilled by the engagement partner, the term “engagement partner” rather than “auditor” is used. [ISSUE F.1]

⁶ ~~This definition does not include the risk that the auditor might express an opinion that the financial statements are materially misstated when they are not.~~

- (ed) Detection risk – The risk that the procedures performed by the auditor to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level will not detect a misstatement that exists and that could be material, either individually or when aggregated with other misstatements.
- (fe) Financial statements – A structured representation of historical financial information, which ~~ordinarily~~ includes any related explanatory notes, intended to communicate an entity’s economic resources or obligations at a point in time or the changes therein for a period of time in accordance with a financial reporting framework. The term “financial statements” ordinarily refers to a complete set of financial statements as determined by the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, but can also refer to a single financial statement.⁷
- (gf) Historical financial information – Information expressed in financial terms in relation to a particular entity, derived primarily from that entity’s accounting system, about economic events occurring in past time periods or about economic conditions or circumstances at points in time in the past.
- (h) Management – The person(s) with executive responsibility for the conduct of the entity’s operations. For some entities in some jurisdictions, management includes some or all of those charged with governance, for example, executive members of a governance board, or an owner-manager. [ISSUE F.2]
- (ig) Misstatement – A difference between the amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure of a reported financial statement item and the amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure that is required for the item to be in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Misstatements can arise from error or fraud, and may result from:
 - ~~(i) An inaccuracy in gathering or processing data from which the financial statements are prepared;~~
 - ~~(ii) An omission of an amount or disclosure;~~
 - ~~(iii) An incorrect accounting estimate arising from overlooking or clear misinterpretation of facts; or~~
 - ~~(iv) Management’s judgments concerning accounting estimates that the auditor considers unreasonable or the selection and application of accounting policies that the auditor considers inappropriate.~~

When the auditor expresses an opinion on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view or are presented fairly, in all material respects, misstatements also include those adjustments of amounts, classifications, presentation, or disclosures that, in the auditor’s judgment, are necessary for the financial statements to give a true and fair view or be presented fairly, in all material respects. [Note to IAASB: Editorial changes to this definition may be required on finalization of ISA 320 (Revised and Redrafted).]

⁷ ~~Examples of a single financial statement, each of which would include related explanatory notes, are: statement of income or statement of operations; statement of cash receipts and disbursements; statement of assets and liabilities that does not include owner’s equity; and statement of operations by product lines.~~

- (j) Premise, relating to the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, on which an audit is conducted – That management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance have the following responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of an audit in accordance with ISAs. That is, responsibility:
- (i) For the preparation and presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- (ii) To provide the auditor with:
- a. All information, such as records and documentation, and other matters that are relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements;
 - b. Any additional information that the auditor may request from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance; and
 - c. Unrestricted access to those within the entity from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

In the case of a fair presentation framework, management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting framework; or the preparation of financial statements *that give a true and fair view* in accordance with the financial reporting framework. This applies to all references to “preparation and presentation of the financial statements” in the ISAs.

The “premise, relating to the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, on which an audit is conducted” may also be referred to as the “premise.”

- (k) Professional judgment – The application of relevant knowledge and experience, within the context provided by auditing, accounting and ethical standards, in making informed decisions about the courses of action that are appropriate in the circumstances of the audit engagement. [ISSUE D.1]
- (l) Professional skepticism – An attitude that includes a questioning mind, being alert to conditions which may indicate possible misstatement due to error or fraud, and a critical assessment of audit evidence. [ISSUE D.1]
- (mh) Reasonable assurance – In the context of an audit of financial statements, a high, but not absolute, level of assurance. [ISSUE C.1]
- (ni) Risk of material misstatement – The risk that the financial statements are materially misstated prior to audit. This consists of two components, described as follows at the assertion level:

- (i) Inherent risk – The susceptibility of an assertion to a misstatement that could be material, either individually or when aggregated with other misstatements, before consideration of any assuming that there are no related controls.
- (ii) Control risk – The risk that a misstatement that could occur in an assertion and that could be material, either individually or when aggregated with other misstatements, will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis by the entity’s internal control.
- (o) Those charged with governance – The person(s) or organization(s) (e.g., a corporate trustee) with responsibility for overseeing the strategic direction of the entity and obligations related to the accountability of the entity. This includes overseeing the financial reporting process. For some entities in some jurisdictions, those charged with governance may include management personnel, for example, executive members of a governance board of a private or public sector entity, or an owner-manager. [ISSUE F.2]

Requirements

Ethical Requirements Relating to an Audit of Financial Statements

157. The auditor shall comply with relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, relating to financial statement audit engagements. (Ref: Para. A134-A16)

Professional Skepticism

168. The auditor shall plan and perform an audit with ~~an attitude of~~ professional skepticism recognizing that circumstances may exist that cause the financial statements to be materially misstated. (Ref: Para. A174-A20)

Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence and Audit Risk

179. ~~In order to obtain reasonable assurance, t~~The auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence in order to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level and thereby enable the auditor to be able to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor’s opinion. ~~Reasonable assurance is obtained when the auditor has thereby reduced audit risk to an acceptably low level.~~ (Ref: Para. A21-A47)

Professional Judgment

18. The auditor shall exercise professional judgment in planning and performing an audit of financial statement in accordance with ISAs. (Ref: Para. A48-A51) [ISSUE D.2]

Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with ISAs

Complying with ISAs Relevant to the Audit

1920. ~~The ISAs, taken together, are designed to support the achievement of the overall objective of the auditor. Accordingly, t~~The auditor shall comply with all ISAs relevant to the audit. An ISA is relevant to the audit when the ISA is in effect and the circumstances addressed by the ISA exist. (Ref: Para. A5243-A5647)

~~2021.~~ The auditor shall read and understand ~~consider~~ the entire text of an ISA to understand its objective and to apply its requirements properly. ~~The nature of the ISAs requires the auditor to exercise professional judgment in applying them.~~ (Ref: Para. A5748-A6552) [ISSUE E]

~~2122.~~ The auditor shall not represent compliance with ISAs unless the auditor has complied with the requirements of this ISA and all other ~~of the~~ ISAs relevant to the audit.

Objectives Stated in Individual ISAs

~~23.~~ Each ISA contains an objective or objectives, which provide the context in which the requirements of the ISA are set. These objectives support the overall objective of the auditor set out in paragraph 5 of this ISA.

~~2224.~~ To achieve the overall objective of the auditor, In planning and performing the audit, and having regard to the interrelationships amongst the ISAs, the auditor shall use the objectives stated in relevant ISAs to judge whether, having regard to the interrelationships amongst the ISAs and having complied with the requirements of the ISAs: (Ref: Para. A66-A68) [ISSUE B.1]

(a) Determine any ~~Other~~ audit procedures additional to those required by the ISA that are need to be performed in pursuance of the objectives stated in the ISAs; and: (Ref: Para. A6953-A56)

(ba) Evaluate whether ~~sufficient~~ appropriate audit evidence has been obtained in the context of the overall objectives of the auditor; ~~and~~ (Ref: Para. A70) [ISSUE B.2]

~~The assessment of whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained and the other audit procedures, if any, that may be necessary in the circumstances are matters of professional judgment. The proper application of the requirements of the ISAs will ordinarily provide a sufficient basis for the auditor's achievement of the objectives. However, the ISAs cannot anticipate all circumstances that may arise.~~

Applying, and Complying with, Relevant Requirements

~~26.~~ ISAs contain requirements expressed using the word "shall." The requirements are designed to enable the auditor to meet the objectives specified in the ISAs, and thereby the overall objective of the auditor.

~~237.~~ Subject to paragraph 248, the auditor shall comply with each ~~the~~ requirements of an ISA in all cases where such requirements are relevant. A requirement is relevant unless, in the circumstances of the audit:

(a) The entire ISA is not relevant; or

(b) The ~~circumstances envisioned in the requirement do not apply because the~~ requirement is not relevant because it is conditional and the condition does not exist. (Ref: Para. A7161-A7262)

~~248.~~ In exceptional circumstances, the auditor may judge it necessary to depart from a relevant requirement in an ISA to achieve the aim of that requirement. In such circumstances, the auditor shall perform alternative audit procedures to achieve the aim of that requirement. The need for the auditor to depart from a relevant requirement is expected to arise only where the requirement is for a specific procedure to be performed and, in the specific circumstances of the audit, that procedure would be ineffective in achieving the aim of the requirement. ~~The~~

~~auditor need not apply a requirement that is not relevant in the circumstances of the audit; this does not constitute a departure from the requirement.~~ (Ref: Para. A7363)

~~29. The auditor shall apply the requirements in the context of the other material included in the ISA.~~

Failure to Achieve an Objective [ISSUE B.3]

~~255.~~ If an objective in a relevant ISA cannot be achieved, the auditor shall evaluate ~~consider~~ whether this prevents the auditor from achieving the overall objectives of the auditor ~~thereby requiring the auditor, in accordance with the ISAs, to modify the auditor's opinion accordingly or withdraw from the engagement. In most cases, the failure to achieve an objective will prevent the achievement of the overall objective of the auditor.~~ Failure to achieve an objective represents a significant matter requiring documentation in accordance with ~~proposed~~ ISA 230 (Redrafted)⁸, ~~“Audit Documentation.”~~ (Ref: Para. A7457-A7560)

* * *

Application and Other Explanatory Material

The Objective of an Audit and its Relationship to the Overall Objective of the Auditor (Ref: Para. 5) [ISSUE A.1]

~~A1. The overall objective of the auditor restates the objective of an audit in a way that can more readily be related to the objectives and requirements of the ISAs. For the financial statements to be prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework, they must be free from material misstatement. The overall objective of the auditor reflects the fact that the basis for the auditor's opinion is reasonable assurance. The auditor obtains reasonable assurance by reducing audit risk to an acceptably low level, through accumulating and evaluating sufficient appropriate audit evidence. The auditor's opinion on the financial statements is expressed in a written report.~~

An Audit of Financial Statements

Scope of the Audit Opinion (Ref: Para. 3)

~~A129. An audit is also necessarily limited by its scope and objective, which deal with the expression by the auditor of an opinion on the financial statements. The scope of the opinion expressed by the auditor will depend upon any applicable laws and regulations. The auditor's opinion on the financial statements deals with whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Such an opinion is common to all audits of financial statements. Absent any specific laws or regulations that require otherwise, For example, the an auditor does not lead to the expression of an opinion on matters such as The future viability of the entity whether future events or conditions may cause an entity to be unable to continue as a going concern, or on tThe efficiency or effectiveness with which management has conducted the affairs of the entity, (including the effectiveness of internal control). The extent of compliance with all laws and~~

⁸ ISA 230 (Redrafted), “Audit Documentation,” paragraph 8(c).

regulations that may be applicable to the entity. However, in some jurisdictions, auditors may be required to provide opinions on such matters. While the ISAs include requirements and guidance in relation to such matters to the extent that they are relevant to forming an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor would be required to undertake further work if the auditor has additional responsibilities to provide such opinions.

Preparation of the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. ~~48(a)~~)

~~A28. Accordingly, although ISAs do not impose responsibilities on management and those charged with governance and do not override laws and regulations that govern their responsibilities, ISAs are written, and An audits in accordance with ISAs is~~are conducted, on the premises that management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance have responsibility:

- ~~(a) Acknowledge and understand their responsibility~~ For the preparation and presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and ~~(Ref: Para. A2-A8);~~
- ~~(b) Acknowledge and understand their responsibility for designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and~~
- (b) To Will provide complete information to the auditor with:-
 - (i) All information, such as records and documentation, and other matters that are relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements;
 - (ii) Any additional information that the auditor may request from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance; and
 - (iii) Unrestricted access to those within the entity from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

~~A32. As part of their its~~ responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements, management⁹ and where appropriate, those charged with governance are is responsible for the identification of the applicable financial reporting framework, in the context of any relevant law or regulation. They are Management is also responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements in accordance with that framework, and for an adequately description of that framework in the financial statements. The preparation of the financial statements requires management to exercise judgment in making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances, as well as to select and apply appropriate accounting policies. These judgments are made in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework. Management's responsibility for preparing and presenting the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework includes:

⁹ ~~With oversight from those charged with governance.~~

- ~~Designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and presenting financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;~~
- ~~Selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and~~
- ~~Making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.~~

A43. The financial statements may be prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet:

- The common financial information needs of a wide range of users (i.e., “general purpose financial statements” ~~prepared in accordance with a “general purpose framework”~~); or
- The financial information needs of specific users (i.e., “special purpose financial statements” ~~prepared in accordance with a “special purpose framework”~~).

A54. The applicable financial reporting framework often encompasses financial reporting standards established by an authorized or recognized standards setting organization, or legislative or regulatory requirements. In some cases, the financial reporting framework may encompass both financial reporting standards established by an authorized or recognized standards setting organization and legislative or regulatory requirements. Other sources may provide direction on the application of the applicable financial reporting framework. In some cases, the applicable financial reporting framework may encompass such other sources, or may even consist only of such sources. Such other sources may include:

- The effect of the legal and ethical environment, including statutes, regulations, court decisions, and professional ethical obligations in relation to accounting matters;
- Published accounting interpretations of varying authority issued by standards setting, professional or regulatory organizations;
- Published views of varying authority on emerging accounting issues issued by standards setting, professional or regulatory organizations;
- General and industry practices widely recognized and prevalent; and
- Accounting literature.

Where conflicts exist between the financial reporting framework and the sources from which direction on its application may be obtained, or amongst the sources that encompass the financial reporting framework, the source with the highest authority prevails.

A65. The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework determine the form and content of the financial statements. Although the framework may not specify how to account for or disclose all transactions or events, it ordinarily embodies sufficient broad principles that can serve as a basis for developing and applying accounting policies that are consistent with the concepts underlying the requirements of the framework.

A76. Some financial reporting frameworks are fair presentation frameworks, while others are compliance frameworks. Financial reporting frameworks that encompass primarily the financial reporting standards established by an organization that is authorized or recognized to promulgate standards to be used by entities for preparing and presenting general purpose

financial statements are often designed to achieve fair presentation, for example, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

A87. The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework also determine what constitutes a complete set of financial statements. In the case of many frameworks, financial statements are intended to provide information about the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of an entity. For such frameworks, a complete set of financial statements would include a balance sheet; an income statement; a statement of changes in equity; a cash flow statement; and related explanatory notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. For some other financial reporting frameworks, a single financial statement and the related explanatory notes might constitute a complete set of financial statements. For example, the International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS), “Financial Reporting Under the Cash Basis of Accounting” states that the primary financial statement is a statement of cash receipts and payments when a public sector entity prepares and presents its financial statements in accordance with that IPSAS. Other examples of a single financial statement, each of which would include related explanatory notes, are:

- Balance sheet.
- Statement of income or statement of operations.
- Statement of retained earnings.
- Statement of cash flows.
- Statement of cash receipts and disbursements.
- Statement of assets and liabilities that does not include owner’s equity.
- Statement of changes in owners’ equity.
- Statement of revenue and expenses.
- Statement of operations by product lines.

A98. [Proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted), “Terms of Audit Engagements” establishes requirements and provides guidance on determining the acceptability of the applicable financial reporting framework.¹⁰ [Proposed] ISA 800 (Revised and Redrafted), “Special Considerations—Audits of Special Purpose Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement”¹¹ contains additional considerations for special purpose frameworks.¹¹

A10. Because of the significance of the premise to the conduct of an audit, the auditor is required to obtain agreement from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance that they acknowledge and understand their responsibilities set out in paragraph A2 as a precondition for accepting the audit engagement.¹² The auditor is also required to

¹⁰ [Proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted), “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements,” paragraph 4(a).

¹¹ [Proposed] ISA 800 (Revised and Redrafted), “Special Considerations—Audits of Special Purpose Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement,” paragraphs 9-10. ~~Close off document approved in October 2006.~~

¹² [Proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted), paragraph 4(b).

obtain written representations about whether management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance have fulfilled those responsibilities.¹³

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

A11. The mandates for audits of the financial statements of public sector entities may be broader than those of other entities. As a result, the premise, relating to management's responsibilities, on which an audit of the financial statements of a public sector entity is conducted may include additional responsibilities, such as the responsibility for the execution of transactions and events in accordance with legislation or proper authority.

Form of the Audit Opinion (Ref: Para. 9)

A12. Where the applicable financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework, as is generally the case for general purpose financial statements, the opinion required by the ISAs is on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, or are presented fairly, in all material respects – see [proposed] ISA 700 (Redrafted)¹⁴~~(Amended as a Result of ISA 800 (Revised)), “The Independent Auditor’s Report on General Purpose Financial Statements.” Unless specifically stated otherwise, reference in the ISAs to the auditor’s opinion covers both opinions on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, or are presented fairly, in all material respects, and opinions on compliance with the specific requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.~~

An Audit of Financial Statements, and Related Concepts [ISSUE A.1]

Materiality (Ref: Para. 13(a))

~~A9. [MOVED TO 6]~~

Audit Risk (Ref: Para. 13(b))

~~A10-A19 [MOVED TO A26-A37]~~

Sufficiency and Appropriateness of Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 13(c))

~~A20-A23 [MOVED TO A22-A35]~~

Professional Judgment (Ref: Para. 13(d))

~~A24-A25. [MOVED TO A48-A49]~~

Professional Skepticism (Ref: Para. 13(e))

~~A26-A27. [MOVED TO A17-A19]~~

Ethical Requirements Relating to an Audit of Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 157)

A1314. The auditor is subject to relevant independence and other ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, relating to financial statement audit engagements. Relevant ethical requirements ~~which~~ ordinarily comprise Parts A and B of the International Federation

¹³ ISA 580 (Revised and Redrafted), “Written Representations,” paragraphs 10-11.

¹⁴ [Proposed] ISA 700 (Redrafted), “The Independent Auditor’s Report on General Purpose Financial Statements.”

of Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the IFAC Code) related to an audit of financial statements together with national requirements that are more restrictive.

A14. Part A of the IFAC Code establishes the fundamental principles of professional ethics relevant to the auditor when conducting an audit of financial statements and provides a conceptual framework for applying those principles. The fundamental principles with which the auditor is required to comply by the IFAC Code are:

- (a) Integrity;
- (b) Objectivity;
- (c) Professional competence and due care;
- (d) Confidentiality; and
- (e) Professional behavior.

Part B of the IFAC Code illustrates how the conceptual framework is to be applied in specific situations.

A1545. In the case of an audit engagement it is in the public interest and, therefore, required by the IFAC Code, that the auditor be independent of the entity subject to the audit. The IFAC Code describes ~~concept of independence as comprising~~ ~~refers both to the state independence of mind of the auditor~~ and independence in appearance. The ~~auditor's independence of the auditor~~ from the entity ~~whose financial statements are subject to audit~~ safeguards the auditor's ability to form an audit opinion without being affected by influences that might compromise that opinion. Independence enhances the auditor's ability to act with integrity, to be objective and to maintain an attitude of professional skepticism.

A1641. [Proposed] ISA 220 (Redrafted), "~~Quality Control for Audits of Historical Financial Information,~~" sets out the engagement partner's responsibilities with respect to ethical requirements.¹⁵ [Proposed] ISA 220 (Redrafted) recognizes that the engagement team is entitled to rely on a firm's systems in meeting its responsibilities with respect to quality control procedures applicable to the individual audit engagement, unless information provided by the firm or other parties suggests otherwise. Accordingly, [proposed] International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC) 1 (Redrafted), "~~Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Historical Financial Information, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements,~~" requires the firm to establish policies and procedures designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that the firm and its personnel comply with relevant ethical requirements.¹⁶

Professional Skepticism (Ref: Para. 168) **[ISSUE D.3]**

A1726. Professional skepticism ~~is an attitude that involves the critical assessment, with a questioning mind, of the validity of audit evidence obtained. It includes being alert to, for~~

¹⁵ [Proposed] ISA 220 (Redrafted), "Quality Control for an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraphs 8-10.

¹⁶ [Proposed] International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC) 1 (Redrafted), "Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements."

~~example: recognizing that circumstances may exist that cause the financial statements to be materially misstated, and~~

- ~~• being alert to ~~A~~ audit evidence that contradicts other audit evidence obtained. ~~or~~~~
- ~~• Information that brings into question the reliability of documents and responses to inquiries to be used as audit evidence ~~and other information obtained from management and those charged with governance.~~~~
- ~~• Conditions which may indicate possible fraud.~~
- ~~• Circumstances which suggest the need for audit procedures additional to those required by the ISAs, for example to address the risk of fraud in the circumstances where fraud risk factors exist and a single document is the sole supporting evidence for a material financial statement amount and is of a nature that is susceptible to fraud.~~

~~A18. Maintaining an attitude of professional skepticism throughout the audit is necessary if the auditor is, for example, to reduce the risks of overlooking unusual circumstances, of overgeneralizing when drawing conclusions from audit observations, and of using inappropriate ~~faulty~~ assumptions in determining the nature, timing, and extent of the audit procedures and evaluating the results thereof.~~

~~A1927. Maintaining an attitude of ~~p~~Professional skepticism is also necessary to the critical assessment of audit evidence. This includes questioning audit evidence that is contradictory and the reliability of documents and responses to inquiries and other information obtained from management and those charged with governance. However, Although an audit ordinarily does not ~~rarely~~ involves specific measures to the authentication of documents, ~~nor is and~~ the auditor is neither trained as nor expected to be an expert in such authentication, the auditor is required to consider the reliability of information to be used as audit evidence.¹⁷ In cases of doubt about the reliability of information or indications of possible fraud (for example if conditions identified during the audit cause the auditor to believe that a document may not be authentic or that terms in a document may have been falsified), the ISAs require that the auditor investigate further and determine what modification to or additional audit procedures are necessary to resolve the matter.¹⁸ Accordingly, uUnless as a result of such consideration the auditor has reason to believe the contrary ~~(for example if conditions identified during the audit cause the auditor to believe that a document may not be authentic or that terms in a document have been falsified)~~, the auditor may accept records and documents as genuine.~~

~~A2042. A belief that management and those charged with governance are honest and have integrity does not relieve the auditor of the need to maintain an attitude of professional skepticism nor does it allow the auditor to be satisfied with less than persuasive audit evidence when obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Further, a~~Although the auditor

¹⁷ [Proposed] ISA 500 (Redrafted), "Considering the Relevance and Reliability of Audit Evidence," paragraphs 24-29.

¹⁸ ISA 240 (Redrafted), "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements," paragraph 13; [proposed] ISA 500 (Redrafted), paragraph 14; and [proposed] ISA 505 (Revised and Redrafted), "External Confirmations," paragraphs 10-11.

cannot be expected to disregard past experience of the honesty and integrity of the entity's management and those charged with governance, a belief that management and those charged with governance are honest and have integrity does not relieve the auditor of the need to maintain professional skepticism nor does it allow the auditor to be satisfied with less-than-persuasive audit evidence when obtaining reasonable assurance~~the auditor's attitude of professional skepticism is important because there may have been changes in circumstances.~~

Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence and Audit Risk (Ref: Para. 17)

A21. The auditor has the overall objective of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is obtained when the auditor has reduced audit risk to an acceptably low level. The auditor is required to reduce audit risk by obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence. The following provides further discussion of these matters.

Sufficiency and Appropriateness of Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 13(c)) *[Note to IAASB: Editorial changes to paragraphs A22-A25 may be required based on discussions on ISA 500 (Redrafted).]*

~~A220.~~ Audit evidence is necessary to support the auditor's opinion and report. It is cumulative in nature and is primarily obtained from audit procedures performed during the course of the audit. It may, however, also include information obtained from other sources such as previous audits (provided the auditor has determined whether changes have occurred since the previous audit that may affect its relevance to the current audit¹⁹) and a firm's quality control procedures for client acceptance and continuance. Audit evidence comprises both information that supports and corroborates management's assertions, and any information that contradicts such assertions. In addition, in some cases the existence of a lack of evidence (e.g., management's failure to provide a requested representation) also represents information used by the auditor and therefore also constitutes audit evidence. Most of the auditor's work in forming the auditor's opinion consists of obtaining and evaluating audit evidence.

~~A2324.~~ Sufficiency is the measure of the quantity of audit evidence. The quantity of audit evidence needed is affected by the auditor's assessment of the risks of misstatement (the higher the assessed risks, the more audit evidence is likely to be required) and also by the quality of such audit evidence (the higher the quality, the less may be required). Obtaining more audit evidence, however, may not compensate for its poor quality.

~~A2422.~~ Appropriateness is the measure of the quality of audit evidence; that is, its relevance and its reliability in providing support for the conclusions on which the auditor's opinion is based,~~or detecting misstatements in, the financial statements.~~ The reliability of evidence is influenced by its source and by its nature, and is dependent on the individual circumstances under which it is obtained.

~~A2523.~~ The sufficiency and appropriateness of audit evidence are interrelated. Whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level, and thereby enable the auditor to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor's opinion, is a matter for the auditor to determine using professional judgment. [Proposed] ISA

¹⁹ ISA 315 (Redrafted), "Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement Through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment," paragraph 9.

500 (Redrafted) and other relevant ISAs establish additional requirements and provide further guidance applicable throughout the audit regarding the auditor's considerations in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

Audit Risk (Ref: Para. 13(b))

~~A2610. Audit risk is the risk that the auditor expresses an inappropriate audit opinion when the financial statements are materially misstated. This risk is a function of the risks of material misstatement and detection risk. The assessment of risks is a matter of professional judgment, based on audit procedures to obtain information necessary for that purpose and evidence obtained throughout the audit, rather than a matter capable of precise measurement. Reasonable assurance is obtained by reducing audit risk to an acceptably low level.~~

A27. For purposes of the ISAs, audit risk does not include the risk that the auditor might express an opinion that the financial statements are materially misstated when they are not. This risk is ordinarily insignificant. Further, audit risk is a technical term related to the process of auditing; it does not refer to business risks to the auditor and therefore does not include such risks to the auditor as loss from litigation, adverse publicity, or other events arising in connection with the audit of financial statements.

Risks of Material Misstatement

~~A2811. The risks of material misstatement may exist at two levels:~~

- ~~• at the overall financial statement level;~~ and
- ~~• The assertion level for, in relation to classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures, at the assertion level.~~

~~A2912. Risks of material misstatement at the overall financial statement level refer to risks of material misstatement that relate pervasively to the financial statements as a whole and potentially affect many assertions.~~

~~A3013. Risks of material misstatement at the assertion level class of transactions, account balance, and disclosure level are need to be assessed in order to determine the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. This evidence enables the auditor to express an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole at an acceptably low level of audit risk. Auditors use various approaches to accomplish the ~~at~~ objective of assessing the risks of material misstatement.²⁰ For example, the auditor may make use of a model that expresses the general relationship of the components of audit risk in mathematical terms to arrive at an acceptable level of detection risk. Some auditors find such a model to be useful when planning audit procedures to achieve a desired audit risk though the use of such a model does not eliminate the judgment inherent in the assessment of risks and generally in the audit process.~~

²⁰ ~~The auditor may make use of a model that expresses the general relationship of the components of audit risk in mathematical terms to arrive at an appropriate level of detection risk. Some auditors find such a model to be useful when planning audit procedures to achieve a desired audit risk though the use of such a model does not eliminate the judgment inherent in the audit process.~~

A3144. The risks of material misstatement at the assertion level consist of two components: inherent risk; and control risk. Inherent risk and control risk are the entity's risks; they exist independently of the audit of the financial statements.

A3245. Inherent risk is higher for some assertions and related classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures than for others. For example, it may be higher for complex calculations or for accounts consisting of amounts derived from accounting estimates that are subject to significant estimation uncertainty. External circumstances giving rise to business risks may also influence inherent risk. For example, technological developments might make a particular product obsolete, thereby causing inventory to be more susceptible to overstatement. ~~In addition to those circumstances that are peculiar to a specific assertion,~~ ~~f~~Factors in the entity and its environment that relate to several or all of the classes of transactions, account balances, or disclosures may also influence the inherent risk related to a specific assertion. ~~Such These latter~~ factors may include, for example, a lack of sufficient working capital to continue operations or a declining industry characterized by a large number of business failures.

A3346. Control risk is a function of the effectiveness of the design, implementation and maintenanceoperation of internal control by management to address identified risks that threaten their achievement of the entity's objectives relevant to preparation of the entity's financial statements. ~~A33. In addition, management designs, implements and maintains internal control to address identified business risks that threaten the achievement of the entity's objectives. The evidence available to the auditor includes information about the entity's internal control. ISAs provide the conditions under which the auditor is required to, or may choose to, test the operating effectiveness of controls in determining the extent of substantive procedures to be performed.~~ However, internal control, no matter how well designed and operated, can only reduce, but not eliminate, risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, because of the limitations inherent in internal control. These include, for example, the possibility of human errors or mistakes, or of controls being circumvented by collusion or inappropriate management override. Accordingly, sSome control risk will always exist ~~because of the inherent limitations of internal control.~~ The ISAs provide the conditions under which the auditor is required to, or may choose to, test the operating effectiveness of controls in determining the extent of substantive procedures to be performed.²¹

A3447. The ISAs do not ordinarily refer to inherent risk and control risk separately, but rather to a combined assessment of the "risks of material misstatement." However, the auditor may make separate or combined assessments of inherent and control risk depending on preferred audit techniques or methodologies and practical considerations. The assessment of the risks of material misstatement may be expressed in quantitative terms, such as in percentages, or in non-quantitative terms. In any case, the need for the auditor to make appropriate risk assessments is more important than the different approaches by which they may be made.

A35. ISA 315 (Redrafted) establishes requirements and provides guidance on identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement at the financial statement and assertion levels.

²¹ ISA 330 (Redrafted), "The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks," paragraphs 7-17.

Detection Risk

~~A3618. Detection risk relates to the nature, timing, and extent of the auditor's procedures that are determined by the auditor to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level. It is therefore a function of the effectiveness of an audit procedure and of its application by the auditor. For a given level of audit risk, the acceptable level of detection risk bears an inverse relationship to the assessment of the risks of material misstatement at the assertion level. For example, the greater the risks of material misstatement the auditor believes exists, the less the detection risk that can be accepted and, accordingly, the more persuasive the audit evidence required by the auditor. Conversely, the less risks of material misstatement the auditor believes exist, the greater the detection risk that can be accepted.~~

~~A3719. Detection risk relates to the nature, timing, and extent of the auditor's procedures that are determined by the auditor to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level. It is therefore a function of the effectiveness of an audit procedure and of its application by the auditor. Detection risk cannot be reduced to zero because of the inherent limitations of an audit, as described in paragraphs A28 to A40, and other factors. Such other factors include the possibility that an auditor might select an inappropriate audit procedure, misapply an appropriate audit procedure, or misinterpret the audit results. These other factors ordinarily can be addressed through a~~Matters such as:

- ~~• Adequate planning,~~
- ~~• Proper assignment of personnel to the engagement team,~~
- ~~• The application of professional skepticism, and~~
- ~~• Supervision and review of the audit work performed,~~

~~assist to enhance the effectiveness of an audit procedure and of its application and reduce the possibility that an auditor might select an inappropriate audit procedure, misapply an appropriate audit procedure, or misinterpret the audit results.~~

~~A38. ISAs 300 (Redrafted)²² and 330 (Redrafted) establish requirements and provide guidance on planning an audit of financial statements and the auditor's responses to assessed risks. Detection risk, however, can only be reduced, not eliminated, because of the inherent limitations of an audit. Accordingly, some detection risk will always exist.~~

Inherent Limitations of an Audit (Ref: Para. 13(f)) **[ISSUE C]**

~~A3928. An audit is undertaken to enhance the degree of confidence of intended users in the financial statements. Based on the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence obtained, the auditor expresses an opinion on the financial statements. However, Thean auditor is not expected intended to, and cannot, reduce audit risk to zero and cannot therefore, obtain provide a guarantee or absolute assurance (i.e., certainty) that the financial statements are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. This is because there are inherent limitations of an audit arising from, which result in the audit evidence on which the auditor~~

²² ISA 300 (Redrafted), "Planning an Audit of Financial Statements."

bases the auditor's opinion often being persuasive rather than conclusive. The principal inherent limitations of an audit arise from:

- ~~The fundamental nature and characteristics of financial reporting and business processes;~~
- The nature of audit ~~evidence and~~ procedures; and
- The need for the audit to be conducted within a reasonable period of time and at a reasonable cost.

~~A29. [MOVED TO A1]~~

~~A30. [MOVED TO A46]~~

~~A31. The ISAs provide requirements and guidance to assist the auditor in applying professional judgment to mitigate the effect of the inherent limitations of an audit. However, inherent limitations, by their nature, cannot be overcome.~~

The Nature of Financial Reporting and Business Processes

~~A4032. There are certain limitations inherent in financial reporting and business processes that neither the entity nor the auditor can overcome. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with the entity's applicable financial reporting framework involves judgment by management in applying the requirements of that framework to the facts and circumstances of the entity. This may be because, for example, the applicable financial reporting framework requires a future event to be estimated (for example, in determining a provision for the costs of unsettled litigation or a claim), or it requires an asset or liability to be measured on the basis of fair value at the date of the financial statements although there may be no transaction by reference to which that measurement may be definitively established. Further, although some financial statement items may be determined on the basis of objective and verifiable facts, others are of a nature such that the related audit evidence available can only be persuasive rather than conclusive, or Many such financial statement items involve subjective decisions or assessments or a degree of uncertainty relating to the reliability of their measurement,; and there may be a range of acceptable interpretations or judgments that may be made for example, the estimation of the outcome of uncertain events that may only be confirmed in the future and the estimation of amounts reported on the basis of fair value. Accordingly, although the auditor may obtain audit evidence sufficient to evaluate the reasonableness of such judgments and decisions, it is ordinarily not possible to determine their true validity until, for example, the outcome of the future events is known. There may be valid differences in judgment about such matters, and in the case of judgments about future outcomes those outcomes are highly likely to differ from any judgments that are made, however skilled.~~

~~A33. [MOVED AND INCORPORATED IN A33]~~

The Nature of Audit ~~Evidence and~~ Procedures

~~A4134. The nature of audit evidence is such that it is often persuasive rather than conclusive. There are legal and practical limitations on the auditor's ability to obtain audit evidence. F; for example,;~~

- ~~Although the auditor can inquire of management and others and perform audit procedures to obtain evidence that all of the information required by the auditor has been obtained, the auditor cannot be certain of the completeness of information in the absence of legal powers of search—which in themselves have limitations— it is inevitable that an auditor is dependent on management and others for aspects of the completeness of information.~~
- ~~Also, as explained in paragraph A27, a~~An audit of financial statements ordinarily does not rarely involves the authentication of documents, and the auditor is neither trained as nor expected to be an expert in such authentication (see discussion in paragraph A19).
- ~~A35. Further, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error. This is because f~~Fraud may involve sophisticated and carefully organized schemes designed to conceal it. Therefore, audit procedures used to gather audit evidence may be ineffective for detecting an intentional misstatement that involves, for example, collusion to falsified documentation which may cause the auditor to believe that audit evidence is valid when it is not. ~~Because of this, ISA 240 (Redrafted) contains specific requirements designed to assist the auditor in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement due to fraud and in designing procedures to detect such misstatement.~~

~~A36. Although it is often not possible to obtain audit evidence that is conclusive, the auditor is required to obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level.~~

Timeliness of Financial Reporting and the Balance between Benefit and Cost

~~A4238. The matter of difficulty, time, or cost involved is not in itself a valid basis for the auditor to omit an audit procedure for which there is no alternative or to be satisfied with audit evidence that is less than persuasive. Further, appropriate planning assists in ensuring that sufficient time and resources are available for the conduct of the audit. Notwithstanding this, however, t~~The relevance of information, and thereby its value, tends to diminish over time, and there is a balance to be struck between the reliability of information and its cost, as recognized in certain financial reporting frameworks (see, for example, the International Accounting Standards Board’s “Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements”).²³

~~A43. There is therefore an expectation by users of financial statements that the auditor will form an opinion on the financial statements within a reasonable period of time and at a reasonable cost. Accordingly, the auditor is not expected to~~ apply techniques and exercise professional judgment appropriate in the circumstances whilst recognizing that:

- ~~It is impracticable to~~ address all information that may exist or to pursue every matter exhaustively on the assumption that information is in error or fraudulent until proved otherwise. To do otherwise would not allow the audited financial statements to be available in time to be relevant or at a reasonable cost.

²³ ~~The International Accounting Standards Board’s “Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements” discusses further the constraints of timeliness and the balance between benefit and cost on the provision of relevant and reliable information in the preparation and presentation of financial statements.~~

- ~~A further consideration is that t~~The evidence gathering process ~~may reaches~~ a point of diminishing returns, at which the incremental cost of additional audit evidence increases disproportionately to the incremental benefit obtained. ~~However, the matter of time or cost involved is not in itself a valid basis for the auditor to be satisfied with audit evidence that is less than persuasive.~~

A~~4439~~. Consequently, it is necessary for the auditor to:

- Direct audit effort to areas most expected to contain risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, with correspondingly less effort directed at other areas (i.e., to adopt a ‘risk-based approach’ to the audit); and
- Use testing, including sampling, and other means of examining populations for misstatements.

~~However, an audit that is directed at risks of material misstatement and the inherent nature of testing are such that there is Although samples with high levels of confidence can be designed, there is always a risk that the sample is not representative of the population and a material misstatement will not will fail to be detected. Similarly analytical procedures cannot be designed or performed to a level of precision sufficient to ensure that all material misstatements would be detected.~~

A45. In recognition of these limitations, the ISAs require the auditor, amongst other things, to:

- Perform risk assessment procedures and related activities to provide a basis for the identification and assessment of risks of material misstatement at the financial statement and assertion levels;²⁴ and
- Use testing, including sampling, and other means of examining populations in a manner that provides an appropriate basis for the auditor to draw conclusions about the population.²⁵

A40. ~~Further, for an audit to be efficient and effective within reasonable time and cost constraints, the auditor needs to design an audit approach that focuses audit effort on identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement, and in performing audit procedures in response to the assessed risks. The assessment of risks of material misstatement, however, is a judgment rather than a precise measurement.~~

A~~4630~~. Paragraphs A32–A40 describe the principal inherent limitations of an audit. Other ISAs may provide further explanation of limitations that are of particular relevance to their subject matter, e.g. ISA 240 (Redrafted), “The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements” and [proposed] ISA 550 (Revised and Redrafted), “Related Parties.” In the case of certain assertions or subject matters, the effects of the inherent limitations on the auditor’s ability to detect material misstatements or otherwise obtain conclusive audit evidence are particularly significant. Such assertions or subject matters include:

²⁴ ISA 315 (Redrafted), paragraphs 5-10.

²⁵ ISA 330 (Redrafted); [Proposed] ISA 500 (Redrafted); [Proposed] ISA 520 (Redrafted), “Analytical Procedures”; and [Proposed] ISA 530 (Redrafted), “Audit Sampling.”

- Fraud, particularly fraud involving senior management, sophisticated and carefully organized schemes design to conceal it, or collusion. See ISA 240 (Redrafted) for further discussion.
- The existence and completeness of related party relationships and transactions. See [proposed] ISA 550 (Revised and Redrafted)²⁶ for further discussion.
- The occurrence of non-compliance with laws and regulations, in particular those relating principally to the operating aspects of an entity and which typically do not affect the financial statements and are not captured by the entity's information systems relevant to financial reporting. See [proposed] ISA 250 (Redrafted)²⁷ for further discussion.
- Future events or conditions that may cause an entity to cease to continue as a going concern. See [proposed] ISA 570 (Redrafted)²⁸ for further discussion.

However, where appropriate, relevant ISAs identify specified audit procedures to assist in mitigating the effect of the inherent limitations. For example, ISA 240 (Redrafted) contains specific requirements designed to assist the auditor in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement due to fraud and in designing procedures to detect such misstatement.

A~~473~~7. Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements of the financial statements ~~may~~ ~~will~~ not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with ISAs. Accordingly, the subsequent discovery of a material misstatement of the financial statements resulting from fraud or error does not, in and of itself, indicate a failure to conduct an audit in accordance with ISAs. However, the inherent limitations of an audit are not a justification for the auditor to be satisfied with less-than-persuasive audit evidence. Whether the auditor has performed an audit in accordance with ISAs is determined by the audit procedures performed in the circumstances, the sufficiency and appropriateness of the audit evidence obtained as a result thereof and the suitability of the auditor's report based on an evaluation of that evidence in light of the overall objectives of the auditor.

Professional Judgment (Ref: Para. ~~1813(d)~~) **[ISSUE D.2]**

A~~482~~4. ~~Professional judgment in auditing may be described as the application of relevant knowledge and experience, within the context provided by auditing, accounting and ethical standards, in reaching decisions about the courses of action that are appropriate in the circumstances of the audit engagement. Professional judgment is essential to the proper conduct of an audit. This is because interpretation of the ISAs and the informed decisions required throughout the audit cannot be made without the application of relevant knowledge and experience to the facts and circumstances. Professional judgment is necessary in particular regarding decisions about:~~

- Materiality and audit risk;

²⁶ [Proposed] ISA 550 (Redrafted), "Related Parties."

²⁷ [Proposed] ISA 250 (Redrafted), "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements."

²⁸ [Proposed] ISA 570 (Redrafted), "Going Concern."

- The nature, timing, and extent of audit procedures used to meet the requirements of the ISAs and gather audit evidence;
- Evaluating whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained, and whether more needs to be done to achieve the objectives of the ISAs and thereby, the overall objectives of the auditor.
- The evaluation of management's judgments in applying the entity's applicable financial reporting framework; and
- The drawing of conclusions based on the audit evidence obtained, for example, assessing the reasonableness of the estimates made by management in preparing the financial statements.

Professional judgment is therefore essential to the proper conduct of an audit.

~~A4925. Professional judgment is a personal quality, and judgments may therefore differ between experienced auditors. However, The distinguishing feature of the professional judgment expected of an auditor is that it is exercised by an auditor whose training, knowledge and experience have assisted in developing the necessary competencies to achieve are intended to promote consistency of judgment such that the exercise of professional judgment in any particular case may be regarded as reasonable if other experienced auditors can agree that this is the case.~~

A50. Any such agreement on whether the exercise of a professional judgment in any particular case is reasonable is based on the facts and circumstances that were known, or could reasonably be expected to have been known, by the auditor at the time the judgment was made. Professional judgment can be evaluated based on what most other experienced auditors, having knowledge of all relevant information, would reasonably conclude to be appropriate, including whether the judgment reached is consistent with the facts and circumstances and the proper, competent application of auditing and accounting principles. Consultation on difficult or contentious matters during the course of the audit, both within the engagement team and between the engagement team and others at the appropriate level within or outside the firm, such as that required by [proposed] ISA 220 (Redrafted)²⁹, assist the auditor in making informed and reasonable judgments.

A51. Professional judgment needs not only to be exercised throughout the audit, but also to be appropriately evidenced. In this regard, the auditor is required to prepare audit documentation sufficient to enable an experienced auditor, having no previous connection with the audit, to understand the significant professional judgments made in reaching conclusions on significant matters arising during the audit.³⁰ Professional judgment is not to be used as the justification for decisions that are not otherwise supported by sufficient and appropriate audit evidence.

Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with ISAs

Nature of ISAs (Ref: Para. 1920)

²⁹ [Proposed] ISA 220 (Redrafted), paragraph 18.

³⁰ ISA 230 (Redrafted), paragraph 8.

A5243. ISAs, taken together, provide the standards for the auditor's work in fulfilling the overall objectives of ~~the~~ auditor. The ISAs deal with the general responsibilities of the auditor, as well as the auditor's further considerations relevant to the application of those responsibilities to specific topics.

A5344. The scope, effective date and any specific limitation of the applicability of a specific ISA is made clear in the ISA. Unless otherwise stated in the ISA, the auditor is permitted to apply an ISA before the effective date specified therein.

A5445. In performing an audit, the auditor may be required to comply with other professional, legal or regulatory requirements in addition to the ISAs. The ISAs do not override laws and regulations that govern an audit of financial statements. In the event that those laws and regulations differ from the ISAs, an audit conducted only in accordance with laws and regulations will not automatically comply with ISAs.

A5546. The auditor may also conduct the audit in accordance with both ISAs and auditing standards of a specific jurisdiction or country. In such cases ~~When the auditor conducts the audit in accordance with ISAs and auditing standards of a specific jurisdiction or country,~~ in addition to complying with each of the ISAs relevant to the audit, it may be necessary for the auditor to perform additional audit procedures in order to comply with the relevant standards of that jurisdiction or country.

Considerations Specific to Audits in the Public Sector

A5647. ISAs are relevant to engagements in the public sector. The public sector auditor's responsibilities, however, may be affected by the audit mandate, or by obligations on public sector entities arising from legislation, regulation, ministerial directives, government policy requirements, or resolutions of the legislature, which may encompass a broader scope than an audit of financial statements in accordance with the ISAs. These additional responsibilities are not dealt with in the ISAs. They may be dealt with in the pronouncements of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions or national standards-setters, or in guidance developed by government audit agencies.

Contents of ISAs (Ref: Para. 2024)

A5748. In addition to objectives and requirements (expressed in the ISAs using "shall"), an ISA contains related guidance in the form of application and other explanatory material. It may also contain introductory material that provides context essential to a proper understanding of the ISA, and definitions. Accordingly, to understand the objective and to apply the requirements of an ISA properly, it is necessary for the auditor to read and understand all parts of the text of an ISA.

A5849. Where necessary, ~~t~~The application and other explanatory material is an integral part of the ISA, ~~as it~~ provides further explanation of, and guidance for carrying out, the requirements of an ISA, ~~along with background information on the matters addressed in the ISA.~~ In particular, it may:

- Define more precisely what a requirement means or is intended to cover.
- Include examples of relevant procedures, ~~many~~some of which the auditor may judge to be appropriate in the circumstances.

While ~~s~~Such guidance ~~does is, however, not in itself intended to~~ impose a requirement, ~~it is relevant to the proper application of the requirements of an ISA. The application and other explanatory material may also provide background information on matters addressed in an ISA.~~ [ISSUE E]

A59. When appropriate, additional considerations specific to audits of smaller entities and public sector entities are included within the application and other explanatory material of an ISA.

A~~60~~50. Appendices, ~~which~~ form part of the application and other explanatory material, ~~are an integral part of an ISA.~~ The purpose and intended use of an appendix are explained in the body of the related ISA or within the title and introduction of the appendix itself.

A~~61~~54. Introductory material may include, as needed, such matters as explanation of:

- The purpose and scope of the ISA, including how the ISA relates to other ISAs;
- The subject matter of the ISA;
- Specific expectations of ~~fr~~ the auditor and others; and
- The context in which the ISA is set.

A~~62~~52. An ISA may include, in a separate section under the heading ‘Definitions’, a description of the meanings attributed to certain terms for purposes of the ISAs. These are provided to assist in the consistent application and interpretation of the ISAs, and are not intended to override definitions that may be established for other purposes, whether in law, regulation or otherwise. Unless otherwise indicated, those terms will carry the same meanings throughout the ISAs. The Glossary of Terms relating to International Standards issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board in the *Handbook of International Auditing, Assurance, and Ethics Pronouncements* published by IFAC contains a complete listing of terms defined in the ISAs. It also includes descriptions of other terms found in ISAs to assist in common and consistent interpretation and translation.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities [ISSUE F.3]

A63. For purposes of specifying additional considerations to audits of smaller entities, a “smaller entity” reflects the size of the entity and typical qualitative characteristics such as:

- (a) Concentration of ownership and management in a small number of individuals (often a single individual – either a natural person or another enterprise that owns the entity provided the owner exhibits the relevant qualitative characteristics); and
- (b) One or more of the following:
 - (i) few sources of income;
 - (ii) unsophisticated record-keeping; or
 - (iii) limited internal controls together with the potential for management override of controls.

These qualitative characteristics are not exhaustive, they are not exclusive to smaller entities, and smaller entities do not necessarily display all of those characteristics.

A64. A listed entity is unlikely to display the above characteristics because of the wider distribution of share ownership and the need for internal control appropriate to a listed entity.

A65. In some cases, a smaller entity may be an owner-managed entity. The ISAs refer to the proprietor of an entity who is involved in running the entity on a day-to-day basis as ‘owner-manager.’

Objectives Stated in Individual ISAs (Ref: Para. 224) **ISSUE B.1**

A653. While the ISAs, taken together, are designed to enable the auditor to meet the overall objectives of the auditor, the ISAs cannot anticipate all circumstances that may arise. Each ISA therefore contains an objective or The objectives which in individual ISAs provide a link between the requirements and the overall objectives of the auditor. The objectives in individual ISAs serve are designed to focus the auditor on the desired outcome of the ISA, while being specific enough to assist the auditor in:

- Understanding what needs to be accomplished and, where necessary, the appropriate means of doing so; and
- Deciding whether what more, if anything, needs to be done to achieve the m-objectives.

A6754. Objectives are to be understood in the context of the overall objectives of the auditor stated in paragraph 12 of this ISA inherent limitations of an audit as well as the other concepts relevant to an audit of financial statements set out in paragraph 13 of this ISA. The ability to achieve an individual objective may be limited by circumstances; for example, by a limitation in the available audit evidence. Whether an objective has been, or can be, achieved is a matter for the auditor’s professional judgment, including whether other procedures will assist the auditor in doing so.

A6855. In using achieving the objectives of the ISAs for the purposes described in paragraph 22, the auditor is required to have regard to the interrelationships amongst the ISAs. This is because of the different nature of the ISAs, which as indicated in paragraph A5243, the ISAs deal in some cases with general responsibilities and in others with the application of those responsibilities to specific topics. For example, this ISA requires the auditor to adopt an attitude of professional skepticism; this is necessary in all aspects of planning and performing an audit but is not repeated as a requirement of each ISA. At a more detailed level, ISA 315 (Redrafted), “Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement Through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment” and ISA 330 (Redrafted), “The Auditor’s Responses to Assessed Risks” contain, amongst other things, objectives and requirements that deal with the auditor’s responsibilities to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement and to design and perform further audit procedures to respond to those assessed risks, respectively; these objectives and requirements apply throughout the audit. An ISA dealing with specific aspects of the audit (for example, [proposed] ISA 540 (Revised and Redrafted)³¹, “Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates, and Related Disclosures”) may expand on how the objectives and requirements of such ISAs as 315 (Redrafted) and 330 (Redrafted) are to be applied in relation to the subject of the ISA

³¹ ISA 540 (Revised and Redrafted), “Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates, and Related Disclosures.”

but does not repeat them. Thus, in achieving the objective stated in ~~[proposed]~~ ISA 540 (Revised and Redrafted), ~~for example,~~ the auditor has regard to the objectives and requirements of other relevant ISAs.

Additional Audit Procedures (Ref: Para. 22(a)) **[ISSUE B.2]**

A69. The requirements of the ISAs are designed to enable the auditor to achieve the objectives specified in the ISAs, and thereby the overall objectives of the auditor. However, because the circumstances of audit engagements vary widely and all such circumstances cannot be anticipated in the ISAs, the auditor is responsible for determining the audit procedures necessary to fulfill the requirements of the ISAs and to achieve the objectives. In the circumstances of an engagement, there may be particular matters that require the auditor to consider further the audit procedures necessary to meet the objectives specified in the ISAs. Accordingly, the auditor is required by paragraph 22(a) to use the objectives in each relevant ISA to determine whether any audit procedures additional to those required by the ISA are necessary in pursuance of those objectives.

Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 22(b))

A7056. The auditor is required to use the objectives to ~~evaluate~~ judge whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained in the context of the overall objectives of the auditor. If as a result the auditor concludes that the audit evidence is not sufficient and appropriate, then the auditor may follow one or more of the following approaches to meeting the requirement of paragraph 224(ba):

- Evaluate whether further relevant audit evidence has been, or will be, obtained as a result of complying with other ISAs;
- Extend the work performed in applying one or more requirements; or
- Perform other procedures judged by the auditor to be necessary in the circumstances.

Where none of the above is expected to be practical or possible in the circumstances, the auditor will not be able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence and is required by the ISAs to determine the effect on the auditor's report or on the auditor's ability to complete the engagement.

Complying with Relevant Requirements

Relevant Requirements (Ref: Para. 237)

A7161. A requirement is relevant when the ISA is relevant in the circumstances of the engagement. In some cases, an ISA (and therefore all of its requirements) may not be relevant in the circumstances. For example, in a continuing engagement, nothing in ~~[proposed]~~ ISA 510 (Redrafted)³², "Initial Engagements—Opening Balances," is relevant. Similarly, ~~[proposed]~~ ISA 800 (Revised and Redrafted), which deals with special considerations relevant to an audit of special purpose financial statements and an audit of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement, would not be relevant to an audit of general purpose financial statements.

³² [Proposed] ISA 510 (Redrafted), "Initial Audit Engagements—Opening Balances."

A7262. Within a relevant ISA, there may be conditional requirements. Such a requirement is relevant when the circumstances envisioned in the requirement apply and the condition exists. In general, any conditionality of a requirement will either be explicit or implicit, for example:

- ~~(e.g., †The requirement to modify the auditor’s opinion if where there is a limitation of scope³³ represents an explicit conditional requirement).~~
- In some cases, it may be implicit (e.g., †The requirement to communicateion of significant deficiencies material weaknesses in internal control identified during the audit to management and with those charged with governance³⁴, which depends on the existence of such identified significant deficiencies material weaknesses; and the requirement to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the presentation and disclosure of segment information in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework³⁵, which depends on that framework requiring or permitting such disclosure), represent implicit conditional requirements.

Departure from a Requirement (Ref: Para. 248)

A7363. ~~[Proposed] ISA 230 (Redrafted) establishes documentation requirements in those exceptional circumstances where the auditor departs from a requirement.³⁶ The auditor need not apply a requirement that is not relevant in the circumstances of the audit; this does not constitute a departure from the requirement.~~

Failure to Achievement an of Objectives and the Overall Objective of the Auditor (Ref: Para. 25)
[ISSUE B.3]

A57. ~~In most cases, the objectives stated in the ISAs are clearly related to the overall objective of the auditor. The majority of the ISAs deal with one or more of the following:~~

- ~~Identifying, assessing and responding to risks of material misstatement;~~
- ~~Obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence, either in relation to specific aspects of the evidence accumulation process (e.g., audit sampling, in relation to obtaining sufficient audit evidence) or in relation to specific subjects (e.g., accounting estimates);~~
- ~~Evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the financial statements; and~~
- ~~Forming an opinion on the financial statements, and reporting.~~

~~Accordingly, the failure to achieve those objectives would prevent the auditor from achieving the overall objective of the auditor.~~

A58. ~~In a few cases, however, the relationship between the objectives stated in the ISAs and the overall objective of the auditor is indirect. This is the case, for example, with the ISAs that~~

³³ [Proposed] ISA 705 (Revised and Redrafted), “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report,” paragraph 15.

³⁴ [Proposed] ISA 265, “Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control,” paragraph 10.

³⁵ [Proposed] ISA 501 (Redrafted), “Audit Evidence Regarding Specific Financial Statement Account Balances and Disclosures,” paragraph 14.

³⁶ ISA 230 (Redrafted), paragraph 12.

~~deal with quality control and documentation. Such ISAs are intended to enhance the quality of the audit and to ensure that, in the public interest, the auditor maintains an appropriate record of the basis for the auditor's report. In principle, an auditor could fail to achieve the objectives of such ISAs while nevertheless obtaining reasonable assurance and forming an appropriate opinion about the financial statements. There would, however, be a risk that this would not be the case.~~

~~A59. The auditor may fail to achieve the overall objective of the auditor through being unable to obtain reasonable assurance or through being unable to report. The ISAs deal with these circumstances and include appropriate requirements and guidance for the auditor.~~

~~A74. Circumstances that may give rise to a failure to achieve an objective include those that:~~

- ~~• Prevent the auditor from complying with the relevant requirements of an ISA.~~
- ~~• Result in its not being practicable or possible for the auditor to carry out the additional audit procedures or obtain further audit evidence as determined necessary from the use of the objectives in accordance with paragraph 22, for example due to a limitation in the available audit evidence.~~

~~Such circumstances may prevent the auditor from achieving either of the overall objectives of the auditor, representing compliance with ISAs, or completing the engagement.~~

~~A60. In those circumstances where the auditor concludes that a failure to achieve an objective in a relevant ISA does not prevent the achievement of the overall objective of the auditor, in accordance with [proposed] ISA 230 (Redrafted) the required documentation would include the basis for the auditor's conclusion and the significant professional judgments made in arriving at that conclusion.~~

~~A75. Audit documentation that meets the requirements of ISA 230 (Redrafted) and the specific documentation requirements of other relevant ISAs provides evidence of the auditor's basis for a conclusion about the achievement of the overall objectives of the auditor. While it is unnecessary for the auditor to document separately (as in a checklist, for example) that individual objectives have been achieved, the documentation of a failure to achieve an objective assists the auditor's evaluation of whether such a failure has prevented the auditor from achieving the overall objectives of the auditor.~~

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