Exposure Draft

The Standard on Auditing for Audits of Financial Statements of Less Complex Entities (SA for LCE)

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Issued by
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The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
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New Delhi

Your comments on this Exposure Draft should reach us by **March 20, 2026**. Comments are most helpful if they indicate the specific paragraph(s) to which they relate, contain a clear rationale and, where applicable, provide a suggestion for alternative wording. The comments should be sent to:

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The Standard on Auditing for Audits of Financial Statements of Less Complex Entities

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Preface to the SA for LCE

P.1. This standard (i.e., the SA for LCE) has been designed to achieve reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, for audits of financial statements of less complex entities (LCEs) in the private and public sectors. The standard has been developed to reflect the nature and circumstances of an audit of the financial statements of an LCE and result in the consistent performance of a quality audit engagement. This standard is premised on the basis that the firm is subject to SQM 1[1]. A quality audit engagement is achieved by planning and performing the engagement and reporting on it in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Achieving the objective of this standard involves exercising professional judgment and maintaining professional skepticism.

P.2. This standard is written in the context of an audit of a complete set of general purpose financial statements of an LCE as contemplated in Part A. It may also be adapted as necessary in the circumstances of the engagement to an audit of a complete set of special purpose financial statements, or an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement, only if the entity is an LCE as set out in Part A.

P.3. When an audit engagement is undertaken using this standard, the Standards on Auditing do not apply to the engagement.

P.4. Part A sets out the authority for determining the appropriate use of the SA for LCE. Notwithstanding that an entity meets the criteria of a less complex entity (LCE) as set out in Part A of this Standard, the use of this Standard is optional. Accordingly, the auditor may, at their professional discretion, choose to perform the audit in accordance with the full set of Standards on Auditing (SAs) instead of the SA for LCE, even where the entity qualifies as an LCE. Where the auditor chooses to perform the audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing instead of the SA for LCE, the audit shall be planned, performed and reported in accordance with the applicable Standards on Auditing, and the auditor shall not represent compliance with the SA for LCE in the auditor's report.

P.5. If this standard is used for audit engagements other than those contemplated in Part A, the auditor is not permitted to represent compliance with the SA for LCE in the auditor's report.

P.6. This standard does not override local law or regulation that governs audits of financial statements. The SA for LCE does not address the responsibilities of the auditor that may exist in legislation or regulation. Such responsibilities may differ from those established in this standard and it is the responsibility of the auditor to ensure compliance with all relevant legal, regulatory, or professional obligations.

The Applicable Financial Reporting Framework

P.7. The financial statements subject to audit are those of the entity, prepared by management of the entity with oversight from those charged with governance. Law or regulation may

[1] Standard on Quality Management (SQM) 1, Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews for Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements

establish the responsibilities of management, and those charged with governance, in relation to financial reporting. This standard does not impose responsibilities on management or those charged with governance and does not override law or regulation that govern their responsibilities. However, an audit in accordance with this standard is conducted on the premise that management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance have acknowledged certain responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of the audit. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities.

Management's and Those Charged with Governance's Responsibilities for Preparation of the Financial Statements

An audit in accordance with this standard is conducted on the premise that management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance, have acknowledged and understood that they have responsibility:

- *For the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including where relevant, their fair presentation;*
- *For such internal control as management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and*
- *To provide the auditor with unrestricted access to all information of which they are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, additional information the auditor may request, and unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence.*

P.8. The applicable financial reporting framework often encompasses financial reporting standards established by an authorized or recognized standard setting organization, or legislative or regulatory requirements.

P.9. 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, the framework ordinarily embodies sufficiently broad principles that can serve as a basis for developing and applying accounting policies consistent with the framework's concepts underlying the requirements.

P.10. Some financial reporting frameworks are fair presentation frameworks, while others are compliance frameworks. This standard covers both frameworks. The term "fair presentation framework" is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework and:

(a) Acknowledges explicitly or implicitly that, to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements, it may be necessary for management to provide disclosures beyond those specifically required by the framework; or

(b) Acknowledges explicitly that it may be necessary for management to depart from a requirement of the framework to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements. Such departures are expected to be necessary only in extremely rare circumstances.

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

An Audit of Financial Statements

P.11. 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 the auditor on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework. As the basis for the auditor’s opinion, this standard requires 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.

P.12. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance. It is obtained when the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce audit risk (that is, the risk that the auditor expresses an inappropriate opinion when the financial statements are materially misstated) to an acceptably low level. However, reasonable assurance is not an absolute level of assurance, because there are inherent limitations of an audit which result in most of the audit evidence on which the auditor draws conclusions and bases the auditor’s opinion being persuasive rather than conclusive.

Inherent Limitations of an Audit

Audit risk is a function of the risks of material misstatement and detection risk. The assessment of risks of material misstatement is based on audit procedures to obtain information necessary for that purpose and evidence obtained throughout the audit. The assessment of risks of material misstatement is a matter of professional judgment, rather than a matter capable of precise measurement.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements of the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with this standard. Accordingly, the subsequent discovery of a material misstatement resulting from fraud or error does not by itself indicate a failure to conduct an audit in accordance with this standard. However, the inherent limitations of an audit are not a justification for the auditor to be satisfied with less than persuasive audit evidence.

Format of the SA for LCE

P.13. The SA for LCE includes:

(a) Part A, which sets out the authority for determining the appropriate use of the SA for LCE.

(b) Part 1, which sets out the fundamental concepts, general principles and overarching requirements to be applied throughout the audit.

(c) Part 2, which sets out the general requirements for audit evidence and documentation, as well as the overall objective of the audit.

(d) Part 3, which sets out the auditor’s and engagement partner’s obligations and responsibilities for quality management in an audit of an LCE.

(e) Parts 4 to 9, which follow the flow of an audit engagement, and set out the detailed requirements for the audit. Each of these Parts also includes specific communication and documentation requirements as necessary.

(f) Appendices, which include the glossary of terms used in this standard, assertions, an illustrative engagement letter and an illustrative representation letter, as well as other relevant supporting materials for implementation of the requirements within this standard.

P.14. The content of Parts 1–9 includes:

(a) Introductory material in a separate box setting out the content and scope of that Part (but does not create any additional obligations for the auditor).

(b) Objective(s), which link the requirements of that Part and the overall objective of the audit.

(c) Requirements to be met, except where the requirement is conditional, and the condition does not exist. Requirements are expressed using "shall."

(d) Essential explanatory material (EEM) designed to provide further explanation relevant to a sub-section or a specific requirement. All EEM is presented in italics within separate boxes. There are two types of EEM: general introductory EEM that explains the context of the section that follows, and EEM specific to the requirement directly above it.

Certain requirements and EEM are only applicable when there are engagement team members other than the engagement partner. Such requirements and EEM are presented in a box with the header "Considerations When There Are Members of the Engagement Team Other Than the Engagement Partner".

P.15. Definitions, describing the meanings attributed to certain terms for the purpose of this standard, can be found in the Glossary of Terms in **Appendix 1.** The definitions assist in the consistent application and interpretation of the requirements, and are not intended to override definitions that may be established for other purposes, whether in law or regulation.

P.16. ……..(Note: This paragraph in the ISA for LCE relating to group audits has been deleted. However, the paragraph numbering has been retained for parity.)

Non-Authoritative Support Materials

P.17. The Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AASB) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) may issue non-authoritative material to support the implementation of the SA for LCE.

Public Sector Entities

P.18. This standard is relevant to engagements in the public sector, when the considerations set out in the Authority in Part A apply (Refer Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms for definition of "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 law, regulation or other authority (such as 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 this standard. These additional responsibilities are not dealt with in this standard. They may be dealt with in the pronouncements of the relevant regulatory bodies.

P.19. The applicable financial reporting framework used by a public sector entity is determined by the legislative and regulatory frameworks as applicable. Matters that may be considered in the entity's application of the applicable financial reporting requirements, and how it applies in the context of the nature and circumstances of the entity and its environment, include whether the entity applies a full accrual basis of accounting or a cash basis of accounting or a hybrid.

P.20. Ownership of a public sector entity may not have the same relevance as in the private sector because decisions related to the entity may be made outside of the entity as a result of political processes. Therefore, management may not have control over certain decisions that are made. Matters that may be relevant include understanding the ability of the entity to make unilateral decisions, and the ability of other public sector entities to control or influence the entity's mandate and strategic direction.

P.21. When appropriate, additional considerations specific to public sector entities have been included in EEM.

A. Authority (Applicability) of the SA for Audits of Financial Statements of Less Complex Entities

Optional Use of the SA for LCE

Notwithstanding that an entity meets the criteria of a less complex entity (LCE) as set out in this Part, the use of this Standard is optional. Accordingly, the auditor may, at their professional discretion, choose to perform the audit in accordance with the full set of Standards on Auditing (SAs) instead of the SA for LCE, even where the entity qualifies as an LCE. Where the auditor chooses to perform the audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing instead of the SA for LCE, the audit shall be planned, performed and reported in accordance with the applicable Standards on Auditing, and the auditor shall not represent compliance with the SA for LCE in the auditor's report.

Definition of Less Complex Entity (LCE):

Less Complex Entity (LCE) means an entity which satisfies all the following conditions, as applicable:

Specific Prohibitions

a. Law or regulation does not prohibit the use of the SA for LCE, nor does it specify the use of any other auditing standards for the audit of the entity.

b. The entity is not a listed entity.

c. The entity is not a banking entity.

d. The entity is not one whose main function is to provide insurance to the public.

e. In situations where an auditor (referred as the 'principal auditor' as per SA 600), reporting on the financial information of an entity, uses the work of another auditor (referred as the 'other auditor' as per SA 600) with respect to the financial information of one or more components included in the financial information of the entity. (Refer Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms for the definition of "Principal Auditor, Other Auditor, Component").

f. The entity is not governed by any special Act.

g. The entity is not a holding, subsidiary or associate of any other entity.

Quantitative Criteria

a. The entity's paid up share capital does not exceed rupees 10 crores.

b. The entity's turnover as per profit and loss account for the immediately preceding financial year does not exceed rupees 50 crores.

c. The entity does not have borrowings (including public deposits) in excess of rupees 25 crores at any time during the accounting year.

d. The entity (Section 8 company or any other entity, as applicable) does not have cumulative grants and / or donations in excess of rupees 25 crore at any time during the accounting year.

e. The number of employees of the entity does not exceed 100 at any time during the accounting year.

Qualitative Criteria

a. The company is exempted from the provisions of Section 143(3)(i) of the Companies Act, 2013 which requires the auditor's report to state whether the company has adequate internal financial controls with reference to financial statements in place and the operating effectiveness of such controls

b. There are no complex matters or circumstances relating to the nature and extent of the entity's business activities, operations and related transactions and events relevant to the preparation of the financial statements.

c. There are no matters that increase, or indicate the presence of, complexity, such as those relating to ownership of the entity, corporate governance arrangements of the entity, or policies, procedures or processes established by the entity.

Also, the SA for LCE does not include any requirements addressing:

- *Procedures or matters typically relevant to listed entities, including reporting on segment information or key audit matters.*
- *When the auditor intends to use the work of internal auditors, as this would ordinarily not be applicable to an audit of an LCE.*
- *When the auditor intends to use a report provided by a service auditor of a service organization either as audit evidence about the design and implementation of controls at the service organization (i.e., a type 1 or type 2 report), or as audit evidence that controls at the service organization are operating effectively (i.e., a type 2 report), as this would ordinarily not be applicable to an audit of an LCE.*

Uncertainty about Meeting the Criteria

If there is any uncertainty about whether an entity meets the above criteria, the use of the SA for LCE is not appropriate for the audit of that entity.

1. Fundamental Concepts, General Principles and Overarching Requirements

Content of this Part

Part 1 sets out the:

- Effective date of this standard.
- The relevant ethical requirements and obligations for firm-level quality management.
- Overall objectives of the auditor. Each Part within this standard contains an objective for planning and performing the audit, and provides a link between the requirements within that Part and the overall objectives of the auditor. The objectives within each Part assist the auditor to understand the intended outcomes of the procedures contained in that Part.
- Fundamental concepts, general principles, and overarching requirements applicable to the engagement, including professional judgment and professional skepticism.
- Overarching requirements in relation to fraud, law or regulation, related parties, and communications with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance.
- General communication requirements that apply to all Parts. Within individual Parts there may be additional specific communication requirements.

Scope of this Part

The concepts, principles and overarching requirements in this Part apply throughout the audit engagement.

1.1. Effective Date

1.1.1 This standard is effective for audits of financial statements of LCEs for periods beginning on or after …….

1.2. Relevant Ethical Requirements and Firm-Level Quality Management

Relevant Ethical Requirements for an Audit of Financial Statements

1.2.1 The auditor shall comply with relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, for financial statement audit engagements.

Relevant ethical requirements ordinarily comprise the provisions of the Code of Ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India related to an audit of financial statements.

The Code of Ethics establishes the fundamental principles of ethics, which are:

- *Integrity;*
- *Objectivity;*
- *Professional competence and due care;*
- *Confidentiality; and*
- *Professional behavior.*

The fundamental principles of ethics establish the standard of behavior expected of a professional accountant. The Code of Ethics provides a conceptual framework that establishes the approach which a professional accountant is required to apply when identifying, evaluating and addressing threats to compliance with the fundamental principles.

Firm-Level Quality Management

1.2.2. The engagement partner shall be a member of a firm that applies the SQMs.

Systems of quality management, including the policies or procedures, are the responsibility of the firm. SQM 1, applies to all firms that perform audits. If an engagement quality review is required by the firm's policies or procedures established in accordance with SQM 1, then SQM 2,[2] applies. SQM 2 deals with the appointment and eligibility of the engagement quality reviewer, and the performance and documentation of the engagement quality review.

1.3. Overall Objectives of the Auditor

1.3.1. The overall objectives of the auditor when conducting an audit of financial statements using the SA for LCE are to:

(a) Obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, to enable 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

(b) Report on the financial statements, and communicate as required by this standard, in accordance with the auditor's findings.

1.3.2. The auditor shall obtain an understanding of the entire text of this standard to understand its objectives and to apply its requirements properly.

1.3.3. To achieve the overall objectives, the auditor shall use the objectives stated in the relevant Parts in planning and performing the audit, to:

(a) Determine whether any audit procedures in addition to those required by the relevant Part are necessary to achieve the objectives stated in this standard; and

(b) Evaluate whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained.

The auditor is required to use the objectives to evaluate 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:

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

[2] SQM 2, *Engagement Quality Reviews*

1.3.4. If an objective in a Part cannot be achieved, the auditor shall evaluate whether this prevents the auditor from achieving the overall objectives of the auditor and thereby requires the auditor to:

(a) Modify the terms of engagement and perform the audit and report in accordance with the Standards on Auditing; or

(b) Modify the auditor's opinion or withdraw from the engagement (where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation).

Failure to achieve an objective represents a significant matter requiring documentation.

1.4. Fundamental Concepts and General Principles for Performing the Audit

1.4.1. The auditor shall comply with all relevant requirements unless, in exceptional circumstances, the auditor judges it necessary to depart from a relevant requirement. In such circumstances the auditor shall perform alternative 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.

A requirement is not relevant only in the cases where the requirement is conditional and the condition does not exist (for example, the requirement to modify the auditor's opinion where there is an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, and there is no such inability).

1.4.2. The auditor shall not represent compliance with the SA for LCE in the auditor's report unless all relevant requirements in this standard have been met or the circumstances in paragraph 1.4.1. apply.

Professional Judgment

1.4.3. The auditor shall exercise professional judgment in planning and performing the audit.

Professional judgment is essential to the proper conduct of an audit. This is because interpretation of relevant ethical requirements and this standard and the informed decisions required throughout the audit cannot be made without the application of relevant knowledge and experience to the facts and circumstances.

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 been sufficiently developed to achieve the necessary competencies for reasonable judgments.

The exercise of professional judgment in any particular case is based on the facts and circumstances that are known to the auditor.

Significant professional judgments made in reaching conclusions on significant matters arising during the audit are required to be documented in accordance with the requirements of Part 2 of this standard.

Professional Skepticism

1.4.4. The auditor shall plan and perform the audit with professional skepticism recognizing that circumstances may exist that cause the financial statements to be materially misstated.

1.4.5. The auditor shall design and perform procedures in a way that is not biased towards obtaining audit evidence that may be corroborative or towards excluding audit evidence that may be contradictory.

Professional skepticism includes being alert to, for example:

- *Audit evidence that contradicts other audit evidence obtained.*
- *Information that brings into question the reliability of documents and responses to inquiries to be used as audit evidence.*
- *Conditions that may indicate possible fraud.*
- *Circumstances that suggest the need for audit procedures in addition to those required by this standard.*

Professional skepticism is necessary to the critical assessment of audit evidence. This includes questioning contradictory audit evidence and the reliability of documents and responses to inquiries and other information obtained from management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance. It also includes consideration of the sufficiency and appropriateness of audit evidence obtained in the light of the circumstances.

The auditor cannot be expected to disregard past experience of the honesty and integrity of the entity's management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance. Nevertheless, 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 or allow the auditor to be satisfied with less than persuasive audit evidence when obtaining reasonable assurance.

Conditions of the engagement can create pressures on the engagement team that may impede the appropriate exercise of professional skepticism when designing and performing audit procedures and when evaluating audit evidence.

1.5. Fraud

The primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance of the entity. Although fraud is a broad legal concept, for the purposes of this standard, the auditor is concerned with fraud that causes a material misstatement in the financial statements.

Misstatements in the financial statements can arise from either fraud or error. The distinguishing factor between fraud and error is whether the underlying action that results in the misstatement of the financial statements is intentional or unintentional. Two types of intentional misstatements are relevant to the auditor – misstatements resulting from fraudulent financial reporting and misstatements resulting from misappropriation of assets. Although the auditor may suspect or, in rare cases, identify the occurrence of fraud, the auditor does not make legal determinations of whether fraud has actually occurred.

An auditor conducting an audit in accordance with this standard is responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements taken as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with this standard.

This is because fraud may involve sophisticated and carefully organized schemes designed to conceal it, such as forgery, deliberate failure to record transactions, or intentional misrepresentations being made to the auditor.

When obtaining reasonable assurance, the auditor is responsible for:

- *Maintaining professional skepticism throughout the audit;*
- *Considering the potential for management override of controls; and*
- *Recognizing the fact that audit procedures that are effective for detecting error may not be effective in detecting fraud.*

1.5.1. The auditor shall address the risk of fraud when:

(a) Identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In doing so, the auditor shall evaluate whether information obtained from the procedures to identify and assess risks, and related activities, indicates that one or more fraud risk factors are present;[3]

(b) Obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence through designing and implementing appropriate responses to assessed risks of material misstatement, including risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and

(c) Responding appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

The public sector auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud may be a result of law, regulation or other authority applicable to public sector entities or separately covered by the auditor's mandate. Consequently, the public sector auditor's responsibilities may not be limited to consideration of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, but may also include a broader responsibility to consider risks of fraud.

Auditor Unable to Continue the Engagement

1.5.2. If, as a result of a misstatement resulting from fraud or suspected fraud, the auditor encounters exceptional circumstances that bring into question the auditor's ability to continue performing the audit, the auditor shall determine the legal and professional responsibilities applicable in the circumstances or consider whether it is appropriate to withdraw, where withdrawal is possible under law or regulation.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

In many cases in the public sector, the option of withdrawing from the engagement may not be available to the auditor due to the nature of the mandate or public interest considerations.

1.6. Laws and Regulations

It is the responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance where appropriate, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations, including compliance with the provisions of laws and

[3] Appendix 4 sets out fraud risk factors relevant to less complex entities.

regulations that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in an entity's financial statements.

The requirements in this standard are designed to assist the auditor in identifying material misstatement of the financial statements due to non-compliance with laws and regulations. However, the auditor is not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations. The auditor's focus in an audit of the financial statements is on circumstances when non-compliance with laws or regulations results in a material misstatement of the financial statements. In this regard, the auditor's responsibilities are in relation to compliance with two different categories of laws and regulations and are distinguished as follows:

- *The provisions of those laws and regulations generally recognized to have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements (e.g., tax and retirement benefits related laws and regulations); and*
- *Other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the determination of the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, but compliance with which may be fundamental to the operating aspects of the business, to an entity's ability to continue its business, or to avoid material penalties (e.g., compliance with the terms of an operating license, compliance with regulatory solvency requirements, or compliance with environmental regulations), i.e., non- compliance with such laws and regulations may therefore have a material effect on the financial statements.*

1.6.1. During the audit, the auditor shall remain alert to the possibility that performing audit procedures may bring instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to the auditor's attention.

In the absence of identified or suspected non-compliance, the auditor is not required to perform audit procedures regarding the entity's compliance with laws and regulations, other than what is required by this standard.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

In the public sector, there may be additional audit responsibilities with respect to the consideration of laws and regulations which may relate to the audit of financial statements or may extend to other aspects of the entity's operations.

Reporting to an Appropriate Authority Outside the Entity

1.6.2. If the auditor has identified or suspects non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, the auditor shall determine whether law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements:

(a) Require the auditor to report to an appropriate authority outside the entity.

(b) Establish responsibilities under which reporting to an appropriate authority outside the entity may be appropriate in the circumstances.

Reporting identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, to an appropriate authority outside the entity may be required or appropriate in the circumstances because:

- *The auditor has determined reporting is an appropriate action to respond to identified or suspected non-compliance in accordance with relevant ethical requirements; or*
- *Law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements provide the auditor with the right to do so.*

1.7. Related Parties

1.7.1. During the audit, the auditor shall remain alert for:

(a) Information about the entity's related parties, including circumstances involving a related party with dominant influence;

(b) Arrangements or other information that may indicate the existence of related party relationships or transactions that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor; and

(c) Significant transactions outside the entity's normal course of business.

Many related party transactions occur in the normal course of business. In such circumstances, they may carry no higher risk of material misstatement of the financial statements than similar transactions with unrelated parties. However, the nature of related party relationships and transactions may, in some circumstances, give rise to higher risks of material misstatement of the financial statements than transactions with unrelated parties. Related parties, by virtue of their ability to exert control or significant influence, may be in a position to exert dominant influence over the entity or its management. Consideration of such behavior is relevant when identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

Many financial reporting frameworks establish specific accounting and disclosure requirements for related party relationships, transactions and balances to enable users of the financial statements to understand their nature and actual or potential effects on the financial statements. Where the financial reporting framework has established such requirements, the auditor has a responsibility to perform audit procedures to identify, assess and respond to the risks of material misstatement arising from the entity's failure to appropriately account for or disclose related party relationships, transactions or balances in accordance with the requirements of the framework. Even if the applicable financial reporting framework has not established such requirements, the auditor nevertheless needs to obtain an understanding of the entity's related party relationships and transactions to be able to conclude whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation for fair presentation frameworks or are not misleading for compliance frameworks.

1.8. General Communications with Management and Those Charged with Governance

1.8.1. The auditor shall determine the appropriate person(s) within the entity's governance structure with whom to communicate.

1.8.2. The auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance the relevant ethical requirements, including those related to independence, that the auditor applies for the audit engagement.

1.8.3. The auditor shall communicate, on a timely basis, with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance.

Governance structures vary by entity, reflecting influences such as different cultural and legal backgrounds, and size and ownership characteristics. Governance is the collective responsibility of a governing body, such as a board of directors, a supervisory board, partners, proprietors, a committee of management, a council of governors, trustees or equivalent.

There may be other cases where it is not clear with whom to communicate, for example in some family-owned businesses, and some not-for-profit organizations (e.g., the governance structure may not be defined). In such cases the auditor may need to discuss and agree with management or the engaging party with whom communications should be made.

1.8.4. Specific matters to be communicated are required throughout this standard. The auditor shall use professional judgment in determining the appropriate form, timing, and general content of the communications with management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance. When determining the form and timing of communication, the auditor shall consider:

(a) Legal requirements for communication; and

(b) The significance of the matters to be communicated.

The appropriate form and timing of communications will vary with the circumstances of the audit, and may be affected by the significance and nature of the matter, and the actions expected to be taken by management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance.

Communication with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, often may occur in a less structured manner and matters may be communicated orally. This standard requires that the auditor exercises professional judgement to determine when oral communication of a matter would not be adequate and communication in writing is appropriate. In addition, certain matters are required to be communicated in writing, as set out in this standard.

1.8.5. In some cases, all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, for example, an LCE where a single owner manages the entity and no one else has a governance role. In these cases, if matters required by this standard are communicated with person(s) with management responsibilities, and those person(s) also have governance responsibilities, the matters need not be communicated again with those same person(s) in their governance role. The auditor shall nonetheless be satisfied that communication with person(s) with management responsibilities adequately informs all of those with whom the auditor would otherwise communicate in their governance capacity.

1.8.6. Where the responses to inquiries of management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance about a particular matter are inconsistent, the auditor shall investigate the inconsistency.

Specific Communications in Relation to Fraud

1.8.7. If the auditor has identified fraud or has obtained information that indicates that fraud may exist, the auditor shall communicate these matters, unless prohibited by law or regulation,

on a timely basis to the appropriate level of management in order to inform those with primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud of matters relevant to their responsibilities.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

In the public sector, requirements for reporting fraud, whether or not discovered through the audit process, may be subject to specific provisions of the audit mandate or related law, regulation or other authority.

1.8.8. Unless prohibited by law or regulation, the auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance, on a timely basis, if the auditor has identified or suspects fraud involving:

(a) Management, unless those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity;

(b) Employees who have significant roles in the entity's system of internal control; or

(c) Others where the fraud results in a material misstatement in the financial statements.

1.8.9. If the auditor suspects fraud involving management, the auditor shall discuss with those charged with governance the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures necessary to complete the audit.

1.9. Specific Documentation Requirements

In addition to the general documentation requirements in Part 2.4 which apply throughout the audit engagement, specific matters to be documented relevant to this Part are described below.

1.9.1. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation communications about fraud made to management, those charged with governance, regulators and others.

2. Audit Evidence and Documentation

Content of this Part

Part 2 sets out the requirements to be applied throughout the audit for:

- Audit evidence.
- Documentation. Within individual Parts there may also be additional specific documentation requirements.

Scope of this Part

The requirements in this Part apply throughout the audit engagement.

2.1. Objectives

2.1.1. The objectives of the auditor are to:

(a) Design and perform audit procedures in such a way as to enable the auditor to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to be able to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor's opinion; and

(b) Prepare documentation that provides a sufficient and appropriate record of the basis for the auditor's report and provides evidence that the audit was planned and performed in accordance with the SA for LCE and applicable law or regulation.

2.2. Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence

2.2.1. To obtain reasonable assurance, the auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level thereby enabling the auditor to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor's opinion.

2.2.2. The auditor shall design and perform audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

Sufficiency is the measure of the quantity of audit evidence. It is affected by the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement (the higher the assessed risks, the more audit evidence is likely to be required) and also the quality of the audit evidence (the higher the quality, the less may be required). Obtaining more audit evidence, however, may not compensate if it is of poor quality.

Appropriateness is the measure of the quality of the audit evidence, that is its relevance and reliability in providing support for the conclusions on which the auditor's opinion is based.

Most of the auditor's work in forming the auditor's opinion consists of obtaining and evaluating audit evidence. 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 of professional judgment.

2.3. Information to be Used as Audit Evidence

Audit evidence to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor's opinion is obtained by designing and performing procedures to identify and assess risks of material misstatement (see Part 6) and responding to assessed risks of material misstatement (see Part 7), as well as procedures in other Parts to comply with the requirements of the SA for LCE.

Audit procedures to obtain audit evidence can include inspection, observation, confirmation, recalculation, reperformance and analytical procedures, often in some combination, in addition to inquiry. Although inquiry may provide important audit evidence, and may even produce evidence of a misstatement, inquiry alone ordinarily does not provide sufficient audit evidence of the absence of a material misstatement at the assertion level, nor of the operating effectiveness of controls.

Audit evidence is cumulative in nature and is primarily obtained from audit procedures performed during the audit, but may also include information from other sources, such as:

- *Previous audits (provided that the auditor has confirmed there are no changes);*
- *Other engagements performed for the client; and*
- *The firm's quality management procedures for acceptance and continuance.*

Audit evidence may come from inside or outside the entity (the entity's accounting records are an important source of audit evidence), the work of management's expert, and includes information that both supports and corroborates management's assertions, as well as contradicts such assertions.

Automated Tools and Techniques (ATT)

ATT, for the purpose of this standard, are IT-enabled processes that involve the automation of methods and procedures, for example the analysis of data using modelling and visualization, or drone technology to observe or inspect assets.

In applying this standard, an auditor may design and perform audit procedures manually or through the use of ATT, and either technique can be effective. Regardless of the tools and techniques used, the auditor is required to comply with the requirements in this standard.

Using ATT can supplement or replace manual or repetitive tasks. In certain circumstances, when obtaining audit evidence, an auditor may determine that the use of ATT to perform certain audit procedures may result in more persuasive audit evidence relative to the assertion being tested. In other circumstances, performing audit procedures may be effective without the use of ATT.

The use of ATT may potentially create biases or a general risk of overreliance on the information or output of the audit procedure performed. As powerful as these tools may be, they are not a substitute for the auditor's knowledge and professional judgment. Further, although the auditor may have access to a wide array of data, including from varying sources (i.e., increased quantity), the exercise of professional skepticism remains necessary to critically assess audit evidence arising from the use of data and from the outputs from using ATT.

2.3.1. When designing and performing audit procedures, the auditor shall consider the relevance and reliability of the information to be used as audit evidence, including information from external information sources.

Relevance deals with the logical connection with, or bearing upon, the purpose of the audit procedure and, where appropriate, the assertion under consideration. The relevance of the information may be affected by the direction of testing.

The reliability of information to be used as audit evidence is influenced by its source and nature, as well as the circumstances under which it was obtained, including the controls over its preparation and maintenance where relevant. Generally, the reliability of information is increased when it is obtained from independent sources outside of the entity, by the auditor directly, is an original document rather than a copy and is written rather than oral information. However, circumstances may exist that could affect these generalizations.

2.3.2. When using information produced by the entity, the auditor shall evaluate whether the information is sufficiently reliable for the auditor's purposes including, as necessary in the circumstances:

(a) Obtaining evidence about the accuracy and completeness of the information; and

(b) Evaluating whether the information is sufficiently precise and detailed for the auditor's purposes.

Obtaining audit evidence about the accuracy and completeness of such information may be performed concurrently with the actual audit procedure applied to the information when obtaining such audit evidence is an integral part of the audit procedure itself. In other situations, the auditor may have obtained audit evidence of the accuracy and completeness of such information by testing controls over the preparation and maintenance of the information. In some situations, however, the auditor may determine that additional audit procedures are needed.

2.3.3. Unless the auditor has reason to believe the contrary, the auditor may accept records and documents as genuine. 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 modified but not disclosed to the auditor, the auditor shall investigate further and determine the effect on the rest of the audit evidence obtained.

2.3.4. The auditor shall determine what modifications or additions to audit procedures are necessary if:

(a) Audit evidence obtained from one source is inconsistent with that obtained from another; or

(b) The auditor has doubts about the reliability of information to be used as audit evidence.

2.4. General Documentation Requirements

The SA for LCE sets out general documentation requirements in this Part and, as appropriate, specific documentation requirements in other Parts. A documentation requirement applies only to requirements that are relevant in the circumstances.

2.4.1. The auditor shall prepare audit documentation on a timely basis that is sufficient to enable an experienced auditor, having no previous connection with the audit, to understand:

(a) The nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed in accordance with this standard and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, including recording:

(i) The identifying characteristics of the specific items or matters tested;

(ii) Who performed the work and the date such work was completed;

(iii) Who reviewed the audit work performed and the date and extent of such review.

(b) The results of the audit procedures performed, and the audit evidence obtained; and

(c) Significant matters arising during the audit, the conclusions reached thereon, and significant professional judgments made in reaching those conclusions.

Audit documentation provides evidence that the audit complies with the SA for LCE. The form, content and extent of audit documentation depends on the nature and circumstances of the entity and the procedures being performed.

Audit documentation may be in paper or electronic format. Oral explanations, by the auditor on their own, do not adequately support the work performed by the auditor or the conclusions reached, but may be used to explain or clarify information contained in the audit documentation.

It is not necessary to include superseded drafts of working papers or financial statements in the audit documentation.

It is not necessary or practicable for the auditor to document every matter considered, or professional judgment made, in an audit. However, the auditor is required to prepare audit documentation that provides a sufficient and appropriate record of the basis for the auditor's report and provides evidence that the audit was planned and performed in accordance with the SA for LCE and applicable law or regulation. Further, it is unnecessary for the auditor to document separately (as in a checklist, for example) compliance with matters for which compliance is demonstrated by documents included within the audit file.

Significant Matters

Judging the significance of a matter requires professional judgment and the analysis of the facts and circumstances. Examples of significant matters include matters giving rise to significant risks, areas where the financial statements could be materially misstated, circumstances where the auditor has had difficulty in applying the necessary audit procedures, or any findings that could result in a modified opinion.

When the Engagement Partner Performs All the Audit Work

In the case of an audit where the engagement partner performs all the audit work, the documentation will not include matters that might have to be documented solely to inform or instruct members of an engagement team, or to provide evidence of review by other members of the team (e.g., there will be no matters to document relating to team discussions or supervision). Nevertheless, the engagement partner complies with the overriding requirement to prepare audit documentation that can be understood by an experienced auditor, as the audit documentation may be subject to review by external parties for regulatory or other purposes.

Automated Tools and Techniques

This standard does not differentiate between different tools and techniques that the auditor may

use to design and perform audit procedures, for example using manual or automated techniques with respect to what is required to be documented. Regardless of the tools and techniques used, the auditor is required to comply with relevant documentation requirements.

2.4.2. If the auditor identified information that is inconsistent with the auditor's conclusion regarding a significant matter, the auditor shall document how the inconsistency was addressed by the auditor.

2.4.3. If, in exceptional circumstances, the auditor judges it necessary to depart from a relevant requirement of this standard, the auditor shall document how the alternative audit procedures performed achieve the aim of that requirement, and the reasons for the departure.

2.4.4. The auditor shall document discussions of significant matters with management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance, and others, including the nature of the significant matters discussed and when and with whom the discussions took place.

Documentation of Communications

2.4.5. Where matters required to be communicated by this standard are communicated orally, the auditor shall include them in the audit documentation, and when and to whom they were communicated.

2.4.6. Where matters have been communicated in writing, the auditor shall retain a copy of the communication as part of the audit documentation. Written communications need not include all matters that arose during the audit.

3. Engagement Quality Management

Content of this Part

Part 3 sets out the responsibilities for managing and achieving quality for the audit engagement.

Scope of this Part

In accordance with SQM 1, the firm is responsible for designing, implementing, and operating a system of quality management for audits of financial statements, that provides the firm with reasonable assurance that:

- The firm and its personnel fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and conduct engagements in accordance with such standards and requirements; and
- Engagement reports issued are appropriate in the circumstances.

The engagement team, led by the engagement partner, is responsible within the context of the firm's system of quality management for:

- Implementing the firm's responses to quality risks that are applicable to the audit engagement using information communicated by, or obtained from, the firm;
- Determining whether additional responses are needed at the engagement level beyond those in the firm's policies or procedures given the nature and circumstances of the engagement; and
- Communicating to the firm information from the audit engagement that is required to be communicated by the firm's policies or procedures to support the design, implementation, and operation of the firm's system of quality management.

The requirements in this Part apply throughout the audit engagement.

3.1. Objective

3.1.1. The objective of the auditor is to manage quality at the engagement level to obtain reasonable assurance that quality has been achieved such that:

(a) The auditor has fulfilled the auditor's responsibilities, and has conducted the audit, in accordance with this standard and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and

(b) The auditor's report issued is appropriate in the circumstances.

3.2. The Engagement Partner's Responsibilities

Leadership Responsibilities for Managing and Achieving Quality

3.2.1. The engagement partner shall take:

(a) Overall responsibility for managing and achieving quality on the audit engagement, including being sufficiently and appropriately involved throughout the audit engagement such that the engagement partner has the basis for determining whether the significant judgments made, and conclusions reached are appropriate in the circumstances; and

(b) Responsibility for clear, consistent and effective actions being taken that reflect the firm's commitment to quality.

The engagement partner's responsibility for managing and achieving quality is supported by a firm culture that demonstrates a commitment to quality.

Considerations When There Are Members of the Engagement Team Other Than the Engagement Partner

3.2.2. In taking overall responsibility for managing and achieving quality on the audit engagement, the engagement partner shall determine that the nature, timing and extent of direction, supervision and review is:

(a) Responsive to the nature and circumstances of the engagement and the resources assigned; and

(b) Planned and performed in accordance with the firm's policies or procedures, this standard, relevant ethical requirements and regulatory requirements.

Sufficient and Appropriate Involvement

Being sufficiently and appropriately involved throughout the audit engagement when procedures, tasks or actions have been assigned to other members of the engagement team may be demonstrated by the engagement partner in different ways, including:

- *Informing assignees about the nature of their responsibilities and authority, the scope of the work being assigned and the objectives thereof; and to provide any other necessary instructions and relevant information.*
- *Direction and supervision of the assignees.*
- *Review of the assignees' work to evaluate the conclusions reached.*

Direction, Supervision and Review

The approach to direction, supervision and review may be tailored depending on, for example:

- *The engagement team member's previous experience with the entity and the area to be audited.*
- *The assessed risks of material misstatement. A higher assessed risk of material misstatement may require a corresponding increase in the extent and frequency of the direction and supervision of engagement team members and a more detailed review of their work.*
- *The competence and capabilities of the individual engagement team members performing the audit work.*

3.2.3. The engagement partner shall take responsibility for establishing and communicating to the members of the engagement team the expected behavior of the engagement team members, including emphasizing:

(a) That all engagement team members are responsible for contributing to the management and achievement of quality at the engagement level;

(b) The importance of professional ethics, values and attitudes;

(c) The importance of open and robust communication within the engagement team, and supporting the ability of engagement team members to raise concerns without fear of reprisal; and

(d) The importance of exercising professional skepticism throughout the audit engagement.

In addressing the requirements in paragraphs 3.2.2. and 3.2.3., the engagement partner may communicate directly to other members of the engagement team and reinforce this communication through conduct and actions (e.g., leading by example).

Relevant Ethical Requirements

3.2.4. The engagement partner shall have an understanding of the relevant ethical requirements, including those related to independence, that are applicable given the nature and circumstances of the audit engagement.

3.2.5. If matters come to the engagement partner's attention that indicate that a threat to compliance with relevant ethical requirements exists or relevant ethical requirements have been breached, the engagement partner shall take action, including:

(a) Following the firm's policies or procedures to evaluate the threat; and

(b) Consulting with others in the firm.

If there are no others in the firm to consult with, the engagement partner may consult with others outside the firm such as experienced practitioners in other firms or the professional accountancy body where the engagement partner is a member.

Considerations When There Are Members of the Engagement Team Other Than the Engagement Partner

3.2.6. Throughout the audit engagement, the engagement partner shall:

(a) Take responsibility for other members of the engagement team having been made aware of relevant ethical requirements and the firm's related policies or procedures for identifying, evaluating, and addressing threats to compliance with relevant ethical requirements; and

(b) Remain alert, through observation and making inquiries as necessary, for breaches of relevant ethical requirements by members of the engagement team.

Engagement Resources

3.2.7. Taking into account the nature and circumstances of the audit and the firm's related policies or procedures, the engagement partner shall:

(a) Determine that:

(i) Sufficient and appropriate resources are assigned or made available to the engagement team in a timely manner; and

(ii) Members of the engagement team, and any auditor's external experts, collectively have the appropriate competence and capabilities, including sufficient time, to perform the audit engagement.

(b) If the conditions in (a) are not met, the engagement partner shall take appropriate action.

Other Engagement Partner Responsibilities

3.2.8. The engagement partner shall:

(a) Obtain an understanding of the information from the firm's monitoring and remediation process, as communicated by the firm, including, as applicable, the information from the monitoring and remediation process of the network and across the network firms, and:

(i) Determine the relevance and effect of that information on the audit engagement; and

(ii) Take appropriate action; and

(b) Remain alert for matters that may be relevant to the firm's monitoring and remediation process and communicate to those responsible for the process.

3.2.9. The engagement partner shall:

(a) Take responsibility for differences of opinion being addressed and resolved in accordance with the firm's policies or procedures;

(b) Take responsibility for consultations being undertaken in accordance with the firm's related policies or procedures, or where deemed necessary on difficult or contentious matters;

(c) Determine that conclusions reached with respect to differences of opinion and difficult or contentious matters are documented, agreed with the party consulted, and implemented; and

(d) Not date the auditor's report until any differences of opinion are resolved.

Forming an objective view on the appropriateness of the judgments made in the course of the audit can present practical problems when the same individual also performs the entire audit. If unusual issues are involved, it may be desirable to consult with other suitably experienced auditors or the professional accountancy body.

Consultation may be appropriate, or required by the firm's policies or procedures, when there are:

- *Issues that are complex or unfamiliar;*

- *Significant risks;*
- *Significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business or that otherwise appear to be unusual;*
- *Limitations imposed by management; or*
- *Non-compliance with law or regulation.*

Differences of opinion may arise within the engagement team, or between the engagement team and the engagement quality reviewer, if any, or even with individuals performing activities within the firm's system of quality management such as those responsible for providing consultation.

In considering matters related to differences of opinion, or difficult or contentious matters, the engagement partner may also consider whether the use of the SA for LCE continues to be appropriate.

3.2.10. For audit engagements for which an engagement quality review is required, the engagement partner shall determine that an engagement quality reviewer has been appointed and:

(a) Cooperate with the engagement quality reviewer;

(b) Discuss significant matters and significant judgments arising during the audit with the engagement quality reviewer; and

(c) Not date the auditor's report before the engagement quality review is complete.

Considerations When There Are Members of the Engagement Team Other Than the Engagement Partner

3.2.11. The engagement partner shall review audit documentation at appropriate points in time during the audit, including documentation of:

(a) Significant matters;

(b) Significant judgments and the conclusions reached; and

(c) Other matters that, in the engagement partner's professional judgment, are relevant to the engagement partner's responsibilities.

The engagement partner exercises professional judgment in determining matters to review, for example, based on:

- *The nature and circumstances of the audit engagement.*
- *Which engagement team member performed the work.*
- *Matters from recent inspection findings.*
- *The requirements of the firm's policies or procedures.*

3.2.12. The engagement partner shall review, prior to their issuance, formal written communications to management, those charged with governance or regulatory authorities.

3.3. Specific Documentation Requirements

In addition to the general documentation requirements in Part 2.4 which apply throughout the audit engagement, specific matters to be documented relevant to this Part are described below.

3.3.1. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation:

(a) Matters identified, relevant discussions, and conclusions reached with respect to fulfillment of responsibilities for relevant ethical requirements, including applicable independence requirements.

(b) If the audit engagement is subject to an engagement quality review, that the engagement quality review has been completed on or before the date of the auditor's report.

4. Acceptance or Continuance of an Audit Engagement and Initial Audit Engagements

Content of this Part

Part 4 sets out the auditor's responsibilities for:

- Agreeing the terms of the audit engagement with management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance. This includes establishing that certain preconditions for an audit are present.
- Determining that use of the SA for LCE is appropriate for the audit engagement.

Part 4 also addresses activities related to initial audit engagements.

Scope of this Part

Part A of this standard sets out the authority for determining the appropriate use of the SA for LCE. This Part sets out the engagement partner's obligations for use of this standard as part of the firm's acceptance or continuance procedures for an audit engagement of an LCE.

The information and audit evidence gathered during client acceptance and continuance procedures is used to make the determination that the SA for LCE is appropriate for the audit engagement, and informs the auditor's procedures when planning the audit, and for risk identification and assessment.

The Preface sets out that this standard is premised on the basis that the firm is subject to SQM1. SQM 1 requires the firm to establish quality objectives that address the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements. In addition, compliance with SQM 1 may require firms to have policies or procedures to address other matters of relevance to this Part.

Audit engagements may only be accepted when the auditor considers that relevant ethical requirements such as independence and professional competence and due care will be satisfied, and the preconditions for an audit are present. In addition, the auditor considers the performance of non-assurance services for the audit client and whether these services are permissible.

If the audit is an initial engagement, this Part also sets out the auditor's responsibilities relating to opening balances.

4.1. Objectives

4.1.1. The objectives of the auditor are:

(a) To accept or continue an audit engagement only when the basis upon which it is to be performed has been agreed, through:

(i) Establishing whether the preconditions for an audit are present; and

(ii) Confirming that there is a common understanding between the auditor and management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance, of the terms of the audit engagement.

(b) For initial audit engagements, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether:

(i) Opening balances contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements, and

(ii) Appropriate accounting policies reflected in the opening balances have been consistently applied in the current period's financial statements, or changes thereto are appropriately accounted for and adequately presented and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

4.2. Preconditions for an Audit

4.2.1. In order to establish whether the preconditions for an audit are present, the auditor shall:

(a) Determine whether the financial reporting framework to be applied in the preparation of the financial statements is acceptable;

(b) Obtain the agreement of management that it acknowledges and understands its responsibility:

(i) For the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including where relevant their fair presentation;

(ii) For such controls as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and

(iii) To provide the auditor with:

a. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;

b. Additional information that the auditor may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and

c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

4.2.2. If the preconditions for an audit are not present the auditor shall discuss the matter with management. Unless required by law or regulation to do so, the auditor shall not accept the proposed audit engagement:

(a) If the auditor has determined that the financial reporting framework to be applied in the preparation of the financial statements is unacceptable; or

(b) If the agreement of management that it acknowledges and understands its responsibility has not been obtained.

4.2.3. If management or those charged with governance impose a limitation on the scope of the auditor's work such that the auditor believes that the limitation will result in the auditor disclaiming the opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall not accept such a limited engagement as an audit engagement, unless required by law or regulation to do so.

4.3. Considerations in Engagement Acceptance or Continuance

Performing acceptance or continuance procedures before planning commences assists the auditor in identifying and evaluating events or circumstances that may adversely affect the auditor's ability to plan and perform the current engagement.

4.3.1. The engagement partner shall determine that:

(a) The firm's policies or procedures regarding acceptance and continuance of the audit engagement have been followed;[4] and

(b) Conclusions reached regarding acceptance and continuance of the audit engagement are appropriate, including that the audit engagement can be undertaken using the SA for LCE in accordance with Part A of this standard.

Part A sets out the matters relevant to the engagement partner for determining the appropriate use of the SA for LCE, in particular in relation to the limitations for using this standard.

Information and audit evidence gathered during client acceptance and continuance procedures may be used to make the determination about use of the SA for LCE. Further information may also be obtained when performing risk identification and assessment procedures that may change the engagement partner's initial determination about use of the SA for LCE in accordance with this Part. Part 6 (see paragraph 6.5.1) requires the engagement partner to determine whether the SA for LCE continues to be appropriate for the nature and circumstances of the entity being audited during the risk identification and assessment process. Consideration of further information throughout the audit may change the engagement partner's determination about the appropriateness of the use of the SA for LCE.

4.3.2. In some cases, law or regulation applicable to the entity prescribes the layout or wording of the auditor's report in a form or in terms that are significantly different from the requirements of this standard. In these circumstances, the auditor shall evaluate:

(a) Whether users may misunderstand the assurance obtained from the audit of the financial statements, and, if so,

(b) Whether additional explanation in the auditor's report can mitigate possible misunderstanding.

4.3.3. If the auditor concludes that additional explanation in the auditor's report cannot mitigate possible misunderstanding, the auditor shall not accept the audit engagement, unless required by law or regulation to do so. An audit conducted in accordance with such law or regulation does not comply with the SA for LCE. Accordingly, the auditor shall not include any reference within the auditor's report to the audit having been conducted in accordance with this SA for LCE.

[4] SQM 1, Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements, paragraph 30 sets out the firm's responsibilities for establishing quality objectives for the acceptance of specific engagements, including judgments relating to financial and operating priorities of the firm when deciding to accept or continue specific engagements.

4.4. Terms of the Audit Engagement

4.4.1. The auditor shall agree the terms of the audit engagement with management, or where appropriate, those charged with governance.

If law or regulation prescribes the responsibilities of management that are equivalent in effect to what this standard requires, the auditor may use the wording of the law or regulation to describe them in the written agreement.

***Appendix 2** sets out an illustrative engagement letter.*

4.4.2. On recurring audits, the auditor shall assess whether circumstances require the terms of the audit engagement to be revised and whether there is a need to remind the entity of the existing terms of the audit engagement.

4.4.3. The auditor shall not agree to a change in the terms of the audit engagement where there is no reasonable justification for doing so.

4.4.4. If, prior to completing the audit engagement, the auditor is requested to change the audit engagement to an engagement that conveys a lower level of assurance, the auditor shall determine whether there is reasonable justification for doing so.

Before agreeing to change an audit engagement to a review or a related service, the auditor may need to assess any legal or contractual implications of the change.

4.4.5. If the terms of the audit engagement are changed, the auditor and management shall agree on and record the new terms of the engagement in an engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement.

4.4.6. If the auditor is unable to agree to a change of the terms of the audit engagement and is not permitted by management to continue the original audit engagement, the auditor shall:

(a) Withdraw from the audit engagement, where possible under applicable law or regulation; and

(b) Determine whether there is any obligation, either contractual or otherwise, to report the circumstances to other parties, such as those charged with governance, owners, or regulators.

4.5. Initial Audit Engagements

4.5.1. If the engagement is an initial audit and there has been a change in auditor, the auditor shall communicate with the predecessor auditor, in compliance with relevant ethical requirements.

4.5.2. The auditor shall read the most recent financial statements, if any, and the auditor's report thereon, if any, for information relevant to opening balances, including disclosures.

4.5.3. If the prior period's financial statements were audited by a predecessor auditor and there was a modification to the opinion, the auditor shall evaluate the effect of the matter giving rise to the modification in assessing the risks of material misstatement in the current period's financial statements.[5]

[5] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.9.

4.5.4. The auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence[6] about whether the opening balances contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements by:

(a) Determining whether the prior period's closing balances have been correctly brought forward to the current period or, when appropriate, any adjustments have been disclosed as prior period items in the current year's Statement of Profit and Loss or, when appropriate, have been restated (refer applicable financial reporting framework);

(b) Determining whether the opening balances reflect the application of appropriate accounting policies; and

(c) Performing one or more of the following:

(i) Where the prior year financial statements were audited, perusing the copies of the audited financial statements including the other relevant documents relating to the prior period financial statements;

(ii) Evaluating whether audit procedures performed in the current period provide evidence relevant to the opening balances; or

(iii) Performing specific audit procedures to obtain evidence regarding the opening balances.

The nature and extent of audit procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding opening balances depend on such matters as:

- *The accounting policies followed by the entity.*
- *The nature of the account balances, classes of transactions and disclosures and the risks of material misstatement in the current period's financial statements.*
- *The significance of the opening balances relative to the current period's financial statements.*
- *Whether the prior period's financial statements were audited and, if so, whether the predecessor auditor's opinion was modified.*

4.5.5. If the auditor obtains audit evidence that the opening balances contain misstatements that could materially affect the current period's financial statements, the auditor shall perform such additional audit procedures as are appropriate in the circumstances to determine the effect on the current period's financial statements.[7]

4.5.6 The auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether the accounting policies reflected in the opening balances have been consistently applied in the current period's financial statements, and whether any changes in accounting policies have been appropriately accounted for and adequately presented and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.[8]

[6] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.6.
[7] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.7.
[8] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.8.

4.6. Specific Communication Requirements

4.6.1. The auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance:

(a) The auditor's responsibilities for forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements prepared by management; and

(b) That the auditor's responsibilities do not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for oversight of the preparation of the financial statements.

4.7. Specific Documentation Requirements

In addition to the general documentation requirements in Part 2.4 which apply throughout the audit engagement, specific matters to be documented relevant to this Part are described below.

4.7.1. The auditor shall include in the audit documentation matters identified, relevant discussions with personnel, and conclusions reached with respect to the acceptance and continuance of the client relationship and audit engagement.

4.7.2. The auditor shall document the basis for the determination made for using the SA for LCE.

4.7.3. The auditor shall document changes, if any, to the determination of the use of the SA for LCE if further information comes to the auditor's attention during the audit that may change the professional judgment made in this regard.

4.7.4. The auditor shall record in an audit engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement:

(a) That the audit will be undertaken using the SA for LCE;

(b) The objective and scope of the audit of the financial statements;

(c) The respective responsibilities of the auditor and management;

(d) Identification of the applicable financial reporting framework for the preparation of the financial statements;

(e) Reference to the expected form and content of any reports to be issued by the auditor; and

(f) A statement that there may be circumstances in which a report may differ from its expected form and content.

4.7.5 If law or regulation prescribes in sufficient detail the terms of the audit engagement referred to in this standard, the auditor need not record them in a written agreement, except for the fact that such law or regulation applies, and that management acknowledges and understands its responsibilities.

5. Planning

Content of this Part

Part 5 sets out the auditor's responsibility to plan the audit (including holding an engagement team discussion), and the concept of materiality when planning and performing the audit.

Scope of this Part

Planning is not a discrete phase of the audit, but rather a continuous and iterative process that is updated and modified, as necessary, throughout the audit. Part 6, Risk Identification and Assessment, and Part 7, Responding to Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement, are also relevant to this Part.

Some requirements within this Part are linked to procedures in other Parts and may require the auditor to perform those procedures in order to meet the requirements in this Part.

5.1. Objectives

5.1.1. The objectives of the auditor are to:

(a) Plan the audit so that it will be performed in an effective manner; and

(b) Apply the concept of materiality appropriately in planning and performing the audit.

5.2. Planning Activities

The nature, timing and extent of planning activities will vary according to the nature and circumstances of the entity, the size and nature of the engagement team, the engagement team members' previous experience with the entity and any changes in circumstances that occur during the audit engagement.

The purpose and objective of planning the audit are the same whether the audit is an initial or recurring engagement. However, for an initial audit, the auditor may need to expand the planning activities because the auditor does not ordinarily have the previous experience with the entity that is considered when planning recurring engagements.

5.2.1 The auditor shall set the scope, timing and direction of the audit and:

(a) Identify the characteristics of the engagement that define its scope;

(b) Ascertain the reporting objectives of the engagement to plan the timing of the audit and the nature of the communications required;

(c) Consider the factors that, in the auditor's professional judgment, are significant in directing the engagement team's efforts;

(d) Consider the results of preliminary engagement activities and, where applicable, whether knowledge gained on other engagements performed by the engagement partner for the entity is relevant; and

(e) Ascertain the nature, timing and extent of procedures to be performed and the resources necessary to perform the audit, including determining whether experts are needed.

Establishing the scope, timing and direction of the audit need not be a complex or time-consuming exercise. For example, a brief memorandum prepared after the previous audit, based on a review of the working papers and highlighting issues identified in the audit just completed, updated in the current period based on discussions with the owner-manager, can serve as the documented scope, timing and direction for the current audit engagement. Standard audit programs or checklists created based on the assumption of few identified controls, as is likely to be the case in a less complex entity, may be used provided that they are tailored to the circumstances of the engagement, including the auditor's risk assessments.

Considerations When There Are Members of the Engagement Team Other Than the Engagement Partner

5.2.2 The engagement partner and other key members of the engagement team shall be involved in planning the audit.

5.2.3 The auditor shall plan the nature, timing and extent of direction and supervision of engagement team members and review of their work.

5.2.4 The engagement partner shall consider information obtained in the acceptance and continuance process in planning and performing the audit.

5.2.5 When information used to plan and perform the audit has been obtained from the previous experience with the entity, or prior audits, the auditor shall evaluate whether such information remains relevant and reliable as audit evidence in the current period.

5.2.6 The auditor shall update and change the scope, timing and direction as necessary during the audit.

Engagement Team Discussion

Considerations When There Are Members of the Engagement Team Other Than the Engagement Partner

5.2.7 The engagement partner and other key engagement team members shall discuss the susceptibility of the entity's financial statements to material misstatement, including:

(a) The application of the applicable financial reporting framework to the entity's facts and circumstances.

(b) How and where the entity's financial statements may be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud, including how fraud may occur, and how fraud or error could arise from related party relationships or transactions.

Discussions among the engagement team shall occur setting aside beliefs the engagement team may have that management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance are honest and have integrity.

The engagement team discussion may also include other matters related to the audit such as logistical, operational or other matters (such as when risks of material misstatement may have changed from prior years or matters related to relevant ethical requirements including independence) and the timing of the audit and communications that are required.

5.2.8 When there are engagement team members not involved in the discussion, the engagement partner shall determine which matters are to be communicated to those members.

Using the Work of Management's Expert

5.2.9 If information to be used as audit evidence has been prepared using the work of management's expert, the auditor shall, having regard to the significance of that expert's work for the auditor's purpose:

(a) Evaluate the competence, capabilities, and objectivity of that expert; and

(b) Obtain an understanding of the work of that expert.

Evaluating the Competence, Capabilities and Objectivity of a Management's Expert

Competence relates to the nature and level of expertise of the management's expert. Capability relates to the ability of the management's expert to exercise that competence in the circumstances. Objectivity relates to the possible effects that bias, conflict of interest or the influence of others may have on the professional or business judgment of the management's expert. Matters relevant to evaluating the competence, capabilities and objectivity of a management's expert may include whether that expert's work is subject to technical performance standards or other professional or industry requirements.

Obtaining an Understanding of the Work of the Management's Expert

When obtaining an understanding of the work of the management's expert, evaluating the agreement between the entity and that expert may assist the auditor in determining the appropriateness of the following for the auditor's purposes:

- *The nature, scope and objectives of that expert's work;*
- *The respective roles and responsibilities of management and that expert; and*
- *The nature, timing and extent of communication between management and that expert, including the form of any report to be provided by that expert.*

Determining Whether to Use the Work of an Auditor's Expert

5.2.10 If expertise in a field other than accounting or auditing is necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall determine whether to use the work of an auditor's expert.

If the preparation of the financial statements involves the use of expertise in a field other than accounting, the auditor, who is skilled in accounting and auditing, may not possess the necessary expertise to audit those financial statements. The auditor's determination of whether to use the work of an auditor's expert and, if so, when and to what extent, assists the auditor in meeting the requirements in paragraphs 3.2.7. and 5.2.1.(e). As the audit progresses, or as circumstances change, the auditor may need to revise earlier decisions about using the work of an auditor's expert.

The auditor has sole responsibility for the audit opinion expressed, and that responsibility is not reduced by the auditor's use of the work of an auditor's expert. Nonetheless, if the auditor using the work of an auditor's expert concludes, based on the audit procedures performed and the

evidence obtained, that the work of that expert is adequate for the auditor's purposes, the auditor may accept that expert's findings or conclusions in the expert's field as appropriate audit evidence.

5.2.11 The auditor shall consider the following when determining the nature, timing and extent of procedures related to the auditor's expert:

(a) The nature of the matter to which that expert's work relates;

(b) The risks of material misstatement in the matter to which that expert's work relates;

(c) The significance of that expert's work in the context of the audit;

(d) The auditor's knowledge of and experience with previous work performed by that expert; and

(e) Whether that expert is subject to the auditor's firm's quality management policies or procedures.

5.2.12 If the auditor is using the work of an auditor's expert, the auditor shall:

(a) Evaluate whether the auditor's expert has the necessary competence, capabilities and objectivity for the auditor's purposes. In the case of an auditor's external expert, the evaluation of objectivity shall include inquiry regarding interests and relationships that may create a threat to that expert's objectivity;

(b) Obtain sufficient understanding of the field of expertise of the expert to enable the auditor to determine the nature, scope and objectives of the expert's work for the auditor's purpose, and evaluate the adequacy of that work for the auditor's purpose; and

(c) Agree, in writing when appropriate, the nature, scope and objectives of the expert's work, the respective roles and responsibilities of the auditor and that expert, the nature, timing and extent of communications and the need for the expert to observe confidentiality requirements.

5.3. Materiality

5.3.1 The auditor shall determine materiality for the financial statements as a whole.

Materiality in the Context of an Audit

The concept of materiality is applied by the auditor in both planning and performing the audit, and in evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements if any, on the financial statements and in forming an opinion in the auditor's report.

The auditor's determination of materiality is a matter of professional judgment, and is affected by the auditor's perception of the financial information needs of users of the financial statements.

The auditor's professional judgment about misstatements that will be considered material provides a basis for:

- *Determining the nature, timing and extent of procedures to identify and assess risks of material misstatement;*

- *Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement; and*
- *Determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures.*

Use of Benchmarks in Determining Materiality for the Financial Statements as a Whole

A percentage is often applied to a chosen benchmark as a starting point in determining materiality for the financial statements as a whole. Factors that may affect the identification of an appropriate benchmark include the following:

- *The elements of the financial statements (for example, assets, liabilities, equity, revenue, expenses);*
- *Whether there are items on which the attention of the users tends to be focused;*
- *The nature of the entity, where the entity is in its life cycle, and the industry and economic environment in which the entity operates;*
- *The entity's ownership structure and the way it is financed. For example, if an entity is financed solely by debt rather than equity, users may put more emphasis on assets, and claims on them, than on the entity's earnings; and*
- *The relative volatility of the benchmark.*

Examples of benchmarks that may be appropriate, depending on the circumstances of the entity, include categories of reported income such as profit before tax, total revenue, gross profit and total expenses, total equity or net asset value. Profit before tax from continuing operations is often used for profit-oriented entities. When profit before tax from continuing operations is volatile, other benchmarks may be more appropriate, such as gross profit or total revenues. For a not-for-profit organization, a benchmark such as revenue, expenses, assets or equity may be more relevant.

When an entity's profit before tax from continuing operations is consistently nominal, as might be the case for an owner-managed business where the owner takes much of the profit before tax in the form of remuneration, a benchmark such as profit before remuneration and tax may be more relevant.

There is a relationship between the percentage and the chosen benchmark, such that a percentage applied to profit before tax from continuing operations will normally be higher than a percentage applied to total revenue.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

In the case of a public sector entity, legislators and regulators are often the primary users of its financial statements. Furthermore, the financial statements may be used to make decisions other than economic decisions. The determination of materiality for the financial statements as a whole in an audit of the financial statements of a public sector entity is therefore influenced by law, regulation or other authority, and by the financial information needs of legislators and the public in relation to public sector programs.

In an audit of a public sector entity, total cost or net cost (expenses less revenues or expenditure less receipts) may be appropriate benchmarks for program activities. Where a public sector entity has custody of public assets, assets may be an appropriate benchmark.

5.3.2 The auditor shall also determine the materiality level or levels to be applied to particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures if, in the specific circumstances of the entity, there is one or more particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures for which misstatements of lesser amounts than materiality for the financial statements as a whole could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

5.3.3 The auditor shall determine performance materiality for the purposes of assessing the risks of material misstatement, and determining the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures.

Planning the audit solely to detect individually material misstatements overlooks the fact that the aggregate of individually immaterial misstatements may cause the financial statements to be materially misstated, and leaves no margin for possible undetected misstatements. Performance materiality (which, as defined, is one or more amounts) is set to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality.

The determination of performance materiality is not a simple mechanical calculation and involves the exercise of professional judgment. It is affected by the auditor's understanding of the entity, updated during the risk identification and assessment; and the nature and extent of misstatements identified in previous audits and thereby the auditor's expectations in relation to misstatements in the current period.

Clearly Trivial Misstatements

Part 7 requires the auditor to accumulate misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial. During planning, the auditor may designate an amount below which misstatements of amounts in the individual statements would be clearly trivial, and would not need to be accumulated because the auditor expects that the accumulation of such amounts clearly would not have a material effect on the financial statements.

5.3.4 If the auditor becomes aware of information during the audit that would have caused the auditor to have determined a different amount (or amounts) initially, the auditor shall revise materiality for the financial statements as a whole (and, if applicable, the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures).

5.3.5 If the auditor concludes that a lower materiality for the financial statements as a whole (and, if applicable, materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures) than that initially determined is appropriate, the auditor shall determine whether it is necessary to revise performance materiality, and whether the nature, timing and extent of the further audit procedures remain appropriate.

5.4. Specific Communication Requirements

5.4.1 The auditor shall communicate with management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance an overview of the planned scope, timing and direction of the audit.

5.5. Specific Documentation Requirements

In addition to the general documentation requirements in Part 2.4 which apply throughout the audit engagement, specific matters to be documented relevant to this Part are described below.

5.5.1 The auditor shall include in the audit documentation a description of the scope, timing and direction of the audit, including the nature, timing and extent of procedures to be performed, and significant changes made during the audit, together with the reasons for such changes.

Considerations When There Are Members of the Engagement Team Other Than the Engagement Partner

5.5.2 The auditor shall include in the audit documentation the matters discussed among the engagement team and significant decisions reached, including the significant decisions regarding the susceptibility of the entity's financial statements to material misstatement due to fraud.

5.5.3 The auditor shall include in the audit documentation the:

(a) Following amounts and the factors considered in their determination (including any revisions as applicable):

- Materiality for the financial statements as a whole;
- If applicable, the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures; and
- Performance materiality.

(b) Amount below which misstatements would be considered clearly trivial.

6. Risk Identification and Assessment

Content of this Part

Part 6 contains the requirements relevant to the auditor's responsibility to perform procedures and related activities to:

- Obtain an understanding of the entity and its environment, the applicable financial reporting framework, and the entity's system of internal control;
- Identify risks of material misstatement at the financial statement and assertion levels, whether due to fraud or error; and
- Assess inherent risk and control risk.

Appendix 3 illustrates the iterative nature of the auditor's risk identification and assessment.

Scope of this Part

This Part deals with the auditor's responsibility to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, which provides the basis for the audit procedures undertaken to respond to assessed risks in Part 7. Part 5 sets out the auditor's obligations for planning activities, including the requirements for the engagement team discussion.

6.1. Objectives

6.1.1. The objectives of the auditor are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, at the financial statement and assertion levels, thereby providing a basis for designing and implementing responses to the assessed risks of material misstatement (the assessed risks).

Understanding the entity and its environment, the applicable financial reporting framework and the entity's system of internal control enables the auditor to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement. The auditor's risk identification and assessment process is iterative and dynamic.

6.2. Procedures for Identifying and Assessing Risks and Related Activities

6.2.1 The auditor shall design and perform procedures to obtain audit evidence that provides an appropriate basis for:

- The identification and assessment of risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, at the financial statement and assertion levels; and
- The design of further audit procedures.

The auditor uses professional judgment to determine the nature and extent of the procedures to be performed, which may vary with the formality of the entity's policies or procedures.

Some less complex entities, and particularly owner-managed entities, may not have established structured processes and systems or may have established processes or systems with limited documentation or a lack of consistency in how they are undertaken. When such systems and processes lack formality, the procedures described in paragraph 6.2.3. are still required.

Designing and performing procedures to obtain audit evidence in a manner that is not biased towards obtaining audit evidence that may be corroborative or towards excluding audit evidence that may be contradictory may involve obtaining evidence from multiple sources within and outside the entity. However, the auditor is not required to perform an exhaustive search to identify all possible sources of evidence.

6.2.2 When obtaining audit evidence to identify and assess risks of material misstatement and design further audit procedures, the auditor shall consider information from:

(a) The acceptance or continuance procedures; and

(b) When applicable, other engagements performed by the engagement partner for the entity.

6.2.3 The procedures to identify and assess risks of material misstatement shall include:

(a) Inquiries of management, and other appropriate individuals within the entity;

(b) Analytical procedures; and

(c) Observation and inspection.

The auditor is not required to perform all of these procedures for each aspect of the auditor's understanding required by this Part.

Analytical procedures performed as a procedure to identify and assess risks of material misstatements help to identify inconsistencies, unusual transactions or events, and amounts, ratios, and trends that indicate matters that may have audit implications. Unusual or unexpected relationships that are identified may assist the auditor in identifying risks of material misstatement, especially risks of material misstatement due to fraud, including those relating to revenue accounts.

Analytical procedures performed as part of the risk identification and assessment may include both financial (e.g., sales price) and non-financial information (e.g., volume of goods sold) and the use of data aggregated at a high level. The auditor may perform a simple comparison of information, such as the change in account balances from balances in prior periods, to identify potential higher risk areas.

Observation and inspection may support, corroborate or contradict inquiries of management and others, and may also provide information about the entity and its environment. Where policies or procedures are not documented, or the entity' s controls lack formality, the auditor may still be able to obtain some audit evidence to support the identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement through observation or inspection of the performance of the control.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

When making inquiries of those who may have information that is likely to assist in identifying risks of material misstatement, auditors of public sector entities may obtain information from additional sources such as from the auditors that are involved in performance or other audits related to the entity. Procedures performed by auditors of public sector entities to identify and

assess risks of material misstatement may also include observation and inspection of documents prepared by management for the legislature, for example documents related to mandatory performance reporting.

Automated Tools and Techniques

If the auditor uses ATT, the auditor may design and perform audit procedures to identify and assess risks of material misstatement on relatively large volumes of data (from the general ledger, sub-ledgers or other operational data) including for analysis, observation or inspection.

6.2.4 In designing and performing procedures to identify and assess risks of material misstatement, the auditor shall consider possible risks of material misstatement arising from:

(a) Fraud or error;

(b) Related party relationships and transactions; and

(c) Events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Fraud

Fraudulent financial reporting involves intentional misstatements, including omissions of amounts or disclosures in financial statements to deceive financial statement users. Fraudulent financial reporting often involves management override of controls that otherwise may appear to be operating effectively, such as recording fictitious journal entries close to the end of the financial reporting period.

Misappropriation of assets involves the theft of the entity's assets and is often perpetrated by employees in relatively small and immaterial amounts. However, it can also involve management who are usually more able to disguise or conceal misappropriations in ways that are difficult to detect.

Misappropriation of assets is often accompanied by false or misleading records or documents in order to conceal the fact that the assets are missing or have been pledged without proper authorization.

In an LCE there may be different fraud risk factors than in more complex entities. On one hand, management or the owner-manager may be able to exercise more effective oversight than in a more complex entity which may compensate for more limited opportunities for segregation of duties. On the other hand, less segregation of duties and more direct involvement of management or the owner- manager may provide management or the owner-manager with a greater opportunity to override controls and commit fraud. LCEs, including owner-managers may also have different pressures or incentives to commit fraud than management in more complex entities. ***Appendix 4*** *sets out fraud risk factors relevant to less complex entities.*

Related Parties

In some LCEs, related party transactions between owner-managers and close family members may be common, in particular in closely held entities. These transactions may not be conducted under normal market terms and conditions; for example, some related party transactions may be conducted with no exchange of consideration, or for consideration significantly different from fair value.

Going Concern

Events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern of particular relevance to an LCE include the risk that banks and other lenders, close family members or owner-managers may cease to support the entity, as well as the possible loss of a principal supplier, major customer, key employee, or the right to operate under a license, franchise or other legal agreement.

6.2.5 If the audit opinion on the prior period's financial statements was modified, the auditor shall evaluate the effect on the current year's financial statements when identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement.

6.3. Understanding Relevant Aspects of the Entity

The auditor's understanding of relevant aspects of the entity, including the entity and its environment, the applicable financial reporting framework and the entity's system of internal control establishes a frame of reference in which the auditor identifies and assesses the risks of material misstatement, and also informs how the auditor plans and performs further audit procedures.

Inquiries of Management and Others Within the Entity

6.3.1 The auditor shall inquire of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, regarding:

(a) How the entity identifies business risks relevant to the preparation of the financial statements and how they are addressed;

(b) The risks of fraud in the entity and the controls that management has established to mitigate these risks;

(c) The nature and extent of management's direct involvement in operations or other activities that may help management to prevent or detect misstatements in accounting information or identify controls that are not operating as intended.

(d) The identity of the entity's related parties, including:

(i) Changes from the prior period;

(ii) The nature of the relationships between the entity and these related parties; and

(iii) Whether the entity entered into any transactions with these related parties during the period and, if so, the type and purpose of the transactions;

(e) Whether the entity is in compliance with laws or regulations that may have an effect on the financial statements, and if there has been any correspondence with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities that may be relevant to the financial statements; and

(f) The basis for the intended use of the going concern basis of accounting, whether events or conditions exist that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and, if so, management's plans to address them.

Inquiries of management and, when applicable, those charged with governance, assist the auditor to identify and assess risks of material misstatement and respond to those risks.

Inquiries about how the entity identifies and assesses its business risks relevant to the preparation of the financial statements may assist the auditor in understanding:

- *Where there are identified business risks;*
- *Whether, and how the entity has responded to those risks;*
- *Whether the risks faced by the entity have been identified, assessed and addressed as appropriate to the nature and circumstances of the entity.*

Inquiries about the risks of material misstatement due to fraud in the entity may assist the auditor in understanding:

- *Management's assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated due to fraud, including the nature, extent and frequency of such assessments;*
- *Management's process for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud in the entity, including any specific risks of fraud that management has identified or that have been brought to its attention, or classes of transactions, account balances, or disclosures for which a risk of fraud is likely to exist;*
- *Management's communication, if any, to those charged with governance regarding its processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud in the entity.*

Inquiring about how management performs activities to prevent or detect misstatements in accounting information and identifies controls that are not operating as intended may include inquiring about what information management uses and the basis upon which management considers the information to be sufficiently reliable, as well as inquiring about how deficiencies are remediated. These inquiries assist the auditor to understand whether the other aspects of the entity's system of internal control are present and functioning as appropriate to the entity's circumstances considering the nature and complexity of the entity.

Under the going concern basis of accounting, the financial statements are prepared on the assumption that the entity is a going concern and will continue its operations for the foreseeable future. General purpose financial statements are prepared using the going concern basis of accounting, unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. When the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, assets and liabilities are recorded on the basis that the entity will be able to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business.

Considerations When There Are Members of the Engagement Team Other Than the Engagement Partner

6.3.2 The auditor shall share relevant information obtained about the entity's related parties with other members of the engagement team.

6.3.3 The auditor shall make inquiries of management, those charged with governance, and as appropriate others within the entity, to determine whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the entity.

Understanding the Entity and Its Environment

6.3.4 The auditor shall obtain an understanding of:

(a) The entity's organizational structure, ownership and governance, and business model.

(b) The industry and other external factors affecting the entity.

(c) How the entity's financial performance is measured.

(d) The legal and regulatory framework applicable to the entity, and how the entity is complying with that framework.

(e) The entity's transactions and other events and conditions that may give rise to the need for, or changes in, accounting estimates to be recognized or disclosed.

(f) Agreements or relationships that may result in unrecognized liabilities or future commitments.

Understanding the entity's business model helps the auditor to understand the entity's objectives and strategy, and to understand the business risks the entity takes and faces. Understanding the entity's business risks assists the auditor in identifying risks of material misstatement, since most business risks will eventually have financial consequences and, therefore, an effect on the financial statements. When obtaining an understanding of the entity's business model, the auditor may consider how the entity uses IT.

Relevant industry factors include industry conditions such as the competitive environment, supplier and customer relationships, and technological developments. Other external factors affecting the entity that the auditor may consider include climate-related risks, the general economic conditions, interest rates and availability of financing, and inflation or currency revaluation.

When understanding agreements or relationships that may result in unrecognized liabilities or future commitments the auditor may consider inspecting minutes of meetings and correspondence with legal counsel and inspecting legal expense accounts.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

Entities operating in the public sector may create and deliver value in different ways to those creating wealth for owners but will still have a 'business model' with a specific objective. Matters public sector auditors may obtain an understanding of that are relevant to the business model of the entity, include:

- *Knowledge of relevant government activities, including related programs.*

Program objectives and strategies, including public policy elements.

Understanding the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework

6.3.5 The auditor shall obtain an understanding of:

(a) The applicable financial reporting framework including, for accounting estimates, the recognition criteria, measurement bases, and the related presentation and

disclosure requirements, and how these apply in the context of the nature and circumstances of the entity and its environment.

(b) The entity's accounting policies and reasons for any changes thereto.

6.3.6 The auditor shall evaluate whether the entity's accounting policies are appropriate and consistent with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Understanding the Entity's System of Internal Control

In LCEs, and in particular owner-managed entities, the way in which the entity's system of internal control is designed, implemented and maintained will vary with the entity's size and complexity. When there are no formalized processes or documented policies or procedures, the auditor is still required to obtain an understanding of how management, or where appropriate, those charged with governance prevent and detect fraud and error, and use professional judgment to determine the nature and extent of the procedures to obtain the required understanding.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

Auditors of public sector entities often have additional responsibilities with respect to internal control, for example, to report on compliance with an established code of practice or reporting on spending against budget. Auditors of public sector entities may also have responsibilities to report on compliance with law, regulation or other authority. As a result, their considerations about the system of internal control may be broader and more detailed.

Understanding the Entity's Control Environment

6.3.7 The auditor shall:

(a) Obtain an understanding of the control environment relevant to the preparation of the financial statements; and

(b) Evaluate whether the control environment provides an appropriate foundation for the entity's system of internal control considering the nature and complexity of the entity.

The auditor's understanding may include:

- *How management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance, oversee the entity, demonstrate integrity and ethical values, for example, through communication to employees regarding expectations for business practices and ethical behavior;*
- *The culture of the entity, including whether management supports honesty and ethical behavior;*
- *The entity's assignment of authority and responsibility;*
- *How the entity attracts, develops, and retains competent individuals; and*
- *When applicable, how owner-managers are actively involved in the business and how this may impact the risks arising from management override of controls due to lack of*

segregation of duties.

The control environment provides an overall foundation for the operation of the other aspects of the entity's system of internal control, and deficiencies may undermine the rest of the entity's system of internal control. Although it does not directly prevent or detect and correct misstatements, it may influence the effectiveness of other controls in the system of internal control. The control environment includes the governance and management functions and the attitudes, awareness and actions of those charged with governance and management concerning the entity's system of internal control and its importance in the entity.

Because the control environment is foundational to the entity's system of internal control, any deficiencies could have pervasive effects on the preparation of the financial statements. Therefore, the auditor's understanding and evaluation of the control environment affects the auditor's identification and assessment of risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level, and may also affect the identification and assessment of risks of material misstatement at the assertion level, as well as the auditor's responses to the assessed risks.

Some or all aspects of the control environment may not be applicable for an LCE or may be less formalized. For example, an LCE may not have a written code of conduct but, instead, may have developed a culture that emphasizes the importance of integrity and ethical behavior through oral communication and by management example.

Some entities may be dominated by a single individual who may exercise a great deal of discretion. The actions and attitudes of that individual may have a pervasive effect on the culture of the entity, which in turn may have a pervasive effect on the control environment. Domination of management by a single individual in an LCE does not generally, in and of itself, indicate a failure by management to display and communicate an appropriate attitude regarding internal control and the financial reporting process. In some entities, the need for management authorization can compensate for otherwise deficient controls and reduce the risk of employee fraud. However, domination of management by a single individual can be a potential control deficiency since there is an opportunity for management override of controls.

Understanding the Entity's Process to Prepare its Financial Statements

6.3.8 For significant classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of the entity's process to prepare its financial statements including:

(a) The accounting records and other records that support the classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures in the financial statements;

(b) How transactions are initiated, and how information about them is recorded, processed, corrected as necessary, transferred to the general ledger and reported in the financial statements;

(c) How information about events and conditions, other than transactions are identified, processed and disclosed; and

(d) The entity's resources, including the IT environment, relevant to (a) to (c) above.

Matters the auditor may consider when obtaining an understanding of the entity's process to prepare its financial statements relating to significant classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures include how:

- *The data or information relating to transactions, other events and conditions is processed;*
- *The integrity of that data or information is maintained; and*
- *The information processes, personnel and other resources are used.*

The auditor's understanding may be obtained in various ways and may include:

- *Inquiries of relevant personnel about the procedures used to initiate, record, process and report transactions or about the entity's financial reporting process;*
- *Inspection of policy or process manuals or other documentation of the entity's process to prepare the financial statements;*
- *Observation of the performance of the policies or procedures by entity's personnel; or*
- *Selecting transactions and tracing them through the applicable process to prepare the financial statements (i.e., performing a walk-through).*

LCEs with direct management involvement may not need extensive descriptions of accounting procedures, sophisticated accounting records, or written policies.

Automated Tools and Techniques

The auditor may also use ATT to obtain direct access to, or a digital download from, the databases in the entity's information system that store accounting records of transactions. By applying ATT to this information, the auditor may confirm the understanding obtained about how transactions flow through the information system by tracing journal entries, or other digital records related to a particular transaction, or an entire population of transactions, from initiation in the accounting records through to recording in the general ledger. Analysis of complete or large sets of transactions may also result in the identification of variations from the normal, or expected processing procedures for these transactions, which may result in the identification of risks of material misstatement.

6.3.9 For accounting estimates and related disclosures for significant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of how management:

(a) Identifies, selects and applies relevant methods, assumptions and data that are appropriate in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework, including identification of significant assumptions;

(b) Understands the degree of estimation uncertainty and addresses such uncertainty, including selecting a point estimate and related disclosures for inclusion in the financial statements; and

(c) Reviews the outcome(s) of previous accounting estimates and responds to the results of that review.

6.3.10 The auditor shall evaluate whether the entity's process to prepare its financial statements, including for accounting estimates, appropriately supports the preparation of its financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Understanding the Services Provided by a Service Organization

6.3.11 If the entity uses the services of a service organization and those services are relevant to the entity's process to prepare its financial statements, the auditor's understanding in accordance with paragraph 6.3.8. shall include:

(a) The nature of the services provided by the service organization and the significance of those services to the entity including the effect thereof on the user entity's system of internal control;

(b) The nature and materiality of the transactions processed or accounts or financial reporting processes affected by the service organization;

(c) The degree of interaction between the activities of the service organization and those of the user entity; and

(d) The relevant contractual terms for the activities undertaken by the service organization.

The auditor's understanding shall be sufficient to provide an appropriate basis for the identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement.

LCEs may often use external bookkeeping services ranging from the processing of certain transactions (for example, processing of payroll and payment of payroll taxes) and maintenance of their accounting records to the preparation of their financial statements. The use of such a service organization for the preparation of its financial statements does not relieve management of the less complex entity and, where appropriate, those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the financial statements.

The services of a service organization are relevant to the entity's process to prepare its financial statements when those services, and the controls over them, are part of, or affect the process described in paragraph 6.3.8.

The auditor's understanding helps to inform the auditor about the nature and significance of the services provided by the service organization and their effect on the user entity's system of internal control, which affect the nature and extent of work to be performed by the auditor regarding the services provided by a service organization. The significance of the controls of the service organization relative to those of the entity depends on the degree of interaction between the service organization's activities and those of the entity. For example, the service organization may process and account for transactions that are still required to be authorized by the entity, alternatively the entity may rely on such controls being affected at the service organization.

The service organization may have engaged a service auditor to provide a report on the description and design (a type 1 report), or on the description, design and operating effectiveness (a type 2 report), of controls at the service organization. Such reports may provide information for the auditor in obtaining an understanding of the user entity's system of internal control. However, this standard has not been designed for, and therefore does not include requirements to address, the auditor's use of such reports as audit evidence about the design, implementation or operating effectiveness of controls at the service organization.

Understanding the Entity's Control Activities

6.3.12 The auditor shall obtain an understanding of the entity's control activities by identifying controls that address risks of material misstatement at the assertion level as set out below. For each control identified in (a)—(e) below, the auditor shall perform procedures, beyond inquiry, to evaluate whether the control is designed effectively and has been implemented:

(a) Controls that address risks determined to be significant risks;

(b) Controls over journal entries, including journal entries to record non-recurring, unusual transactions or adjustments;

(c) Controls, if any, for which the auditor plans to test the operating effectiveness of controls in determining the nature, timing and extent of substantive testing, including those controls that address risks for which substantive procedures alone are not enough to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence;

(d) Controls, if any, related to significant transactions and arrangements with related parties, and significant transactions and arrangements outside the normal course of business; and

(e) Controls, if any, in (a) to (d) at the user entity related to the services provided by the service organization, including those that are applied to the transactions processed by the service organization.

The auditor's required understanding of the entity's control activities involves identifying specific controls, as appropriate in the entity's circumstances, and evaluating their design and determining whether the controls have been implemented. Evaluating the design and implementation of controls includes the evaluation of whether the control is designed effectively to address the risk of material misstatement at the assertion level, or effectively designed to support the operation of other controls, and the determination whether the control has been implemented.

This assists the auditor's understanding of management's approach to addressing certain risks, and therefore provides a basis for the design and performance of further audit procedures responsive to these risks even when the auditor does not plan to test the operating effectiveness of identified controls.

Journal Entries

Controls over journal entries are expected to be identified for all audits because the manner in which an entity incorporates information from transaction processing into the general ledger ordinarily involves the use of journal entries, whether standard or non-standard, or automated or manual. The extent to which other controls are identified may vary based on the nature of the entity and the auditor's planned approach to further audit procedures. For example, the entity's information system may not be complex and the auditor may not intend to test the operating effectiveness of controls. Further, the auditor may not have identified any significant risks or any other risks of material misstatement for which it is necessary for the auditor to evaluate the design of controls and determine that they have been implemented. In such an audit, the auditor may determine that there are no identified controls other than the entity's controls over journal entries.

Related Parties

Controls in LCEs are likely to be less formal and such entities may have no documented processes for dealing with related party relationships and transactions. An owner-manager may mitigate some of the risks arising from related party transactions, or potentially increase those risks, through active involvement in all the main aspects of the transactions. For such entities, the auditor may obtain an understanding of the related party relationships and transactions, and any controls that may exist over these, through inquiry of management combined with other procedures, such as observation of management's oversight and review activities, and inspection of available relevant documentation.

6.3.13 For the controls identified in paragraph 6.3.12., the auditor shall:

(a) Identify the IT applications and other aspects of the IT environment that are subject to risks arising from the use of IT and what those related risks are;

(b) Identify the entity's general IT controls that respond to those identified risks; and

(c) By performing procedures in addition to inquiries, evaluate whether the identified general IT controls are designed effectively and have been implemented.

The auditor's understanding of the entity's process to prepare the financial statements (which may be done by performing walk-through procedures) includes the IT environment relevant to the flows of transactions and processing of information. This is because the entity's use of IT applications or other aspects of the IT environment may give rise to risks arising from the use of IT (i.e., the susceptibility of information processing controls to ineffective design or operation, or risks to the integrity of information).

The extent of the auditor's understanding of the IT processes, including the extent to which the entity has general IT controls in place, will vary with the nature and the circumstances of the entity and its IT environment, as well as based on the nature and extent of controls identified by the auditor. The number of IT applications that are subject to risks arising from the use of IT also will vary based on these factors. General IT controls support the continued proper operation of the IT environment, including the continued effective functioning of information processing controls and the integrity of information.

Deficiencies Within the Entity's System of Internal Control

6.3.14 The auditor shall determine whether one or more deficiencies have been identified in the entity's system of internal control and, if so, whether, individually or in combination, they constitute significant deficiencies.

In understanding the entity's system of internal control, the auditor may determine that certain of the entity's policies or procedures are not appropriate to the nature and circumstances of the entity. Such a determination may be an indicator that assists the auditor in identifying deficiencies in internal control. If the auditor has identified one or more deficiencies, the auditor may consider the effect of those deficiencies on the identification and assessment of risks of material misstatement and on the design of further audit procedures.

The auditor uses professional judgment in determining whether a deficiency represents a significant deficiency in internal control.

6.4. Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement

Risks of material misstatement are identified and assessed by the auditor 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 at an acceptably low level of audit risk.

6.4.1 The auditor shall identify and assess the risks of material misstatement, due to fraud or error, at:

(a) The financial statement level. In doing so, the auditor shall determine whether they affect risks at the assertion level and consider the nature and extent of the pervasive effect of identified risks on the financial statements; and

(b) The assertion level for classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures. In doing so, the auditor shall:

(i) Determine the relevant assertions and related significant classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures; and

(ii) Assess inherent risk for identified risks of material misstatement at the assertion level by assessing the likelihood and magnitude of misstatement.

Financial Statement Level Risks

Risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level refer to risks that relate pervasively to the financial statements as a whole, and potentially affect many assertions. Risks of this nature are not necessarily risks related to specific assertions at the class of transactions, account balance or disclosure level (e.g., risk of management override of controls).

Assertion Level Risks

In identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement, the auditor uses assertions to consider the different types of potential misstatements that may occur. Appendix 5 sets out assertions that may be used by the auditor in considering different types of misstatements at the assertion level.

An assertion about a class of transactions, account balance or disclosure is a relevant assertion when it has an identified risk of material misstatement. The determination of whether an assertion is a relevant assertion is made before consideration of any related controls (i.e., the inherent risk) and is based on the auditor's consideration of misstatements that have a reasonable possibility of both occurring (i.e., likelihood), and being material if they were to occur (i.e., magnitude). Significant classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures are those for which there is one or more relevant assertions. Determining relevant assertions and the significant classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures provides a basis for the identification and assessment of risks of material misstatement.

Assessing Inherent Risk

The assessed inherent risk for a particular risk of material misstatement at the assertion level represents a judgment within a range, from lower to higher, on the spectrum of inherent risk.

In assessing inherent risk, the auditor uses professional judgment in determining the significance of the combination of the likelihood and magnitude of a misstatement on the spectrum of inherent risk. The judgment about where in the range inherent risk is assessed may vary based on the nature, size or circumstances of the entity, and takes into account the assessed likelihood and magnitude of the misstatement.

In considering the likelihood of a misstatement, the auditor considers the possibility that a misstatement may occur. In considering the magnitude of a misstatement, the auditor considers the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the possible misstatement (i.e., misstatements in assertions about classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures may be judged to be material due to nature, size or circumstances).

When assessing inherent risk, factors relating to the preparation of information required by the applicable financial reporting framework that affect the susceptibility of assertions to misstatement may include:

- *Complexity;*
- *Subjectivity;*
- *Change;*
- *Uncertainty (for accounting estimates this is estimation uncertainty); or*
- *Susceptibility to misstatement due to management bias or other fraud risk factors insofar as they affect inherent risk.*

The presence of these factors may give rise to higher inherent risk and may be an indication that the SA for LCE is not appropriate for the audit.

When risks of material misstatement relate more pervasively to the financial statements as a whole, and potentially affect many assertions, the risks of material misstatement are assessed at the financial statement level. When assessing risk at the assertion level, the auditor considers the degree to which the risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level affects the assessment of inherent risks for risks of material misstatement at the assertion level.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement, the results of the engagement team discussion and any inquiries relating to fraud and going concern are relevant.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

In exercising professional judgment as to the assessment of the risk of material misstatement, public sector auditors may consider the complexity of the regulations and directives, and the risks of non-compliance with authorities.

6.4.2 In identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement due to fraud, the auditor shall, based on a presumption that there are risks of fraud in revenue recognition, evaluate which types of revenue, revenue transactions, or assertions give rise to such risks.

When identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement due to fraud, the auditor may consider whether unusual or unexpected relationships have been identified in performing analytical procedures, including those related to revenue accounts.

The presumption that there are risks of fraud in revenue recognition may be rebutted. For example, the auditor may conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, that there is no risk of material misstatement due to fraud relating to revenue recognition in the case where there is a single type of simple revenue transaction, for example, leasehold revenue from a single rental property.

6.4.3 In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement relating to an accounting estimate and related disclosure at the assertion level, the auditor shall consider the degree to which the accounting estimate is subject to estimation uncertainty, and the degree to which the following are affected by complexity, subjectivity, change or management bias:

(a) The selection and application of the method, the assumptions and data used; and

(b) The selection of management's point estimate and related disclosures.

Significant Risks

6.4.4 The auditor shall determine whether any of the assessed risks of material misstatement are, in the auditor's professional judgment, a significant risk.

The determination of which of the assessed risks of material misstatement are close to the upper end of the spectrum of inherent risk, and are therefore significant risks, is a matter of professional judgment, unless the risk is of a type specified to be treated as a significant risk as set out in paragraph 6.4.6. Being close to the upper end of the spectrum of inherent risk will differ from entity to entity, and will not necessarily be the same for an entity period on period. It may depend on the nature and circumstances of the entity for which the risk is being assessed.

6.4.5 The auditor shall determine whether the assessed risks associated with related party relationships and transactions, and assessed risks relating to accounting estimates are significant risks.

6.4.6 The auditor shall treat the following as significant risks:

(a) Risk of material misstatement from management override of controls;

(b) Any other risks of material misstatement due to fraud, including risks that the auditor identified in accordance with paragraph 6.4.2; or

(c) Identified significant related party transactions outside the entity's normal course of business.

Although the level of risk of management override of controls will vary from entity to entity, the risk is nevertheless present in all entities. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, it is a risk of material misstatement due to fraud and therefore a significant risk.

Assessing Control Risk

6.4.7 The auditor shall assess control risk if:

(a) The auditor has determined that substantive procedures alone cannot provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence for any of the risks of material misstatement at the assertion level; or

(b) The auditor otherwise plans to test the operating effectiveness of controls.

Otherwise, the assessed risk of material misstatement is the same as the assessment of inherent risk.

The auditor's plans to test the operating effectiveness of controls is based on the expectation that controls are operating effectively, and this will form the basis of the auditor's assessment of control risk.

The initial expectation of the operating effectiveness of controls is based on the auditor's evaluation of the design, and the determination of implementation, of the controls identified in paragraphs 6.3.12. and 6.3.13. (b). Once the auditor has tested the operating effectiveness of the controls in accordance with Part 7, the auditor will be able to confirm the initial expectation about the operating effectiveness of controls. If the controls are not operating effectively as expected, then the auditor will need to revise the control risk assessment.

The auditor's assessment of control risk may be performed in different ways depending on preferred audit techniques or methodologies, and may be expressed in different ways. The control risk assessment may be expressed using qualitative categories (for example, control risk assessed as maximum, moderate, minimum) or in terms of the auditor's expectation of how effective the control(s) is in addressing the identified risk, that is, the planned reliance on the effective operation of controls. For example, if control risk is assessed as maximum, the auditor contemplates no reliance on the effective operation of controls. If control risk is assessed at less than maximum, the auditor contemplates reliance on the effective operation of controls.

Where routine business transactions are subject to highly automated processing with little or no manual intervention, it may not be possible to perform only substantive procedures in relation to the risk. This may be the case in circumstances where a significant amount of an entity's information is initiated, recorded, processed, or reported only in electronic form. In such cases:

- *The sufficiency and appropriateness of audit evidence usually depend on the effectiveness of controls over its accuracy and completeness.*
- *The potential for improper initiation or alteration of information to occur and not be detected may be greater if appropriate controls are not operating effectively.*

Evaluation of the Procedures to Identify and Assess Risks of Material Misstatement and Revision of Risk Assessment

6.4.8 The auditor shall evaluate whether the audit evidence obtained from procedures to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement provides an appropriate basis for the identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement. If not, the auditor shall perform additional procedures until audit evidence has been obtained to provide such a basis. In identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement, the auditor shall consider all audit evidence obtained from the procedures to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement, whether corroborative or contradictory to assertions made by management.

6.4.9 The auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement at the assertion level may change during the course of the audit as additional audit evidence is obtained. In circumstances where the auditor obtains audit evidence from performing further audit procedures, or if new information is obtained, either of which is inconsistent with the audit evidence on which the auditor originally based the assessment, the auditor shall revise the assessment and modify the further planned audit procedures accordingly.

6.4.10 The auditor shall remain alert throughout the audit for audit evidence of events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

If events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern are identified after the auditor's risk assessments are made, the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement may need to be revised.

6.5. Evaluation of the Appropriateness of Using the SA for LCE

6.5.1 Based on the procedures performed to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement, the engagement partner shall evaluate whether the SA for LCE continues to be appropriate for the nature and circumstances of the entity being audited.

The auditor's original determination to use the SA for LCE may change as new information or additional audit evidence is obtained when performing procedures to identify and assess risks of material misstatement. In circumstances where audit evidence, or new information, is obtained, which is inconsistent with the auditor's original determination for using the SA for LCE, the auditor may need to change the original determination to use the SA for LCE, and transition to using the Standards on Auditing or other applicable standards as appropriate.

6.6. Specific Communication Requirements

6.6.1 The auditor shall communicate with management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance, the significant risks identified by the auditor.

6.7. Specific Documentation Requirements

In addition to the general documentation requirements in Part 2.4 which apply throughout the audit engagement, specific matters to be documented relevant to this Part are described below.

The form and extent of documentation for the identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement may be simple and relatively brief, and is influenced by:

- *The nature, size and complexity of the entity and its system of internal control.*
- *Availability of information from the entity.*
- *The audit methodology and technology used in the course of the audit.*
- *It is not necessary to document the entirety of the auditor's understanding of the entity and matters related to it, but rather apply the principles in Part 2.4 and the matters noted below.*

6.7.1 The auditor shall include the following in the audit documentation:

(a) Key elements of the understanding obtained regarding each of the aspects of the entity and its environment, the applicable financial reporting framework, the entity's system of internal control, and the procedures performed to identify and assess risks of material misstatement;

(b) The names of the identified related parties (including changes from prior period) and the nature of the related party relationships;

(c) The identified and assessed risks of material misstatement, including risks due to fraud, at the financial statement level and at the assertion level, including significant risks and risks for which substantive procedures alone cannot provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence, and the rationale for the significant judgments made;

(d) If applicable, the reasons for the conclusion that there is not a risk of material misstatement due to fraud related to revenue recognition;

(e) The controls set out in paragraphs 6.3.12. and 6.3.13 and the evaluation whether the control is designed effectively and determination whether the control has been implemented; and

(f) For accounting estimates, key elements of the auditor's understanding of the accounting estimates, including controls as appropriate, the linkage of the assessed risks of material misstatements to the auditor's further procedures, and any indicators of management bias and how those were addressed.

6.7.2 The auditor shall document the basis for the evaluation about whether the SA for LCE continues to be appropriate for the nature and circumstances of the entity being audited.

7. Responding to Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement

Content of this Part

Part 7 contains content related to the:

- Design and implementation of overall responses to assessed risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level;
- Design and implementation of responses to the assessed risks of material misstatement at the assertion level (i.e., design and performance of further audit procedures). Further procedures include substantive procedures (tests of detail and substantive analytical procedures) and tests of controls (as appropriate), and are expanded on in this Part; and
- Procedures for specific topics when responding to assessed risks of material misstatement.

Scope of this Part

This Part sets out the specific requirements for obtaining audit evidence through responding to assessed risks of material misstatement. Part 2 also sets out the broad requirements for audit evidence. In complying with the requirements in this Part, the auditor may find it useful to refer to the following that set out relevant matters:

- Fraud – see Part 1.5.
- Laws and regulations – see Part 1.6.
- Related parties – see Part 1.7.
- Information to be used as audit evidence – see Part 2.3.

7.1 Objectives

7.1.1. The objectives of the auditor are to:

(a) Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement, through designing and implementing responses to those risks;

(b) Respond appropriately to risks of material misstatement arising from fraud or suspected fraud;

(c) Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding management's use of the going concern assumption and related disclosures; and

(d) Respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with law or regulation that have been identified during the audit.

7.2 Audit Procedures Responsive to the Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement at the Financial Statement Level

7.2.1. The auditor shall design and implement overall responses to address the assessed risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level, whether due to fraud or error.

The auditor's overall responses at the financial statement level, for example, making general changes to the nature, timing or extent of audit procedures, or adjustments to resources assigned or using experts, are based on those risks that relate pervasively to the financial statements as a whole. These may include, for example, risks arising from industry, regulatory and other external factors, or matters related broadly to the entity's basis of accounting or accounting policies.

In particular, the auditor's overall responses also are influenced by the auditor's understanding of the control environment. The control environment provides an overall foundation for the operation of the other aspects of the entity's system of internal control. Although the control environment does not directly prevent, or detect and correct misstatements, it may influence the effectiveness of other controls in the system of internal control. Therefore, an effective control environment may allow the auditor to have more confidence in internal control and the reliability of audit evidence generated internally within the entity.

Deficiencies that have been identified in the control environment when obtaining an understanding of the entity's system of internal control, however, have the opposite effect and may result in the need for more extensive audit evidence from substantive procedures. A weak control environment also impacts the work that may be undertaken at an interim period.

7.2.2. In determining overall responses to address the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud at the financial statement level, the auditor shall:

(a) Evaluate whether the selection and application of accounting policies by the entity, particularly those related to subjective measurements, may be indicative of fraudulent financial reporting resulting from management's effort to manage earnings; and

(b) Incorporate an element of unpredictability in the selection of the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures.

Incorporating an element of unpredictability may be achieved by, for example:

- *Performing substantive procedures on selected account balances and assertions not otherwise tested due to their materiality or risk.*
- *Adjusting the timing of audit procedures from that otherwise expected.*
- *Using different sampling methods.*
- *Performing audit procedures at different locations or at locations on an unannounced basis.*

Considerations When There Are Members of the Engagement Team Other Than the Engagement Partner

7.2.3. In determining overall responses to address the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud at the financial statement level, the auditor shall assign and supervise personnel taking account of the knowledge, skill, and ability of the individuals to be given significant engagement responsibilities and the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud for the engagement.

7.3 Audit Procedures Responsive to the Assessed Risks of Material Misstatement at the Assertion Level

7.3.1. The auditor shall design and perform further audit procedures whose nature, timing and extent are based on, and responsive to, assessed risks, whether due to fraud or error, at the assertion level.

Further audit procedures comprise tests of controls and substantive procedures. The auditor may choose to perform tests of controls or they may be required in specific circumstances (see paragraph 7.3.2.(d)). Substantive procedures include tests of details and substantive analytical procedures.

Further audit procedures are responsive to the assessed risk of material misstatement at the assertion level, and provide a clear linkage between the auditor's further procedures and the risk assessment. If the assessed risks of material misstatement are due to fraud risks at the assertion level, the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures may need to be changed to obtain audit evidence that is more relevant and reliable or to obtain additional corroborative information.

The auditor need not design and perform further audit procedures where the assessment of the risk of material misstatement is below the acceptably low level. However, as required by paragraph 7.3.14 irrespective of the assessed risk, the auditor shall perform substantive procedures for each material class of transactions, account balance, and disclosure.

7.3.2. In designing the further audit procedures, the auditor shall:

(a) Consider the reasons for the assessment given to the risk of material misstatement at the assertion level for each significant class of transactions, account balance, or disclosure, including:

(i) The likelihood and magnitude of misstatement due to the characteristics of the significant class of transactions, account balance, or disclosure (that is, the inherent risk); and

(ii) Whether the risk assessment takes account of controls that address the risk of material misstatements (that is, the control risk), thereby requiring the auditor to obtain audit evidence to determine whether the controls are operating effectively (where the auditor plans to test the operating effectiveness of controls in determining the nature, timing and extent of substantive procedures);

(b) Obtain more persuasive audit evidence the higher the auditor's assessment of risk;

(c) In designing and performing tests of controls, obtain more persuasive audit evidence the greater the reliance the auditor places on the operating effectiveness of controls; and

(d) If the auditor intends to test the operating effectiveness of controls or when substantive procedures alone cannot provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence at the assertion level, design and perform tests of controls, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence as to the operating effectiveness of such controls.

In some audits, the auditor may not be able to identify many controls, or the extent of documentation prepared by the entity to which they exist or operate may be limited. In such cases, it may be more efficient for the auditor to perform further audit procedures that are primarily substantive procedures.

When obtaining more persuasive audit evidence because of a higher assessment of risk, the auditor may increase the quantity of the evidence, or obtain evidence that is more relevant or reliable, for example, by placing more emphasis on obtaining third party evidence or by obtaining corroborating evidence from a number of independent sources.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

For the audits of public sector entities, the audit mandate and any other special auditing requirements may affect the auditor's consideration of the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures.

7.3.3. When designing tests of controls and tests of details, the auditor shall determine the means of selecting items for testing that are effective in meeting the purpose of the audit procedure.

Tests of Controls

7.3.4. In designing and performing tests of controls, the auditor shall perform audit procedures in combination with inquiry to obtain audit evidence about the operating effectiveness of controls, including:

(a) How the controls were applied at relevant times during the period;

(b) The consistency with which they were applied; and

(c) By whom or by what means they were applied.

7.3.5. The auditor shall determine whether the controls to be tested depend on other controls (indirect controls), and, if so, consider whether it is necessary to obtain evidence about the effective operation of the indirect controls.

7.3.6. The auditor shall test controls for the period of time, or throughout the period, for which the auditor intends to rely on those controls in order to provide an appropriate basis for the auditor's reliance.

7.3.7. If the auditor obtains audit evidence about the operating effectiveness of controls in the interim period, the auditor shall obtain additional audit evidence about any subsequent significant changes and determine the additional audit evidence to be obtained for the remaining period.

7.3.8. If the auditor intends to use audit evidence about the operating effectiveness of controls obtained in previous periods, the auditor shall:

(a) Consider:

(i) The effectiveness of the system of internal control;

(ii) The risks from the characteristics of the control (e.g., manual or automated);

(iii) The effectiveness of general IT controls;

(iv) The effectiveness of the control and its application by the entity;

(v) Whether the lack of a change in a particular control poses a risk due to changing circumstances; and

(vi) The risk of material misstatement and the extent of reliance on the control planned; and

(b) Establish the continuing relevance of that evidence by obtaining audit evidence about whether significant changes in those controls have occurred subsequent to the previous audit. If there have been significant changes the auditor shall test the control in the current period, otherwise at least once every third audit.

7.3.9. If the auditor intends to rely on a control that is a control over a significant risk, the auditor shall test the control in the current period.

In selecting items for testing, the auditor is required by paragraph 2.3.1 to determine the relevance and reliability of information to be used as audit evidence; the other aspect of effectiveness (sufficiency) is an important consideration in selecting items to test. The means available to the auditor for selecting items for testing are selecting all items (100% examination), selecting specific items and audit sampling.

7.3.10. When evaluating the operating effectiveness of controls upon which the auditor intends to rely, the auditor shall evaluate whether misstatements that have been detected by substantive procedures indicate that controls are not operating effectively. The absence of misstatements detected by substantive procedures, however, does not provide audit evidence that controls related to the assertion being tested are effective.

7.3.11. If deviations from controls upon which the auditor intends to rely are detected, the auditor shall make specific inquiries to understand these matters and their potential consequences, and shall determine whether:

(a) The tests of controls provide an appropriate basis for reliance on the controls;

(b) Additional tests of control are necessary; or

(c) The risks of material misstatement need to be addressed using substantive procedures.

Substantive Procedures

7.3.12. The auditor's substantive procedures shall include substantive procedures specifically responsive to significant risks. When the response to a significant risk consists only of substantive procedures, those procedures shall include tests of details.

7.3.13. The auditor's substantive procedures shall include audit procedures related to the financial statement closing process, including:

(a) Agreeing or reconciling information in the financial statements with the underlying accounting records, including agreeing or reconciling information in disclosures, whether such information is obtained from within or outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers; and

(b) Examining material journal entries and other adjustments made during the course of preparing the financial statements.

7.3.14. Irrespective of the assessed risks, substantive procedures shall be performed for each material class of transactions, account balance, and disclosure.

Paragraph 7.3.1 requires the auditor to design and perform further audit procedures whose nature, timing and extent are based on, and responsive to assessed risks of material misstatement at the assertion level. Because of this, substantive procedures may have already been performed for significant classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures.

Not all assertions within a material class of transactions, account balance or disclosure are required to be tested. Rather, in designing the substantive procedures to be performed, the auditor's consideration of the assertion(s) in which, if a misstatement were to occur, there is a reasonable possibility of the misstatement being material, may assist in identifying the appropriate nature, timing and extent of the procedures to be performed.

7.3.15. If the auditor performed substantive procedures at an interim date, the auditor shall cover the remaining period by performing:

(a) Substantive procedures, combined with tests of controls for the intervening period; or

(b) If the auditor determines that it is sufficient, further substantive procedures only, that provide a reasonable basis for extending the audit conclusions from the interim date to the period end.

Substantive Analytical Procedures

7.3.16. If the auditor uses substantive analytical procedures to obtain audit evidence, the auditor shall:

(a) Determine the suitability of the substantive analytical procedure for the purpose of the test and for the given assertion(s);

(b) Evaluate the reliability of data from which the auditor's expectation of recorded amounts or ratios is developed, taking account of source, comparability, and nature and relevance of information available, and controls over its preparation;

(c) Develop an expectation of recorded amounts or ratios and evaluate whether the expectation is sufficiently precise to identify material misstatements;

(d) Determine the amount of any difference of recorded amounts from expected values that is acceptable without further investigation being required; and

(e) Investigate fluctuations or relationships that are inconsistent with other relevant information or that differ from expected values by a significant amount by inquiring of management and obtaining appropriate audit evidence relevant to management's responses and performing additional audit procedures as necessary in the circumstances.

Substantive analytical procedures are generally more applicable to large volumes of transactions that tend to be predictable over time. The application of planned analytical procedures is based on the expectation that relationships among data exist and continue in the absence of known conditions to the contrary. However, the suitability of a particular analytical procedure will depend upon the auditor's assessment of how effective it will be in detecting a misstatement that, individually or when aggregated with other misstatements, may cause the financial statements to be materially misstated.

The auditor's determination of the amount of difference from the expectation that can be accepted without further investigation is influenced by materiality, taking account of the possibility that a misstatement, individually or when aggregated with other misstatements, may cause the financial statements to be materially misstated. As the assessed risk increases, the amount of difference considered acceptable without investigation decreases in order to achieve the desired level of persuasive evidence.

Automated Tools and Techniques

Analytical procedures can be performed using a number of tools or techniques, which may also be automated. The evolution of technology, coupled with the increase in number and variety of sources of data, may create more opportunities for the auditor to use ATT in performing substantive analytical procedures.

There are countless information sources available (e.g., social media, free access information sources) to the auditor, and some are more reliable than others. The use of ATT to perform substantive analytical procedures allows the auditor to incorporate information from more sources both internal and external to the entity and also to use much greater volumes of data in the analyses. Nonetheless, the auditor's responsibility for addressing the reliability of data used in substantive analytical procedures is unchanged.

Audit Sampling

7.3.17. If the auditor uses audit sampling when responding to assessed risks of material misstatement as a means for selecting items for testing, the auditor shall:

(a) Consider the purpose of the audit procedures and the characteristics of the population from which the sample will be drawn.

(b) Determine a sample size sufficient to reduce sampling risk to an acceptably low level.

(c) Select items in a way that each sampling unit in the population has a chance of selection.

(d) Perform audit procedures, appropriate to the purpose, on each item selected. If the procedure is not applicable to the selected item, the auditor shall perform the procedure on a replacement item. If the auditor is unable to apply the designed audit procedures, or suitable alternative procedures, to a selected item, the auditor shall treat that item as a deviation from the prescribed control (in the case of tests of controls) or a misstatement (in the case of tests of details).

(e) Investigate the nature and cause of any deviations or misstatements identified and evaluate their possible effect on the purpose of the audit procedure and on other areas of the audit.

Sample Design

When designing an audit sample, the auditor's considerations may include:

- *The purpose of the test, the combination of audit procedures that is likely to best achieve the purpose, what items to select to meet the purpose and the assertion being addressed.*
- *The nature of the audit evidence sought and the possible deviation or misstatement*

conditions or other characteristics relating to that audit evidence will assist the auditor in defining what constitutes a deviation or misstatement and what population to use for sampling.

The auditor's considerations of the characteristics of a population may include:

- *Whether the population of items to be tested is appropriate to achieve the test objectives. Sampling will not identify or test items that are not already included within the population. For example, a sample of receivable balances may be used to test the existence of receivables, but such a population would not be appropriate for testing the completeness of receivables.*
- *The size of the population. In some cases, a statistical conclusion may not be drawn if the population to be tested is too small to sample.*

Audit sampling can be applied using either non-statistical or statistical sampling approaches. Statistical conclusions can be drawn from statistical samples. Non-statistical samples may be used in combination with other audit procedures that address the same assertion.

Sample Size

The level of sampling risk that the auditor is willing to accept affects the sample size required. The lower the risk the auditor is willing to accept, the greater the sample size will need to be. Appendix 6 includes examples of factors influencing the sample size for tests of controls and test of details.

Selection of Items for Testing

With statistical sampling, sample items are selected in a way that each sampling unit has a known probability of being selected. With non-statistical sampling, judgment is used to select sample items. It is important that the auditor selects a representative sample, so that bias is avoided, by choosing sample items which have characteristics typical of the population.

The principal methods of selecting samples are the use of random selection, systematic selection and haphazard selection.

7.3.18. In the extremely rare circumstances when the auditor considers a misstatement or deviation discovered in a sample to be an anomaly, the auditor shall obtain a high degree of certainty that such misstatement or deviation is not representative of the population. The auditor shall obtain this degree of certainty by performing additional audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that the misstatement or deviation does not affect the remainder of the population.

7.3.19. For tests of details, the auditor shall project misstatements found in the sample to the population.

A misstatement that has been established to be an anomaly need not be projected across the remaining population.

7.3.20. The auditor shall evaluate:

(a) The results of the sample; and

(b) Whether the use of audit sampling has provided a reasonable basis for conclusions about the population that has been tested.

For tests of controls, an unexpectedly high sample deviation rate may lead to an increase in the assessed risk of material misstatement, unless further audit evidence substantiating the initial assessment is obtained. For tests of details, an unexpectedly high misstatement amount in a sample may cause the auditor to believe that a class of transactions or account balance is materially misstated, in the absence of further audit evidence that no material misstatement exists. Also, in the case of tests of details, the projected misstatement plus anomalous misstatement, if any, is the auditor's best estimate of misstatement in the population.

If the auditor concludes that audit sampling has not provided a reasonable basis for conclusions about the population that has been tested, the auditor may:

- *Request management to investigate misstatements that have been identified and the potential for further misstatements and to make any necessary adjustments; or*
- *Tailor the nature, timing and extent of those further audit procedures to best achieve the required assurance. For example, in the case of tests of controls, the auditor might extend the sample size, test an alternative control or modify related substantive procedures.*

External Confirmations

7.3.21. The auditor shall consider whether external confirmation procedures are to be performed as substantive procedures.

External confirmation procedures frequently are relevant when addressing assertions associated with account balances and their elements, but need not be restricted to these items. For example, the auditor may request external confirmation of the terms of agreements, contracts, or transactions between an entity and other parties. External confirmation procedures also may be performed to obtain audit evidence about the absence of certain conditions.

7.3.22. When using external confirmation procedures, the auditor shall maintain control over:

(a) Determining the information to be confirmed or requested and selecting the appropriate confirming party;

(b) Designing the confirmation requests, including determining that requests are properly addressed and contain return information for responses to be sent directly to the auditor; and

(c) Sending the requests, including follow-up requests when applicable, to the confirming party.

7.3.23. If management refuses to allow the auditor to send a confirmation request, the auditor shall:

(a) Inquire as to management's reasons for the refusal, and seek audit evidence as to their validity and reasonableness;

(b) Evaluate the implications of management's refusal on the auditor's assessment of the relevant risks of material misstatement, including the risk of fraud, and on the nature, timing and extent of other audit procedures; and

(c) Perform alternative audit procedures designed to obtain relevant and reliable audit evidence.

7.3.24. If the auditor concludes that management's refusal to allow the auditor to send a confirmation request is unreasonable, or the auditor is unable to obtain relevant and reliable audit evidence from alternative audit procedures, the auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance. The auditor also shall determine the implications for the audit and the auditor's opinion.[9]

7.3.25. If the auditor identifies factors that give rise to doubts about the reliability of the response to a confirmation request, the auditor shall obtain further audit evidence to resolve those doubts. If the auditor determines that a response to a confirmation request is not reliable, the auditor shall evaluate the implications on the assessment of the relevant risks of material misstatement, including the risk of fraud, and on the related nature, timing, and extent of other audit procedures.

7.3.26. In the case of each non-response, the auditor shall perform alternative audit procedures to obtain relevant and reliable audit evidence.

7.3.27. The auditor shall investigate exceptions to determine whether they are indicative of misstatements.

7.3.28. The auditor shall evaluate whether the results of the external confirmation procedures, if any, provide relevant and reliable audit evidence, or whether further audit evidence is necessary.

7.4 Specific Focus Areas

Going Concern

The auditor's responsibilities are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding, and conclude:

- *On the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements; and*
- *Based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.*

These responsibilities exist even if the financial reporting framework used in the preparation of the financial statements does not include an explicit requirement for management to make a specific assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

7.4.1. The auditor shall evaluate management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.[10]

In accordance with the requirements of this Part, the auditor needs to evaluate management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. In many cases, the management of less complex entities may not have prepared a detailed assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, but instead may rely on in-depth knowledge of the business and anticipated future prospects. In such cases, it may be appropriate to discuss

[9] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.14.

[10] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.17.

the medium- and long-term financing of the entity with management, provided that management's plans can be corroborated by sufficient documentary evidence and are consistent with the auditor's understanding of the entity. Therefore, the auditor's evaluation of going concern, for example, may be satisfied by discussion, inquiry and inspection of supporting documentation.

Continued support by owner-managers is often important to a less complex entity's ability to continue as a going concern. Where a LCE is largely financed by a loan from the owner-manager, it may be important that these funds are not withdrawn. Where an entity is dependent on additional support from the owner-manager, the auditor may evaluate the owner-manager's ability to meet the obligation under the support arrangement. In addition, the auditor may request written confirmation of the terms and conditions attaching to such support and the owner-manager's intention or understanding.

7.4.2. In evaluating management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor shall:

(a) Cover the same period as used by management, as required by the applicable financial reporting framework. If that period is less than twelve months from the date of the financial statements, the auditor shall ask management to extend the period. If management does not make or extend its assessment, the auditor shall consider the implications for the auditor's report. [11]

(b) Consider whether management's assessment includes all relevant information of which the auditor is aware of as a result of the audit.

The auditor also remains alert to the possibility that there are known events, scheduled or otherwise, or conditions that will occur beyond the period of assessment used by management that may bring into question management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. The further into the future the events or conditions are, the more significant the going concern issues need to be before the auditor takes further action.

7.4.3. The auditor shall inquire of management as to its knowledge of events or conditions beyond the period of management's assessment that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

7.4.4. If events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to determine whether a material uncertainty exists through performing additional procedures, including consideration of mitigating factors. These procedures shall include:

(a) Where management has not yet performed an assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, requesting management to make its assessment.

(b) Evaluating management's plans for future actions in relation to its going concern assessment, whether the outcome of these plans is likely to improve the situation, and whether management's plans are feasible in the circumstances.

[11] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.20.

(c) Where the entity has prepared a cash flow forecast, and analysis of the forecast is a significant factor in considering the future outcome of events or conditions in the evaluation of management's plans for future actions:

(i) Evaluating the reliability of the underlying data generated to prepare the forecast; and

(ii) Determining whether there is adequate support for the assumptions underlying the forecast.

(d) Considering whether any additional facts or information have become available since the date on which management made its assessment.

A material uncertainty exists when the magnitude of its potential impact and likelihood of occurrence is such that, in the auditor's professional judgment, appropriate disclosure of the nature and implications of the uncertainty is, for a fair presentation framework, necessary for the fair presentation of the financial statements or, for a compliance framework, necessary for the financial statements not to be misleading.

7.4.5. If there is significant delay in the approval of the financial statements by management or those charged with governance after the date of the financial statements, the auditor shall inquire as to the reasons for the delay. If the auditor believes that the delay could be related to events or conditions relating to the going concern assessment, the auditor shall perform additional audit procedures as necessary, as well as consider the effect on the auditor's conclusion regarding the existence of a material uncertainty.

Management Override of Controls

7.4.6. The auditor shall design and perform audit procedures to:

(a) Test the appropriateness of manual and automated journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements, including:

(i) Making inquiries of individuals involved in the financial reporting process about inappropriate or unusual activity relating to the processing of journal entries and other adjustments;

(ii) Selecting journal entries and other adjustments made at the end of a reporting period; and

(iii) Considering the need to test journal entries and other adjustments throughout the period.

(b) Review accounting estimates for biases and evaluate whether the circumstances producing the bias, if any, represent a risk of material misstatement due to fraud. In performing the review, the auditor shall:

(i) Evaluate whether the judgments and decisions made by management indicate a possible bias on the part of the entity's management, even if they are individually reasonable, that may represent a risk of material misstatement due to fraud. If so, the auditor shall reevaluate the accounting estimates taken as a whole; and

(ii) Perform a retrospective review of management judgments and assumptions related to significant accounting estimates reflected in the financial statements of the prior year.

(c) For significant unusual transactions outside the normal course of business for the entity or that otherwise appear to be unusual, evaluate whether the business rationale (or the lack thereof) of the transactions suggests that they may have been entered into to engage in fraudulent financial reporting or to conceal misappropriation of assets.

(d) Respond to the identified risks of management override of controls to the extent not already addressed by (a) to (c).

Although the level of risk of management override of controls will vary from entity to entity, the risk is nevertheless present in all entities. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, it is a risk of material misstatement due to fraud and therefore a significant risk.

Material misstatement of financial statements due to fraud often involves the manipulation of the financial reporting process by recording inappropriate or unauthorized journal entries. This may occur throughout the year or at period end, or both, or by management making adjustments to amounts reported in the financial statements that are not reflected in journal entries, such as through reclassifications.

Automated Tools and Techniques

In manual general ledger systems, non-standard journal entries may be identified through inspection of ledgers, journals, and supporting documentation. When automated procedures are used to maintain the general ledger and prepare financial statements, such entries may exist only in electronic form and may therefore be more easily identified through the use of ATT.

Related Parties

7.4.7. The auditor shall design and perform further audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the assessed risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions, including inspecting:

(a) Bank and legal confirmations obtained as part of the auditor's procedures;

(b) Minutes of meetings of shareholders and of those charged with governance; and

(c) Such other records or documents as the auditor considers necessary in the circumstances of the entity.

7.4.8. If the auditor identifies arrangements or information that suggests the existence of related party relationships or transactions that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor, the auditor shall determine whether the underlying circumstances confirm the existence of those relationships or transactions.

7.4.9. If the auditor identifies related parties or significant related party transactions that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor, the auditor shall:

(a) Where the applicable financial reporting framework establishes related party requirements:

(i) Request management to identify all transactions with the newly identified related parties for the auditor's further evaluation;

(ii) Inquire as to why the entity's controls over related party relationships and transactions failed to enable the identification or disclosure of the related party relationships or transactions;

(b) Perform appropriate substantive audit procedures for such newly identified related parties or significant related party transactions;

(c) Reconsider the risk that other related parties or significant related party transactions may exist that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor, and perform additional audit procedures as necessary; and

(d) If the non-disclosure by management appears intentional (and therefore indicative of a risk of material misstatement due to fraud), evaluate the implications for the audit.

Considerations When There Are Members of the Engagement Team Other Than the Engagement Partner

7.4.10. If the auditor identifies related parties or significant related party transactions that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor, the auditor shall promptly communicate the relevant information to the other members of the engagement team.

7.4.11. For identified significant related party transactions outside of the entity's normal course of business the auditor shall:

(a) Inspect the underlying contracts or agreements, if any, and evaluate whether:

(i) The business rationale (or lack thereof) of the transactions suggests that they may have been entered into to engage in fraudulent financial reporting or to conceal misappropriation of assets;

(ii) The terms of transactions are consistent with management's explanations; and

(iii) The transactions have been appropriately accounted for, presented and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

(b) Obtain audit evidence that transactions have been appropriately authorized and approved.

7.4.12. If the auditor identifies significant transactions outside the entity's normal course of business, the auditor shall inquire of management about the nature of these transactions and whether related parties could be involved.

7.4.13. If management has made an assertion in the financial statements to the effect that a related party transaction was conducted on terms equivalent to those prevailing in an arm's length transaction, the auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the assertion.

Accounting Estimates

7.4.14. The auditor shall design and perform further audit procedures related to accounting estimates to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement at the assertion level, including for related disclosures.

7.4.15. The auditor's further audit procedures to respond to assessed risks of material misstatement at the assertion level relating to an accounting estimate shall include one or more of the following approaches:

(a) Obtaining audit evidence from events occurring up to the date of the auditor's report (see paragraph 7.4.16).

(b) Testing how management made the accounting estimate (see paragraphs 7.4.17–7.4.18).

(c) Developing an auditor's point estimate or range (see paragraph 7.4.19).

Given the nature of many accounting estimates for an LCE, the final outcome of an accounting estimate may be known before the date of the auditor's report. In these circumstances, audit evidence obtained from events occurring up to the date of the auditor's report may provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence to address the assessed risks of material misstatement. For some accounting estimates, however, events occurring up to the date of the auditor's report may not provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether the accounting estimate is reasonable or misstated (e.g., when events or conditions develop only over an extended period). In these circumstances, the auditor's further audit procedures include the approaches in (b) or (c).

Obtaining Audit Evidence from Events Occurring Up to the Date of the Auditor's Report.

7.4.16. When the auditor's further audit procedures include obtaining audit evidence from events occurring up to the date of the auditor's report, the auditor shall evaluate whether the audit evidence is sufficient and appropriate, taking into account any changes in circumstances and other relevant conditions between the event and the measurement date that may affect the relevance of such evidence.

Testing How Management Made the Accounting Estimate

7.4.17. When testing how management made the accounting estimate, the auditor's further audit procedures shall address whether:

(a) The method selected is appropriate;

(b) The significant assumptions and data are consistent and appropriate, and their integrity maintained in applying the method;

(c) Changes from prior periods in the method, significant assumptions and data are appropriate;

(d) Management has the intent to carry out specific courses of actions;

(e) The judgments made in selecting the method, significant assumptions and data, give rise to indicators of possible management bias. When indicators of possible

management bias are identified, the auditor shall evaluate the implications for the audit. Where there is intention to mislead, management bias is fraudulent in nature;

(f) The data is relevant and reliable in the circumstances; and

(g) Calculations are mathematically accurate and whether judgements have been applied consistently.

Method, Significant Assumptions and Data

Relevant considerations for the auditor regarding the appropriateness of the method, significant assumptions and data in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework, and, if applicable, the appropriateness of changes from the prior period may include:

- *Management's rationale for the selection of the method, assumption and data;*
- *Whether the method, assumption and data are appropriate in the circumstances given the nature of the accounting estimate, the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, and the business, industry and environment in which the entity operates;*
- *Whether a change from prior periods in selecting a method, assumption or data is based on new circumstances or new information. When it is not, the change may not be reasonable nor in compliance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Arbitrary changes in an accounting estimate may give rise to material misstatements of the financial statements or may be an indicator of possible management bias.*
- *When management has determined that different methods result in a range of significantly different estimates, how management has investigated the reasons for these differences.*
- *Whether the significant assumptions are inconsistent with each other and with those used in other accounting estimates.*

7.4.18. The auditor's further audit procedures shall address whether, in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework, management has taken appropriate steps to understand estimation uncertainty and address estimation uncertainty by selecting appropriate point estimates and developing related disclosures. When management has not undertaken appropriate steps, the auditor shall:

(a) Request management to perform additional procedures to understand estimation uncertainty or to address it by reconsidering the selection of management's point estimate or considering providing additional disclosures related to the estimation uncertainty; and

(b) If the auditor determines that management's response to the auditor's request does not sufficiently address estimation uncertainty, to the extent practicable, develop an auditor's point estimate or range.

When the applicable financial reporting framework does not specify how to select a point estimate from among reasonably possible outcomes or does not require specific disclosures, the exercise of judgment by management is an important consideration for the auditor regarding the appropriateness of the point estimate selected and the related disclosures.

Matters that may be relevant for the auditor regarding management's disclosures about estimation uncertainty include the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, which may require disclosures:

- *That describe the amount as an accounting estimate and explain the nature and limitations of the process for making it; and*
- *About material accounting policy information related to accounting estimates, which may include significant or critical management judgments as well as significant forward-looking assumptions or other sources of estimation uncertainty.*

Developing an Auditor's Point Estimate or Range

7.4.19. When the auditor develops a point estimate or range to evaluate management's point estimate, the auditor's further audit procedures shall include audit procedures to:

(a) Evaluate whether the methods, assumptions or data used are appropriate in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework; and

(b) Determine that the range includes only amounts that are supported by sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

The auditor's decision as to whether to develop a point estimate rather than a range may depend on the nature of the accounting estimate and the auditor's professional judgment in the circumstances. For example, the nature of the accounting estimate may be such that there is expected to be less variability in the reasonably possible outcomes. In these circumstances, developing a point estimate may be an effective approach, particularly when it can be developed with a higher degree of precision.

The requirement for the auditor to determine that the range includes only amounts that are supported by sufficient appropriate audit evidence does not mean that the auditor is expected to obtain audit evidence to support each possible outcome in the range individually. Rather, the auditor is likely to obtain evidence to determine that the points at both ends of the range are reasonable in the circumstances, thereby supporting that amounts falling between those two points also are reasonable.

Inventory

7.4.20. If inventory is material to the financial statements, the auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the existence and condition of inventory by:

(a) Unless impracticable, attendance at physical inventory counting, to:

(i) Evaluate management's instructions and procedures for recording and controlling the results of the entity's physical inventory counting;

(ii) Observe the performance of management's count procedures;

(iii) Inspect the inventory; and

(iv) Perform test counts;

(b) Performing audit procedures over the entity's final inventory records to determine whether they accurately reflect actual inventory count results; and

(c) If the physical inventory counting is at a date other than the date of the financial statements, performing audit procedures to obtain audit evidence about whether changes in inventory between the count date and the date of the financial statements are properly recorded.

7.4.21. If the auditor has not attended the inventory count due to unforeseen circumstances, the auditor shall make or observe some physical counts on an alternative date, and perform audit procedures on intervening transactions. If attendance at physical inventory counting is impracticable, the auditor shall perform alternative audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the existence and condition of inventory, or if not possible, determine the effect on the auditor's report.[12]

In some cases, attendance at physical inventory counting may be impracticable. This may be due to factors such as the nature and location of the inventory, for example, where inventory is held in a location that may pose threats to the safety of the auditor. The matter of general inconvenience, difficulty, time, or cost involved, however, are not sufficient to support a decision by the auditor that attendance is impracticable. In some cases where attendance is impracticable, alternative audit procedures, for example, inspection of documentation of the subsequent sale of specific inventory items acquired or purchased prior to the physical inventory counting, may provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the existence and condition of inventory. In other cases, however, it may not be possible to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the existence and condition of inventory by performing alternative audit procedures. In such cases, the auditor is required to modify the opinion in the auditor's report as a result of the scope limitation.

7.4.22. If inventory under the custody and control of a third party is material to the financial statements, the auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the existence and condition of that inventory through confirmation as to the quantities and condition, or performing inspection or other audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances.

Litigation and Claims

7.4.23. The auditor shall design and perform further audit procedures in order to identify litigation and claims involving the entity which may give rise to a risk of material misstatement, including:

(a) Inquiry of management and, where applicable, others within the entity, including in-house legal counsel;

(b) Inspecting minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and correspondence between the entity and its external legal counsel; and

(c) Inspecting legal expense accounts.

7.4.24. If the auditor assesses a risk of material misstatement regarding litigation or claims that have been identified, or when audit procedures performed indicate that other material litigation or claims may exist, the auditor shall, in addition to the procedures required by

[12] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.15.

this standard, seek direct communication with the entity's external legal counsel. The auditor shall do so through a letter of inquiry, prepared by management and sent by the auditor, requesting the entity's external legal counsel to communicate directly with the auditor.[13]

7.4.25. The auditor shall modify the opinion in the auditor's report,[14] if:

(a) Management refuses to give the auditor permission to communicate or meet with the entity's external legal counsel, or the entity's external legal counsel refuses to respond appropriately to the letter of inquiry, or is prohibited from responding; and

(b) The auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence by performing alternative audit procedures.

Audit Procedures When Non-Compliance with Law or Regulation is Identified or Suspected

7.4.26. The auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with the provisions of those laws and regulations generally recognized to have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.[15]

7.4.27. If the auditor becomes aware of information concerning an instance of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws or regulations, the auditor shall:

(a) Understand the nature and circumstances, and obtain further information necessary to evaluate the possible effect on the financial statements;

(b) Discuss the non-compliance with management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance, unless prohibited to do so by law or regulation;

(c) If sufficient information about suspected non-compliance cannot be obtained, evaluate the effect of the lack of sufficient appropriate audit evidence on the auditor's opinion; and

(d) Evaluate the implications on other aspects of the audit, including the auditor's risk assessment and the reliability of written representations and take appropriate action.[16]

Using the Services of a Service Organization

7.4.28. If the entity is using the services of a service organization, the auditor shall:

(a) Determine whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence concerning the relevant financial statement assertions is available at the entity; and, if not,

(b) Perform further audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

To obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the following procedures may be considered by the auditor:

- *Inspect records and documents held by the user entity;*

[13] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.14.
[14] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.16.
[15] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.10.
[16] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraphs 9.5.11., 9.5.12. and 9.5.13.

- *Inspect records and documents held by the service organization;*
- *Obtain confirmations of balances and transactions from the service organization in instances where the user entity maintains its own independent records of balances and transactions.*

Using the Work of Management's Expert

7.4.29. If information to be used as audit evidence has been prepared using the work of management's expert, the auditor shall, having regard to the significance of that expert's work for the auditor's purpose, evaluate the appropriateness of the expert's work as audit evidence for the relevant assertion.

Considerations when evaluating the appropriateness of the management's expert's work may include:

- *The relevance and reasonableness of that expert's findings or conclusions, their consistency with other audit evidence, and whether they have been appropriately reflected in the financial statements;*
- *If that expert's work involves use of significant assumptions and methods, the relevance and reasonableness of those assumptions and methods;*
- *If that expert's work involves significant use of source data, the relevance, completeness, and accuracy of that source data; and*
- *If that expert's work involves the use of information from an external information source, the relevance and reliability of that information.*

Using the Work of an Auditor's Expert

7.4.30. When the auditor has determined to use the work of an auditor's expert, the auditor shall evaluate the adequacy of the auditor's expert's work, including:

(a) The relevance and reasonableness of that expert's findings or conclusions, and their consistency with other audit evidence;

(b) If that expert's work involves use of significant assumptions and methods, the relevance and reasonableness of those assumptions and methods in the circumstances; and

(c) If that expert's work involves the use of source data that is significant to that expert's work, the relevance, completeness, and accuracy of that source data.

7.4.31. If the auditor determines that the work of the auditor's expert is not adequate for the auditor's purposes, the auditor shall agree on further work to be done by that expert or perform additional audit procedures appropriate to the circumstances.

7.5 Accumulation of Misstatements

7.5.1. The auditor shall accumulate misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial.

Misstatements that are clearly trivial will be of a wholly different (smaller) order of magnitude, or of a wholly different nature than those that would be determined to be material, and will be misstatements that are clearly inconsequential, whether taken individually or in aggregate and whether judged by any criteria of nature, size or circumstances. When there is any uncertainty about whether one or more items are clearly trivial, the misstatement is considered not to be clearly trivial.

7.5.2. The auditor shall request management to correct all misstatements accumulated during the audit.

7.5.3. If, at the auditor's request, management has examined a class of transactions, account balance or disclosure and corrected misstatements that were detected, the auditor shall perform additional audit procedures to determine whether misstatements remain.

Such a request may be made, for example, based on the auditor's projection of misstatements identified in an audit sample to the entire population from which it was drawn.

7.5.4. If the auditor identifies a misstatement during the audit, the auditor shall evaluate whether the misstatement is indicative of fraud. If there is such an indication, the auditor shall determine the implications on other aspects of the audit, including on the identified and assessed risks of material misstatement and the reliability of management representations.

Since fraud involves incentive or pressure to commit fraud, a perceived opportunity to do so or some rationalization of the act, an instance of fraud is unlikely to be an isolated occurrence. Accordingly, misstatements, such as numerous misstatements even though the cumulative effect is not material, may be indicative of a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

7.5.5. If the auditor identifies a misstatement that may be the result of fraud, and suspects that management is involved, the auditor shall:

(a) Reevaluate the risks of material misstatement due to fraud and the auditor's responses thereto; or

(b) Consider whether circumstances or conditions indicate possible collusion involving employees, management or third parties when reconsidering the reliability of evidence previously obtained.

The implications of identified or suspected fraud depends on the circumstances. For example, an otherwise insignificant fraud may be significant if it involves senior management. In such circumstances, the reliability of evidence previously obtained may be called into question, since there may be doubts about the completeness and truthfulness of representations made and about the genuineness of accounting records and documentation. There may also be a possibility of collusion involving employees, management or third parties.

7.5.6. The auditor shall determine whether the scope, timing and direction of the audit needs to be revised if:

(a) The nature of identified misstatements and the circumstances of their occurrence indicate that other misstatements may exist that, when aggregated with misstatements accumulated during the audit, could be material; and

(b) The aggregate of misstatements accumulated during the audit approaches materiality.

7.6 Specific Communication Requirements

7.6.1. On a timely basis, the auditor shall communicate:

(a) To those charged with governance, in writing, significant deficiencies in the entity's system of internal control identified during the audit.

(b) To management:

(i) In writing, matters that have been communicated to those charged with governance (unless it would be inappropriate to communicate directly with management in the circumstances); and

(ii) Other deficiencies in internal control identified that have not been communicated but are of sufficient importance to merit management's attention.

7.6.2. In respect of communication of significant deficiencies to those charged with governance, the auditor shall include a description and explanation of the potential impact of the deficiencies, and sufficient information to understand the context of the communication.

In describing the context of the auditor's communication, the auditor may explain that:

- *The purpose of the audit was for the auditor to express an opinion on the financial statements;*
- *The audit included consideration of internal control relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control; and*
- *The matters being reported are limited to those deficiencies that the auditor has identified during the audit and that the auditor has concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported to those charged with governance.*

7.6.3. In communicating with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, the auditor shall consider if there are any matters to communicate regarding accounting estimates. In doing so, the auditor shall consider whether the reasons given to the risks of material misstatement relate to estimation uncertainty, or the effects of complexity, subjectivity, change, or management bias in making accounting estimates and related disclosures.

7.7 Specific Documentation Requirements

In addition to the general documentation requirements in Part 2.4 which apply throughout the audit engagement, specific matters to be documented relevant to this Part are described below.

7.7.1. The auditor shall include the following in the audit documentation:

(a) The overall responses to the assessed risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level;

(b) The linkage between the procedures performed and the assessed risks at the assertion level;

(c) The results of the audit procedures, including the conclusions where these are not otherwise clear;

(d) The results of audit procedures designed to address the risk of management override of controls;

(e) All misstatements accumulated during the audit and whether they have been corrected; and

(f) If the auditor plans to use audit evidence about the operating effectiveness of controls obtained in previous audits, the conclusions reached about relying on such controls that were tested in a previous audit.

7.7.2. Where the assessed risk of material misstatement is due to fraud, the auditor's documentation shall include the specific fraud response.

7.7.3. Where the auditor has identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, the auditor shall document:

(a) The results of discussion with management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance and others; including how the matter has been responded to; and

(b) The audit procedures performed, the significant professional judgments made, and the conclusions reached thereon.

7.7.4. In respect of accounting estimates, the auditor shall document significant judgments relating to the auditor's determination of whether the accounting estimates and related disclosures are reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework, or are misstated.

8. Concluding

Content of this Part

Part 8 sets out the requirements for:

- Evaluating corrected and uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit. Evaluating subsequent events.
- Concluding activities, including the related evaluations. Concluding on going concern and related disclosures.
- Obtaining written representations and performing concluding analytical procedures

Scope of this Part

The evaluations performed and the conclusions reached will form the basis for the auditor's opinion in Part 9.

8.1 Objectives

8.1.1. The objectives of the auditor are to:

(a) Evaluate, the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and the effect of any uncorrected misstatements on the financial statements;

(b) Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern; and

(c) Conclude on whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained on which to base the auditor's opinion.

8.2 Evaluation of Misstatements Identified During the Audit

8.2.1. If management refuses to correct some or all of the misstatements communicated by the auditor, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of management's reasons for not making the corrections and shall take that understanding into account when evaluating whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.

8.2.2. Prior to evaluating the effect of uncorrected misstatements, the auditor shall reassess materiality to confirm whether it remains appropriate in the context of the entity's actual financial results.

8.2.3. The auditor shall determine whether uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate, by considering the:

(a) Nature and size of the misstatements, both in relation to particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures and the financial statements as a whole, and the particular circumstances of their occurrence; and

(b) Effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole.

8.3 Analytical Procedures that Assist When Forming an Overall Conclusion

8.3.1. The auditor shall design and perform analytical procedures near the end of the audit that assist the auditor when forming an overall conclusion as to whether the financial statements are consistent with the auditor's understanding of the entity, and to identify any indications of a previously unidentified risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

8.3.2. The auditor shall investigate fluctuations or relationships that are inconsistent with other relevant information obtained during the course of the audit, by inquiring of management and performing other audit procedures as necessary in the circumstances.

8.4 Subsequent Events

Financial statements may be affected by certain events that occur after the date of the financial statements. Many financial reporting frameworks specifically refer to such events. Such financial reporting frameworks ordinarily identify two types of events:

- *Those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the date of the financial statements; and*
- *Those that provide evidence of conditions that arose after the date of the financial statements.*

The auditor is not, however, expected to perform additional procedures on matters to which previously applied audit procedures have provided satisfactory conclusions.

Events Occurring Between the Date of the Financial Statements and the Date of the Auditor's Report

8.4.1. The auditor shall perform audit procedures designed to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that all events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report that require adjustment of, or disclosure in, the financial statements have been identified.

8.4.2. The auditor shall perform those procedures in accordance with paragraph 8.4.1. for the period from the date of the financial statements to the date of the auditor's report, or as near as practicable thereto, including:

(a) Obtaining an understanding of any procedures management has established to ensure that subsequent events are identified.

(b) Inquiring of management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance, as to whether any subsequent events have occurred that may affect the financial statements.

(c) Reading minutes of meetings of the owners, management and those charged with governance held after the balance sheet date and inquiring about matters discussed at any such meetings for which minutes are not yet available.

(d) Reading the entity's monthly or quarterly financial information, if available.

8.4.3. If the auditor has identified events that require adjustment to the financial statements or disclosures therein to comply with the entity's applicable financial reporting framework

when performing the procedures in paragraphs 8.4.1. and 8.4.2, the auditor shall determine whether each such event is appropriately reflected in the financial statements.

Facts Which Become Known to the Auditor After the Date of the Auditor's Report but Before the Date the Financial Statements Are Issued

8.4.4. The auditor has no obligation to perform any audit procedures regarding the financial statements after the date of the auditor's report. However, if the auditor becomes aware of facts or events that, had it been known to the auditor at the date of the auditor's report but before the financial statements are issued, may have caused the auditor to amend the auditor's report, the auditor shall discuss with management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance, and determine whether the financial statements need amendment and, if so, inquire how management intends to address the matter.

8.4.5. If management amends the financial statements, the auditor shall carry out the audit procedures necessary in the circumstances on the amendment, including extending the audit procedures performed to the date of the new auditor's report and providing a new auditor's report on the amended financial statements.

8.4.6. Where management is not required by law, regulation or the financial reporting framework to issue amended financial statements, the auditor need not provide an amended or new auditor's report. However, if management does not amend the financial statements in circumstances where the auditor believes they need to be amended, then the auditor shall:

(a) If the auditor's report has not yet been provided to the entity modify the opinion and then provide the auditor's report;[17] or

(b) If the auditor's report has already been provided to the entity, notify management and those charged with governance not to issue the financial statements to third parties before the necessary amendments have been made. If the financial statements are nevertheless subsequently issued without the necessary amendments, the auditor shall take appropriate action to seek to prevent reliance on the auditor's report.

Facts Which Become Known to the Auditor After the Financial Statements Have Been Issued

8.4.7. After the financial statements have been issued, the auditor has no obligation to perform any audit procedures regarding such financial statements. However, if, after the financial statements have been issued, a fact becomes known to the auditor that, had it been known to the auditor at the date of the auditor's report, may have caused the auditor to amend the auditor's report, the auditor shall:

(a) Discuss the matter with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance;

(b) Determine whether the financial statements need amendment; and, if so,

(c) Inquire how management intends to address the matter in the financial statements.

[17] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.21.

8.4.8. If management amends the financial statements, the auditor shall:

(a) Carry out the audit procedures necessary in the circumstances on the amendment, including:

(i) Extending the audit procedures referred to in paragraphs 8.4.1. and 8.4.2. to the date of the new auditor's report, and date the new auditor's report no earlier than the date of approval of the amended financial statements; and

(ii) Providing a new auditor's report[18] on the amended financial statements; and

(b) Review the steps taken by management to ensure that anyone in receipt of the previously issued financial statements together with the auditor's report thereon is informed of the situation.

8.4.9. If management does not take the necessary steps to ensure that anyone in receipt of the previously issued financial statements is informed of the situation and does not amend the financial statements in circumstances where the auditor believes they need to be amended, the auditor shall take appropriate action to seek to prevent reliance on the auditor's report.

8.5 The Auditor's Evaluations and Other Activities to Support the Auditor's Conclusion

Evaluations Required

8.5.1. Based on the audit procedures performed and the audit evidence obtained, the auditor shall evaluate whether the assessments of the risks of material misstatement at the financial statement and assertion levels remain appropriate.

An audit of financial statements is a cumulative and iterative process. As the auditor performs planned audit procedures, the audit evidence obtained may cause the auditor to modify the nature, timing or extent of planned audit procedures. Information may come to the auditor's attention that differs significantly from the information on which the risk assessment was based. In such circumstances, the auditor may need to reevaluate the planned audit procedures, based on the revised consideration of assessed risks for all or some of the classes of transactions, account balances, or disclosures and related assertions.

The auditor may also consider whether such information changes the auditor's determination about the appropriateness of use of the SA for LCE for the audit, which may necessitate a modification to the terms of engagement.

8.5.2. For accounting estimates, the auditor shall evaluate, based on the audit procedures performed and audit evidence obtained, whether:

(a) The assessments of the risks of material misstatement at the assertion level remain appropriate, including when indicators of possible management bias have been identified; and

(b) Management's decisions about the recognition, measurement, presentation, and disclosure of accounting estimates in the financial statements are reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

[18] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.6.7.

8.5.3. The auditor shall evaluate whether two-way communication between the auditor and those charged with governance has been adequate for the purpose of the audit. If it has not, the auditor shall evaluate the effect, if any, on the audit and take action as appropriate.

For example, the original risk assessments may need to be revised, the auditor's opinion may need to be modified on the basis of a scope limitation or other actions may need to be taken as appropriate.

8.5.4. The auditor shall perform audit procedures to evaluate whether the overall presentation of the financial statements is in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. In making this evaluation, the auditor shall consider whether the financial statements are presented in a manner that reflects the appropriate:

(a) Classification and description of financial information and the underlying transactions, events and conditions; and

(b) Presentation, structure and content of the financial statements.

Concluding

8.5.5. The auditor shall conclude whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained. In forming an opinion, the auditor shall consider all relevant audit evidence, regardless of whether it appears to be corroborative or contradictory.

8.5.6. If the auditor has not obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence as to a relevant assertion, the auditor shall attempt to obtain additional audit evidence. If the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall express a qualified opinion or disclaim an opinion on the financial statements. [19]

8.5.7. The auditor shall evaluate whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained regarding, and shall conclude on, the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements.[20]

8.5.8. The auditor shall conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether in the auditor's professional judgment, a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.[21]

8.5.9. If the auditor concludes that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate in the circumstances but a material uncertainty exists, the auditor shall determine whether the financial statements:

(a) Adequately disclose the principal events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and management's plans to deal with these events or conditions; and

(b) Disclose clearly that there is a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and, therefore, that it may be unable to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business.

[19] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.27.

[20] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.17.

[21] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.18.

In such cases, the auditor shall express an unmodified opinion and the auditor's report shall include a separate section under the heading "Material Uncertainty Relating to Going Concern".

8.5.10. If events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern but, based on the audit evidence obtained the auditor concludes that no material uncertainty exists, the auditor shall evaluate whether, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, the financial statements provide adequate disclosures about these events or conditions.

8.5.11. If the auditor confirms that, or is unable to conclude whether, the financial statements are materially misstated as a result of fraud, the auditor shall evaluate the implications on the audit including on the assessed risks of material misstatement and the auditor's report.

8.6 Written Representations

Written representations are necessary information that the auditor requests in connection with the audit of the entity's financial statements. Accordingly, similar to responses to inquiries, written representations are audit evidence. However, although written representations provide necessary audit evidence, they do not provide sufficient appropriate audit evidence on their own about any of the matters with which they deal. Furthermore, the fact that management has provided reliable written representations does not affect the nature or extent of other audit evidence that the auditor obtains about the fulfillment of management's responsibilities, or about specific assertions.

8.6.1. The auditor shall obtain written representations from management who have appropriate knowledge of the matters concerned and responsibility for the financial statements, and where appropriate those charged with governance, about the following matters:

(a) That they have fulfilled their responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including where relevant their fair presentation. The responsibilities shall be described in the same way in the representation as described in the terms of engagement;

(b) That they have provided the auditor with all relevant information and access as agreed in the terms of the audit engagement;

(c) That all transactions are recorded and are reflected in the financial statements;

(d) That they acknowledge their responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of controls to prevent and detect fraud;

(e) That they have disclosed to the auditor the result of its assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated because of fraud;

(f) That their knowledge of fraud, or suspected fraud, or allegations of fraud or suspected fraud has been disclosed to the auditor;

(g) That they have disclosed to the auditor the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which they are aware;

(h) That they have appropriately accounted for and disclosed related party

relationships and transactions in accordance with the requirements of the financial reporting framework;

(i) That all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor;

(j) That all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework;

(k) With respect to accounting estimates, whether the methods, significant assumptions and data used in making the accounting estimates and disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure is in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework;

(l) That all events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the applicable financial reporting framework requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed;

(m) With respect to going concern, if a material uncertainty exists, information about their plans for future actions and the feasibility of these plans;

(n) Regarding any restatement made to correct a material misstatement in prior period financial statements that affect the comparative information or separate disclosure of any prior period item in the current year's Statement of Profit and Loss depending upon the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework; and

(o) Other representations the auditor determines necessary to support other audit evidence relevant to the financial statements or one or more specific assertions in the financial statements, including where necessary to support oral representations.

8.6.2. The auditor shall consider the need to obtain representations about specific accounting estimates.

8.6.3. The written representation shall be in the form of a representation letter addressed to the auditor.

Appendix 7 sets out an illustrative representation letter.

If law or regulation requires management to make written public statements about its responsibilities, and the auditor determines that such statements provide some or all of the representations required by this standard, the relevant matters covered by such statements need not be included in the representation letter.

8.6.4. The auditor shall request a written representation from management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance, whether they believe the effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, individually or in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A summary of such items shall be included in or attached to the written representation.

8.6.5. If the auditor has concerns about the competence, integrity, ethical values, or diligence of management, or about its commitment to or enforcement of these, or representations

received are inconsistent with other audit evidence, the auditor shall determine the effect on audit evidence more generally and take appropriate actions, including considering the possible effect on the opinion in the auditor's report[22] having regard to the requirement in paragraph 8.6.7.

In the case of identified inconsistencies between one or more written representations and audit evidence obtained from another source, the auditor may consider whether the risk assessment remains appropriate and, if not, revise the risk assessment and determine the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures to respond to the assessed risks.

Concerns about the competence, integrity, ethical values or diligence of management, or about its commitment to or enforcement of these, may cause the auditor to conclude that the risk of management misrepresentation in the financial statements is such that an audit cannot be conducted. In such a case, the auditor may consider withdrawing from the engagement, where withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation, unless those charged with governance put in place appropriate corrective measures. Such measures, however, may not be sufficient to enable the auditor to issue an unmodified audit opinion.

8.6.6. If management does not provide one or more of the requested written representations, the auditor shall:

(a) Discuss the matter with management;

(b) Reevaluate the integrity of management and evaluate the effect this may have on the reliability of oral and written representations and audit evidence in general; and

(c) Take appropriate actions, including determining the possible effect on the opinion in the auditor's report[23] having regard to the requirement in paragraph 8.6.7.

8.6.7. If the auditor concludes that there is sufficient doubt about the integrity of management such that the written representations required by paragraphs 8.6.1.(a)–(c) are not reliable[24] or management does not provide the written representations required by paragraphs 8.6.1.(a)–(c),[25] the auditor shall disclaim an opinion on the financial statements.

8.6.8. The date of the written representations shall be as near as practicable to, but not after, the date of the auditor's report on the financial statements. The written representations shall be for all financial statements and period(s) referred to in the auditor's report.

8.7 Taking Overall Responsibility for Managing and Achieving Quality

8.7.1. Prior to dating the auditor's report, the engagement partner shall determine that the engagement partner has taken overall responsibility for managing and achieving quality on the audit engagement. In doing so, the engagement partner shall determine that:

(a) The engagement partner's involvement has been sufficient and appropriate throughout the audit engagement such that the engagement partner has the basis

[22] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.22.
[23] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.23.
[24] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.24.
[25] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.25.

for determining that the significant judgments made, and the conclusions reached, are appropriate given the nature and circumstances of the engagement; and

(b) The nature and circumstances of the audit engagement, any changes thereto, and the firm's related policies or procedures have been taken into account.

8.7.2. On or before the date of the auditor's report, the engagement partner shall determine that sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained to support the conclusions reached and for the auditor's report to be issued.

8.7.3. Prior to dating the auditor's report, the engagement partner shall review the financial statements and the auditor's report to determine that the report to be issued is appropriate in the circumstances.

8.8 Specific Communication Requirements

8.8.1. The auditor shall communicate, on a timely basis, all misstatements accumulated during the audit with the appropriate level of management, unless prohibited by law or regulation.

8.8.2. The auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance:

(a) Uncorrected misstatements and the effect that they, individually or in aggregate, may have on the auditor's opinion, unless prohibited by law or regulation. The auditor's communication shall identify the material uncorrected misstatements individually.

(b) The effect of uncorrected misstatements from prior periods on the current year's financial statements.

(c) The auditor's views about significant qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates, and financial statement disclosures.

(d) Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit.

(e) Significant matters arising during the audit, including in connection to the entity's related parties, that were discussed, or subject to correspondence, with management.

(f) Significant findings from the audit. If, in the auditor's professional judgment, oral communications would not be adequate this communication shall be in writing.

(g) Other matters not already reported related to fraud that may be relevant to the responsibilities of those charged with governance, unless prohibited by law or regulation.

(h) Circumstances, if any, that affect the form and content of the auditor's report.

(i) Written representations the auditor is requesting.

(j) Other significant matters, if any, arising from the audit that, in the auditor's professional judgment, are relevant to the oversight of the financial reporting process.

(k) The expectation thereof and the wording if the auditor expects to include an Emphasis of Matter or Other Matter Paragraph in the auditor's report.

8.8.3. Unless all those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, the auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance events or conditions identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, including:

(a) Whether the events or conditions constitute a material uncertainty;

(b) Whether management's use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate in the preparation of the financial statements;

(c) The adequacy of related disclosures in the financial statements; and

(d) Where applicable, the implications for the auditor's report.

8.9 Specific Documentation Requirements

In addition to the general documentation requirements in Part 2.4 which apply throughout the audit engagement, specific matters to be documented relevant to this Part are described below.

8.9.1. The auditor shall include the following in the audit documentation:

(a) All misstatements accumulated during the audit and whether they have been corrected, and the auditor's conclusion as to whether the uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate, and the basis for that conclusion; and

(b) The nature and scope of, and conclusions from, consultations undertaken during the audit, including how such conclusions were implemented.

8.9.2. The auditor's documentation shall demonstrate that information in the financial statements agrees or reconciles with the underlying accounting records, including agreeing or reconciling disclosures, whether such information is obtained from within or outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers.

8.9.3. The auditor shall assemble the audit documentation in an audit file and complete the administrative process of assembling the final audit file on a timely basis after the date of the auditor's report.

SQM 1 requires firms' systems of quality management to establish a quality objective that addresses the assembly of engagement documentation on a timely basis after the date of the engagement reports.[26] An appropriate time limit within which to complete the assembly of the final audit file is ordinarily not more than 60 days after the date of the auditor's report.[27]

8.9.4. After assembly of the final audit file is complete, the auditor shall not delete or discard audit documentation of any nature before the end of its retention period.

SQM 1 requires firms' systems of quality management to establish a quality objective to address the appropriate maintenance and retention of engagement documentation to meet the needs of the firm and to comply with law, regulation, relevant ethical requirements, or

[26] SQM 1, paragraph 31(f).
[27] SQM 1, paragraph A83.

*professional standards[28]. The retention period for audit engagements ordinarily is no shorter than **seven years** from the date of the auditor's report.[29]*

8.9.5. If applicable, the auditor shall document the failure to meet an objective of any Part of the SA for LCE, and the resulting action (such as the effect on the auditor's opinion or withdrawal from the engagement if the overall objective of the auditor cannot be met).

8.9.6. If the auditor finds it necessary to modify existing audit documentation or add new audit documentation after the assembly of the final audit file has been completed, the auditor shall, regardless of the nature of the modifications or additions, document:

(a) The specific reasons for making them; and

(b) When and by whom they were made and reviewed.

[28] SQM 1, paragraph 31(f)

[29] SQM 1, paragraph A85

9. Forming an Opinion and Reporting

Content of this Part

Part 9 sets out the requirements for:

- Forming an opinion;
- The types of audit opinions;
- The content of the auditor's report; and
- Other Information and Comparative Information.

Scope of this Part

This Part explains the content of the auditor's report and sets out the auditor's determination of modifications to the opinion, as well as when other amendments to the auditor's report are needed. It also sets out the auditor's required procedures in relation to corresponding figures and comparative financial statements, and other information (if applicable).

9.1 Objectives

9.1.1. The objectives of the auditor are to:

(a) Form an opinion on the financial statements based on an evaluation of the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence obtained and to express clearly that opinion through a written report; and

(b) Consider whether there is a material inconsistency between the other information, if any, and the:

(i) Financial statements; and

(ii) Auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit.

9.2 Forming an Opinion on the Financial Statements

9.2.1. The auditor shall form an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

9.2.2. In order to form that opinion, the auditor shall conclude as to whether the auditor has obtained reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. That conclusion shall take into account:

(a) Whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained;

(b) Whether uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate; and

(c) The evaluations required by paragraphs 9.2.3. to 9.2.6.

9.2.3. The auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. This evaluation shall include consideration of the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, including indicators of possible bias in management's judgments.

9.2.4. In performing the evaluation in paragraph 9.2.3., the auditor shall evaluate, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, whether:

(a) The financial statements appropriately disclose the entity's significant accounting policies, and whether they have been presented in an understandable way;

(b) The entity's accounting policies selected and applied are consistent with the applicable financial reporting framework and are appropriate;

(c) The accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management are reasonable;

(d) The identified related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for, presented and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework;

(e) The information presented in the financial statements is relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable including whether:

(i) The information that should have been included has been included;

(ii) Such information is appropriately classified, aggregated or disaggregated, and characterized; and

(iii) The overall presentation of the financial statements has been undermined by including information that is not relevant or that obscures a proper understanding of the matters disclosed;

(f) The financial statements provide adequate disclosures to enable intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the information conveyed in the financial statements; and

(g) The terminology used in the financial statements, including the title of each financial statement, is appropriate.

9.2.5. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor shall also evaluate whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation. This evaluation shall include consideration of:

(a) The overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements; and

(b) Whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

The auditor's evaluation about whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation, both in respect of presentation and the disclosures necessary to achieve it, is a matter of professional judgment.

9.2.6. The auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements adequately refer to or describe the applicable financial reporting framework.

9.3 Form of Opinion

9.3.1. The auditor shall express an unmodified opinion when the auditor concludes that the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

If the financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework, as is generally the case for general purpose financial statements, the opinion required is on whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, or give a true and fair view. If the financial reporting framework is a compliance framework, the opinion required is on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the framework.

9.3.2. If financial statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework do not achieve fair presentation, the auditor shall discuss the matter with management and, depending on the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework and how the matter is resolved, determine whether to modify the opinion.[30]

9.3.3. If the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a compliance framework, the auditor is not required to evaluate whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation. However, if in extremely rare circumstances the auditor concludes, based on the audit evidence obtained, that such financial statements are misleading, the auditor shall discuss the matter with management and, depending on how it is resolved, shall determine whether, and how, to communicate it in the auditor's report.[31]

9.4 Auditor´s Report

9.4.1. The auditor shall report in accordance with the specified format and content below unless:

(a) Amendment to the auditor's report is required for compliance with a specific layout or wording of the auditor's report required by law or regulation. When the layout or wording of the auditor's report is prescribed by law or regulation, the auditor's report shall refer to this SA for LCE only if the elements of the specified format and content illustrated below are included;

(b) The auditor is required to conduct the audit in accordance with the SA for LCE that prescribes a layout or wording of the auditor's report different from that required by the ISA for LCE and has additionally complied with the ISA for LCE in the conduct of the audit. If this is the case, the auditor's report may refer to the ISA for LCE in addition to the SA for LCE only if the auditor's report includes the elements of the specified format and content illustrated below; or

(c) The auditor's report includes a modified opinion, emphasis of matter paragraph, other matter paragraph, material uncertainty related to going concern, other reporting responsibilities, or a separate section dealing with Other Information, in which case the auditor shall modify the auditor's opinion (according to Part 9.5.) or amend the auditor's report (according to Part 9.8.).

[30] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.28.
[31] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.29.

Illustration 1: An auditor's report on financial statements of a non-corporate entity prepared in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by ICAI [a fair presentation framework]

To the Partners of ABC & Associates [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC & Associates (the Entity), which comprise the balance sheet as at 31st March, 20XX, and the profit and loss account, and statement of cash flows (wherever applicable) for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity as at 31st March, 20XX, and of its financial performance and its cash flows (wherever applicable) for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standard on Auditing for Audits of Financial Statements of Less Complex Entities (the SA for LCE) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Our responsibilities under the SA for LCE are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by ICAI, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements[32]

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and cash flows (wherever applicable) of the entity in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

[32] Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular entity.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the SA for LCE will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the SA for LCE, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control[33].
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all

[33] This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of financial statements.

relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

For XYZ & Co
Chartered Accountants
(Firm's Registration No.)

Signature
(Name of the Member Signing the Audit Report)
(Designation)
(Membership No.)
UDIN:

Place of Signature:
Date:

Illustration 2: An auditor's report on financial statements of an unlisted company prepared in accordance with the Accounting Standards prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 [a fair presentation framework]

To the Members of ABC Private Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ABC Private Limited ("the Company"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 20XX, the Statement of Profit and Loss and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information (hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give the information required by the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the Accounting Standards prescribed under Section 133 of the Act read with the Companies (Accounting Standards) Rules, 2021 ("Accounting Standards") and other accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the state of affairs of the Company as at March 31, 20XX, its profit/loss, and its cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standard on Auditing for Audits of Financial Statements of Less Complex Entities ("the SA for LCE") specified under section 143(10) of the Act. Our responsibilities under the SA for LCE are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India ("ICAI") together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements under the provisions of the Act and Rules thereunder and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ICAI's Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate, such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

The Company's Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent

with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

The Company's Board of Directors are responsible for the matters stated in section 134(5) of the Act with respect to the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the Company in accordance with the Accounting Standards and other accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the Act for safeguarding of the assets of the Company and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board of Directors either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board of Directors are also responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SA for LCE will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SA for LCE, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is

higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal financial controls with reference to financial statements.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Other Matters (where applicable)

1.

2.

3.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

(1) As required by the Companies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2020 ("the Order") issued by the Central Government of India in terms of section 143(11) of the Act, we give in **"Annexure 1",** a statement on the matters specified in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Order, to the extent applicable.

OR

This report does not contain a statement on the matters specified in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Companies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2020 ("the Order") issued by the Central Government of India in terms of section 143(11) of the Act, since in our opinion and according to the information and explanations given to us, the said Order is not applicable to the Company.

(2) As required by section 143(3) of the Act, we report that:

a. We have sought and obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;

b. In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Company so far as it appears from our examination of those books;

c. The Balance Sheet, the Statement of Profit and Loss and the Statement of Cash Flows dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of account;

d. In our opinion, the aforesaid financial statements comply with the Accounting Standards specified under section 133 of the Act;

e. On the basis of the written representations received from the directors as on March 31, 20XX, and taken on record by the Board of Directors, none of the directors is disqualified as on March 31, 20XX from being appointed as a director in terms of section 164(2) of the Act;

g. With respect to the other matters to be included in the auditor's report in accordance with the requirements of section 197(16) of the Act, as amended:

The Company being a private company is not required to comply with the provisions relating to managerial remuneration as prescribed under section 197 of the Companies Act, 2013. Accordingly, the reporting requirement in relation to managerial remuneration as prescribed under section 197(16) of the Companies Act, 2013 is not applicable.

h. With respect to the other matters to be included in the auditor's report in accordance with Rule 11 of the Companies (Audit and Auditors) Rules, 2014, in our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us:

(i) The Company has disclosed the impact of pending litigations on its financial position in its financial statements – Refer Note XX to the financial statements on Contingent Liabilities; OR

The Company does not have any pending litigations which would impact its financial position;

(ii) The Company has made provision, as required under the applicable law or accounting standards, for material foreseeable losses, if any, on long-term contracts including derivative contracts – Refer Note XX to the financial statements; OR

The Company did not have any long-term contracts including derivative contracts. Hence, the question of any material foreseeable losses does not arise;

(iii) There has been no delay in transferring amounts, required to be transferred, to the Investor Education and Protection Fund by the Company.

(iv) (a) The Management has represented that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, other than as disclosed in the notes to the accounts, no funds have been advanced or loaned or invested (either from borrowed funds or share premium or any other sources or kind of funds) by the Company to or in any other person(s) or entity(ies), including foreign entities ("Intermediaries"), with the understanding, whether recorded in writing or otherwise, that the Intermediary shall, directly or indirectly lend or invest in other persons or entities identified in any manner whatsoever by or on behalf of the Company ("Ultimate Beneficiaries") or provide any guarantee, security or the like on behalf of the Ultimate Beneficiaries.

(b) The Management has represented, that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, other than as disclosed in the notes to the accounts, no funds have been received by the Company from any person(s) or entity(ies), including foreign entities ("Funding Parties"), with the understanding, whether recorded in writing or otherwise, that the Company shall, directly or indirectly, lend or invest in other persons or entities identified in any manner whatsoever by or on behalf of the Funding Party ("Ultimate Beneficiaries") or provide any guarantee, security or the like on behalf of the Ultimate Beneficiaries.

(c) Based on the audit procedures that has been considered reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances, nothing has come to our notice that has caused us to believe that the representations under sub-clause (i) and (ii) of Rule 11(e) contain any material misstatement.

(v) The final dividend paid by the Company during the year in respect of the same declared for the previous year is in accordance with section 123 of the Companies Act 2013 to the extent it applies to payment of dividend.

As stated in Note X to the financial statements, the Board of Directors of the Company have proposed final dividend for the year which is subject to the approval of the members at the ensuing Annual General Meeting. The amount of dividend declared is in accordance with section 123 of the Act to the extent it applies to declaration of dividend.

OR

The Company has not declared or paid any dividend during the year and until the date of this report.

(vi) Based on our examination which included test checks, the company has used an accounting software for maintaining its books of account which has a feature

of recording audit trail (edit log) facility and the same has operated throughout the year for all relevant transactions recorded in the software. Further, during the course of our audit we did not come across any instance of audit trail feature being tampered with. Additionally, the audit trail has been preserved by the company as per the statutory requirements for record retention.

For XYZ & Co
Chartered Accountants
(Firm's Registration No.)

Signature
(Name of the Member Signing the Audit Report)
(Designation)
(Membership No.)
UDIN

Place of Signature:
Date:

9.4.2. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor shall refer to "the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements" or "the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view," as appropriate in the circumstances, in the description of responsibilities for the financial statements in the auditor's report.

9.4.3. The auditor shall not refer to the work of an auditor's expert in an auditor's report containing an unmodified opinion unless required by law or regulation to do so. If such reference is required by law or regulation, the auditor shall indicate in the auditor's report that the reference does not reduce the auditor's responsibility for the auditor's opinion.

9.5 Modifications to the Opinion

Tables A to C below set out the requirements for which a modified opinion is to be used in different situations, and the form and content of a modified opinion.

9.5.1. The auditor shall modify the opinion in the auditor's report according to Tables A–C below when:

(a) The auditor concludes that, based on the audit evidence obtained, the financial statements as a whole are not free from material misstatement; or

(b) The auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to conclude that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.

9.5.2. When the auditor modifies the audit opinion, the auditor shall:

(a) Amend the heading "Basis for Opinion" to "Basis for Qualified Opinion," "Basis for Adverse Opinion," or "Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion" as set out in Tables A–C; and

(b) Within the basis for opinion section, include a description of the matter giving rise to the modification.

Table A below specifies how the auditor's professional judgment about the nature of the matter giving rise to the modification, and the pervasiveness of its effects or possible effects on the financial statements, affects the type of opinion to be expressed.

TABLE A **Nature of Matter Giving Rise to the Modification**	**Auditor's Professional Judgment about the Pervasiveness of the Effects or Possible Effects on the Financial Statements**	
	Material but Not Pervasive	*Material and Pervasive*
Financial statements are materially misstated	Qualified opinion	Adverse opinion
Inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence	Qualified opinion	Disclaimer of opinion

Table B below specifies the modification to be made to the opinion for each type of opinion in Table A.

TABLE B **Form of opinion**	**Fair Presentation Framework**	**Compliance Framework**
9.5.3. Qualified opinion Auditor's Report – Heading for opinion: "Qualified Opinion" Auditor's Report – Heading for Basis for Opinion: "Basis for Qualified Opinion"	"In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, except for the [effects or possible effects][34] of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section, the accompanying financial statements [present fairly, in all material respects / [give a true and fair view of] […] in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]"	"…except for the [effects or possible effects] of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]"

[34] Matters reflected in square brackets (e.g., [ ]) are to be tailored accordingly

9.5.4. Adverse opinion Auditor's Report – Heading for opinion: "Adverse Opinion" Auditor's Report – Heading for Basis for Opinion: "Basis for Adverse Opinion"	"…the accompanying financial statements do not [present fairly/give a true and fair view of] […] in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]"	"…the accompanying financial statements have not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]"
9.5.5. Disclaimer of opinion	"We were engaged to audit the financial statements of…"	
Auditor's Report – Heading for opinion: "Disclaimer of Opinion" Auditor's Report – Heading for Basis for Opinion: "Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion"	"We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements. Because of the significance of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements."	

Table C below sets out specific circumstances when the auditor's opinion is to be modified, and the types of opinions expressed in those circumstances based on the nature of the matter giving rise to the modification (see Table A). Table C is not an exhaustive list of all circumstances when the auditor's opinion is to be modified.

TABLE C **Specific Circumstances When the Auditor's Opinion is to be Modified**	**Para Ref**	**Qualified**	**Adverse**	**Disclaimer**
Opening Balances				
9.5.6. The auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the opening balances.	4.5.4.	✓		✓
9.5.7. The auditor concludes, based on the audit evidence obtained, that the opening balances contain a misstatement that materially affects the current period's financial statements, and the effect of the misstatement is not appropriately accounted for or not adequately presented or disclosed.	4.5.5.	✓	✓	

9.5.8. The auditor concludes, based on the audit evidence obtained, that the current period's accounting policies are not consistently applied in relation to opening balances in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework or a change in accounting policies is not appropriately accounted for or adequately presented or disclosed, in accordance with the financial reporting framework.	4.5.6.	✓	✓	
9.5.9. The predecessor auditor's opinion regarding the prior period's financial statements included a modification that remains relevant and material to the current period's financial statements.	4.5.3.	✓	✓	✓
Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations				
9.5.10. Sufficient information about suspected non-compliance cannot be obtained.	7.4.26.	✓		✓
9.5.11. The auditor concludes that the identified or suspected non- compliance has a material effect on the financial statements and has not been adequately reflected in the financial statements.	7.4.27	✓	✓	
9.5.12. The auditor is precluded by management or those charged with governance from obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence to evaluate whether non-compliance that may be material to the financial statements has, or is likely to have, occurred.	7.4.27.	✓		✓
9.5.13. The auditor is unable to determine whether non-compliance has occurred because of limitations imposed by the circumstances rather than by management or those charged with governance.	7.4.27.	✓		✓
External Confirmations				
9.5.14. The auditor concludes that management's refusal to allow the auditor to send a confirmation request is unreasonable, or the auditor is unable to	7.3.24.	✓		✓

obtain relevant and reliable audit evidence from alternative audit procedures.				
Inventory				
9.5.15. The auditor cannot perform alternative audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the existence and condition of inventory.	7.4.21.	✓		✓
Litigation and Claims				
9.5.16. Management refuses to give the auditor permission to communicate or meet with the entity's external legal counsel, or the entity's external legal counsel refuses to respond appropriately to the letter of inquiry, or is prohibited from responding; and the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence by performing alternative audit procedures.	7.4.25	✓		✓
Going Concern				
9.5.17. The financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting but, in the auditor's professional judgment, management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is inappropriate.	7.4.1. 8.5.7.		✓	
9.5.18. Adequate disclosures are not made about a material uncertainty in the financial statements. 9.5.19. In this circumstance, the basis for qualified (or adverse) opinion section shall state that "a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and that the financial statements do not adequately disclose this matter."	7.4.4 8.5.8	✓	✓	

9.5.20. When evaluating management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the period is less than twelve months from the date of the financial statements, and management does not make or extend its assessment, leading to the auditor being unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.	7.4.2.	✓		✓
Subsequent Events				
9.5.21. Facts become known to the auditor after the date of the auditor's report but before the date the financial statements are issued, and management does not amend the financial statements in circumstances where the auditor believes they need to be amended.	8.4.6.	✓	✓	✓
Written Representations				
9.5.22. The auditor concludes that the written representations required by this standard are not reliable.	8.6.5.	✓		✓
9.5.23. Management does not provide one or more of the requested written representations.	8.6.6.	✓		✓
9.5.24. The auditor concludes that there is sufficient doubt about the integrity of management such that the written representations required by 8.6.1.(a)–(c) are not reliable.	8.6.7.			✓
9.5.25. When management does not provide the written representations required by paragraphs 8.6.1.(a)–(c).	8.6.7.			✓
Corresponding Figures				
9.5.26. Corresponding figures are presented, the auditor's report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified opinion, a disclaimer	9.7.6	✓	✓	✓

of opinion, or an adverse opinion and the matter which gave rise to the modification is unresolved. The Basis for Modification paragraph shall either: (a) refer to both the current period's figures and the corresponding figures in the description of the matter giving rise to the modification when the effects or possible effects of the matter on the current period's figures are material,; or (b) in other cases, explain that the audit opinion has been modified because of the effects or possible effects of the unresolved matter on the comparability of the current period's figures and the corresponding figures.				
Other Items				
9.5.27. The auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.	8.5.6.	✓		✓
9.5.28. The financial statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework do not achieve fair presentation.	9.3.2.		✓	
9.5.29. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with a compliance framework and, in extremely rare circumstances, the auditor concludes, based on the audit evidence obtained, that such financial statements are misleading.	9.3.3	✓	✓	✓

Other Matters Relating to Modifications

9.5.30. If the auditor makes reference to the work of an auditor's expert in the auditor's report because such reference is relevant to an understanding of a modification to the auditor's opinion, the auditor shall indicate in the auditor's report that such reference does not reduce the auditor's responsibility for that opinion.

9.5.31. If there is a material misstatement of the financial statements that relates to:

(a) Specific amounts in the financial statements (including quantitative disclosures), the auditor shall include in the Basis for Opinion section a description and quantification of the financial effects of the misstatement, unless impracticable. If it is not practicable to quantify the financial effects, the auditor shall so state in this section.

(b) Qualitative disclosures, the auditor shall include in the Basis for Opinion section an explanation of how the disclosures are misstated.

(c) The non-disclosure in the financial statements of information required to be disclosed, the auditor shall:

(i) Discuss the non-disclosure with those charged with governance;

(ii) Describe in the Basis for Opinion section the nature of the omitted information; and

(iii) Unless prohibited by law or regulation, include the omitted disclosures, provided it is practicable to do so and the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the omitted information.

9.5.32. If the modification results from an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall include in the Basis for Opinion section the reasons for that inability.

9.5.33. When the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall amend the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of the report under paragraph 9.4.1 to include only the following:

(a) A statement that the auditor's responsibility is to conduct an audit of the entity's financial statements in accordance with the SA for LCE and to issue an auditor's report;

(b) A statement that because of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section, the auditor was not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements; and

(c) A statement that the auditor is independent of the entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit, and has fulfilled the auditor's other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

9.5.34. If the auditor has expressed an adverse opinion or disclaimed an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall describe in the Basis for Opinion section the reasons for any other matters of which the auditor is aware that would have required a modification to the opinion, and the effects thereof.

9.6 Other Paragraphs in the Auditor's Report

Emphasis of Matter paragraphs and Other Matter paragraphs in the auditor's report are used when the auditor considers it necessary to:

- *Draw users' attention to a matter or matters presented or disclosed in the financial statements that are of such importance that they are fundamental to users' understanding of the financial statements (Emphasis of Matter); or*
- *Draw users' attention to any matter or matters other than those presented or disclosed in the financial statements that are relevant to users' understanding of the audit, the auditor's responsibilities or the auditor's report (Other Matter).*

Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs

9.6.1. If the auditor considers it necessary to draw users' attention to a matter presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the auditor's professional judgment, is of such importance that it is fundamental to the users' understanding of the financial statements, and the auditor would not be required to modify the opinion as a result of that matter, the auditor shall include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the auditor's report indicating that the auditor's report is not modified in respect of the matter emphasized.

Examples of where Emphasis of Matter paragraphs may be needed include:

- *When a financial reporting framework prescribed by law or regulation would be unacceptable but for the fact that it is prescribed by law or regulation.*
- *When facts become known to the auditor after the date of the auditor's report and the auditor provides a new or amended auditor's report (i.e., subsequent events).*

The inclusion of an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the auditor's report does not affect the auditor's opinion. An Emphasis of Matter paragraph is not a substitute for:

- *A modified opinion when required by the circumstances of a specific audit engagement;*
- *Disclosures in the financial statements that the applicable financial reporting framework requires management to make, or that are otherwise necessary to achieve fair presentation; or*
- *Reporting when a material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on an entity's ability to continue as a going concern.*

Other Matter Paragraphs

The content of an Other Matter paragraph reflects clearly that such other matter is not required to be presented and disclosed in the financial statements. An Other Matter paragraph does not include information that the auditor is prohibited from providing by law, regulation or other professional standards, for example, ethical standards for the confidentiality of information. An Other Matter paragraph also does not include information that is required to be provided by management.

9.6.2. If the auditor considers it necessary to communicate a matter other than those that are presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the auditor's professional judgment, is relevant to the users' understanding of the audit, the auditor's responsibilities or the auditor's report the auditor shall include an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report provided this is not prohibited by law or regulation.

Content of Other Paragraphs in the Auditor's Report

9.6.3. When the auditor includes an Emphasis of Matter, Other Matter paragraph or a material uncertainty related to going concern in the auditor's report, the auditor shall include the paragraph or section according to Table D below:

TABLE D Paragraph or Section	Location	Heading shall include	Content shall include
9.6.4. Emphasis of Matter paragraph	A separate section of the auditor's report	Appropriate heading that includes "Emphasis of Matter"	A clear reference to the matter being emphasized and to where relevant disclosures that fully describe the matter can be found in the financial statements. A reference only to information presented or disclosed in the financial statements. An indication that the auditor's opinion is not modified in respect of the matter emphasized.
9.6.5. Other Matter paragraph	A separate section of the auditor's report	Appropriate heading that includes "Other Matter"	As appropriate in the circumstances.
9.6.6. Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern paragraph	A separate section of the auditor's report	"Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"	Draw attention to the note in the financial statements that discloses the matters related to the material uncertainty. State that these events or conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and that the auditor's opinion is not modified in respect of the matter.

9.6.7. When facts become known to the auditor after the financial statements have been issued and if management amends the financial statements, the auditor shall include in the new or amended auditor's report an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or Other Matter paragraph drawing users' attention to the reason for the amendment and referring to the earlier report provided by the auditor.

9.7. Comparative Information – Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements

9.7.1. The auditor shall determine whether the financial statements include the comparative information required by the applicable financial reporting framework and whether such information is appropriately classified. In doing so, the auditor shall evaluate whether:

(a) The amounts and disclosures in the prior period agree with comparative information or have been restated; and

(b) The accounting policies reflected in the comparative information are consistent with those applied in the current period or, where changes occurred, have been properly accounted for and adequately presented or disclosed.

9.7.2. If the auditor becomes aware of a possible material misstatement in the comparative information while performing the current period audit, the auditor shall perform such additional audit procedures as are necessary in the circumstances to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to determine whether a material misstatement exists. If the prior period financial statements are amended, the auditor shall determine that the comparative information agrees with the amended financial statements.

9.7.3. If the financial statements of the prior period were audited by a predecessor auditor and the auditor is not prohibited by law or regulation from referring to the predecessor auditor's report on the corresponding figures and decides to do so, the auditor shall state in an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report:

(a) That the financial statements of the prior period were audited by a predecessor auditor;

(b) The type of opinion expressed by the predecessor auditor and, if the opinion was modified, the reasons therefore; and

(c) The date of that report.

9.7.4. If the financial statements of the prior period were audited by a predecessor auditor and are presented as comparative financial statements, in addition to expressing an opinion on the current period's financial statements, the auditor shall state in an Other Matter paragraph:

(a) That the financial statements of the prior period were audited by a predecessor auditor;

(b) The type of opinion expressed by the predecessor auditor and, if the opinion was modified, the reasons therefore; and

(c) The date of that report, unless the predecessor auditor's report on the prior period's financial statements is revised with the financial statements.

9.7.5. If the prior period financial statements were not audited, the auditor shall state in an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report that the corresponding figures or comparative financial statements are unaudited. Such a statement does not, however, relieve the auditor of the requirement to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that the opening balances do not contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements.

Corresponding Figures

9.7.6. When corresponding figures are presented, the auditor's opinion shall not refer to the corresponding figures except in accordance with paragraph 9.7.5 or in the following circumstances:

(a) If the auditor's report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified opinion, a disclaimer of opinion, or an adverse opinion and the matter which gave rise to the modification is unresolved, the auditor shall modify the auditor's opinion on the current period's financial statements.[35]

(b) If the auditor obtains audit evidence that a material misstatement exists in the prior

[35] For the effect on the auditor's report see Part 9, paragraph 9.5.26.

period financial statements on which an unmodified opinion has been previously issued, and the corresponding figures have not been properly restated or appropriate disclosures have not been made, the auditor shall express a qualified opinion or an adverse opinion in the auditor's report on the current period financial statements, modified with respect to the corresponding figures included therein.

Comparative Financial Statements

9.7.7. When comparative financial statements are presented, the auditor's opinion shall refer to each period for which financial statements are presented and on which an audit opinion is expressed.

9.7.8. When reporting on prior period financial statements in connection with the current period's audit, if the auditor's opinion on such prior period financial statements differs from the opinion the auditor previously expressed, the auditor shall disclose the substantive reasons for the different opinion in an Other Matter paragraph.

9.8. Other Information

"Other information" is financial or non-financial information (other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon) included in an entity's annual report.

9.8.1. The auditor shall determine, through discussion with management, which document(s) comprises the annual report, and the entity's planned manner and timing of the issuance of such document(s).

9.8.2. The auditor shall read the other information, and:

(a) Consider whether there is a material inconsistency between the other information and the financial statements; and

(b) Consider whether there is a material inconsistency between the other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit.

9.8.3. As the basis for the considerations in paragraph 9.8.2.(a), the auditor shall, to evaluate their consistency, compare selected amounts or other items in the other information (that are intended to be the same as, to summarize, or to provide greater detail about, the amounts or other items in the financial statements) with such amounts or other items in the financial statements.

In evaluating the consistency of selected amounts or other items, the auditor is not required to compare all amounts or other items in the other information that are intended to be the same as, or summarize, or to provide greater details about, the amounts or other items within the financial statements, with such amounts or other items in the financial statements.

9.8.4. While reading the other information, the auditor shall also remain alert for indications that the remainder of the other information, which is unrelated to the financial statements or the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit, appears to be materially misstated.

9.8.5. If the auditor identifies that a material inconsistency appears to exist (or becomes aware that the other information appears to be materially misstated), the auditor shall discuss the

matter with management and, if necessary, perform other procedures to conclude whether:

(a) A material misstatement of the other information exists;

(b) A material misstatement of the financial statements exists; or

(c) The auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment needs to be updated.

9.8.6. If the auditor concludes, based on the audit evidence obtained, that a material misstatement of the other information exists, the auditor shall request management to correct the other information. If management:

(a) Agrees to make the correction, the auditor shall determine that the correction has been made; or

(b) Refuses to make the correction, the auditor shall communicate the matter with those charged with governance and request that the correction be made. If the correction is still not made, the auditor shall consider the implications for the auditor's report in accordance with Table E below or withdraw from the engagement where this is possible.

9.8.7. If the auditor obtained some, or all of, the other information at the date of the auditor's report, **in case of audit of a corporate entity,** the auditor shall include an Other Information section in the auditor's report in accordance with Table E.

TABLE E Paragraph or Section	**Location**	**Heading shall include**	**Content shall include**
9.8.8. Other Information Section	A separate section of the auditor's report	"Other Information" or other appropriate title	(a) A statement that management is responsible for the other information; (b) An identification of the other information, if any, obtained by the auditor prior to the date of the auditor's report; (c) A statement that the auditor's opinion does not cover the other information and, accordingly, that the auditor does not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon; (d) A description of the auditor's responsibilities relating to reading, considering and reporting on other information as required by this SA for LCE; and (e) When other information has been obtained prior to the date of the auditor's

			report, either: (i) A statement that the auditor has nothing to report; or (ii) If the auditor has concluded that there is an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information, a statement that describes the uncorrected material misstatement of the other information.

9.8.9. Unless required by law or regulation, when the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor's report shall not include an Other Information section.

9.9. Specific Documentation Requirements

In addition to the general documentation requirements in Part 2.4 which apply throughout the audit engagement, specific matters to be documented relevant to this Part are described below.

9.9.1. The auditor shall document the procedures performed in relation to other information and the final version of the other information.

APPENDIX 1

Glossary of Terms

This Glossary lists the terms that are defined for the purpose of the SA for LCE. The definitions assist in the consistent application and interpretation of this standard, and are not intended to override definitions that may be established for other purposes, whether in law or regulation or otherwise. Unless otherwise indicated, the definitions carry the same meanings throughout this standard. In addition, this Glossary includes descriptions of other terms found in the SA for LCE to assist in common and consistent interpretation and translation **(such other terms are identified by an asterisk "*"**).

Accounting estimate—A monetary amount for which the measurement, in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, is subject to estimation uncertainty.

Accounting records—The records of initial accounting entries and supporting records, such as checks and records of electronic fund transfers; invoices; contracts; the general and subsidiary ledgers, journal entries and other adjustments to the financial statements that are not reflected in formal journal entries; and records such as work sheets and spreadsheets supporting cost allocations, computations, reconciliations and disclosures.

Analytical procedures—Evaluations of financial information through analysis of plausible relationships among both financial and non-financial data. Analytical procedures also encompass such investigation as is necessary of identified fluctuations or relationships that are inconsistent with other relevant information or that differ from expected values by a significant amount.

Annual report—A document, or combination of documents, prepared typically on an annual basis by management or those charged with governance in accordance with law, regulation or custom, the purpose of which is to provide owners (or similar stakeholders) with information on the entity's operations and the entity's financial results and financial position as set out in the financial statements. An annual report contains or accompanies the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon and usually includes information about the entity's developments, its future outlook and risks and uncertainties, a statement by the entity's governing body, and reports covering governance matters.

Anomaly—A misstatement or deviation that is demonstrably not representative of misstatements or deviations in a population.

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.

The term "fair presentation framework" is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework and:

(a) Acknowledges explicitly or implicitly that, to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements, it may be necessary for management to provide disclosures beyond those specifically required by the framework; or

(b) Acknowledges explicitly that it may be necessary for management to depart from a requirement of the framework to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements. Such departures are expected to be necessary only in extremely rare circumstances.

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

Appropriateness (of audit evidence)—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.

Arm’s length transaction—A transaction conducted on such terms and conditions as between a willing buyer and a willing seller who are unrelated and are acting independently of each other and pursuing their own best interests.

**** Assess—***Analyze identified risks of material misstatement to conclude on their significance. “Assess,” by convention, is used only in relation to risk. (also see *Evaluate*)

Assertions—Representations, explicit or otherwise, with respect to the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of information in the financial statements which are inherent in management representing that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Assertions are used by the auditor to consider the different types of potential misstatements that may occur when identifying, assessing and responding to the risks of material misstatement.

Assurance *(see Reasonable assurance)*

Audit documentation—The record of audit procedures performed, relevant audit evidence obtained, and conclusions the auditor reached (terms such as “working papers” or “workpapers” are also sometimes used).

Audit evidence—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. (See *Sufficiency of audit evidence* and *Appropriateness of audit evidence*.)

Audit file—One or more folders or other storage media, in physical or electronic form, containing the records that comprise the audit documentation for a specific engagement.

Audit firm—(see *Firm*)

Audit opinion—(see *Modified opinion and Unmodified opinion*)

Audit risk—The risk that the auditor expresses an inappropriate audit opinion when the financial statements are materially misstated. Audit risk is a function of the risks of material misstatement and detection risk.

Audit sampling (sampling)—The application of audit procedures to less than 100% of items within a population of audit relevance such that all sampling units have a chance of selection in order to provide the auditor with a reasonable basis on which to draw conclusions about the entire population.

Auditor—"Auditor" is used to refer to the person or persons conducting the audit, usually the engagement partner or other members of the engagement team, or, as applicable, the firm. Where the SA for LCE expressly intends that a requirement or responsibility be fulfilled by the engagement partner, the term "engagement partner" rather than "auditor" is used. "Engagement partner" and "firm" are to be read as referring to their public sector equivalents where relevant.

Auditor's expert—An individual or organization possessing expertise in a field other than accounting or auditing, whose work in that field is used by the auditor to assist the auditor in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence. An auditor's expert may be either an auditor's internal expert (who is a partner[36] or staff, including temporary staff, of the auditor's firm or a network firm), or an auditor's external expert.

Auditor's point estimate or auditor's range—An amount, or range of amounts, respectively, developed by the auditor in evaluating management's point estimate.

Auditor's range—(see Auditor's point estimate)

Business risk—A risk resulting from significant conditions, events, circumstances, actions or inactions that could adversely affect an entity's ability to achieve its objectives and execute its strategies, or from the setting of inappropriate objectives and strategies.

Comparative financial statements—Comparative information where amounts and other disclosures for the prior period are included for comparison with the financial statements of the current period but, if audited, are referred to in the auditor's opinion. The level of information included in those comparative financial statements is comparable with that of the financial statements of the current period.

Comparative information—The amounts and disclosures included in the financial statements in respect of one or more prior periods in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Compliance framework—(see *Applicable financial reporting framework* and *General purpose framework*)

Component- means a division, branch, subsidiary, joint venture, associated enterprises or other entity whose financial information is included in the financial information audited by the principal auditor.

Control activities—Those policies and procedures that help ensure that management directives are carried out. Control activities are a component of internal control.

Control environment—Includes the governance and management functions and the attitudes, awareness and actions of those charged with governance and management concerning the entity's internal control and its importance in the entity. The control environment is a component of internal control.

Control risk—(see *Risk of material misstatement*)

* ***Controls at the service organization***—Controls over the achievement of a control objective that is covered by the service auditor's assurance report.

* ***Corporate governance***—(see *Governance*)

[36] "Partner" and "firm" should be read as referring to their public sector equivalents where relevant.

Corresponding figures—Comparative information where amounts and other disclosures for the prior period are included as an integral part of the current period financial statements, and are intended to be read only in relation to the amounts and other disclosures relating to the current period (referred to as "current period figures"). The level of detail presented in the corresponding amounts and disclosures is dictated primarily by its relevance to the current period figures.

Controls—Policies or procedures that an entity establishes to achieve the control objectives of management or those charged with governance. In this context:

(a) Policies are statements of what should, or should not, be done within the entity to effect control. Such statements may be documented, explicitly stated in communications, or implied through actions and decisions.

(b) Procedures are actions to implement policies.

Date of approval of the financial statements—The date on which all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared and those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for those financial statements.

Date of the auditor's report—The date the auditor dates the report on the financial statements.

Date of the financial statements—The date of the end of the latest period covered by the financial statements.

Date the financial statements are issued—The date that the auditor's report and audited financial statements are made available to third parties.

Deficiency in internal control—This exists when:

(a) A control is designed, implemented or operated in such a way that it is unable to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis; or

(b) A control necessary to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis is missing.

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.

Emphasis of Matter paragraph—A paragraph included in the auditor's report that refers to a matter appropriately presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the auditor's judgment, is of such importance that it is fundamental to users' understanding of the financial statements.

Engagement letter—Written terms of an engagement in the form of a letter.

Engagement partner[37]***—***The partner or other individual, appointed by the firm, who is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and is in full time practice and is responsible for the audit engagement and its performance, and for the auditor's report that is issued on behalf of the firm, and who, where required, has the appropriate authority from a professional, legal or regulatory body.

[37] "Engagement partner," "partner," and "firm" is to be read as referring to their public sector equivalents where relevant.

Engagement quality review—An objective evaluation of the significant judgments made by the engagement team and the conclusions reached thereon, performed by the engagement quality reviewer and completed on or before the date of the engagement report.

Engagement quality reviewer — A partner, other individual in the firm[38], or an external individual[39], appointed by the firm to perform the engagement quality review.

Engagement team—All partners and staff performing the audit engagement, and any other individuals who perform audit procedures on the engagement, excluding an auditor's external expert and internal auditors who provide direct assistance on an engagement.

Error—An unintentional misstatement in financial statements, including the omission of an amount or a disclosure.

Estimation uncertainty—Susceptibility to an inherent lack of precision in measurement.

Evaluate—Identify and analyze the relevant issues, including performing further procedures as necessary, to come to a specific conclusion on a matter. "Evaluation," by convention, is used only in relation to a range of matters, including evidence, the results of procedures and the effectiveness of management's response to a risk. (also see *Assess)*

Exception—A response that indicates a difference between information requested to be confirmed, or contained in the entity's records, and information provided by the confirming party.

Experienced auditor—An individual (whether internal or external to the firm) who has practical audit experience, and a reasonable understanding of:

(a) Audit processes;

(b) The SA for LCE and applicable legal and regulatory requirements;

(c) The business environment in which the entity operates; and

(d) Auditing and financial reporting issues relevant to the entity's industry.

Expert—*(see Auditor's expert and Management's expert)*

Expertise—Skills, knowledge and experience in a particular field.

External confirmation—Audit evidence obtained as a direct written response to the auditor from a third party (the confirming party), in paper form, or by electronic or other medium.

External information source—An external individual or organization that provides information that has been used by the entity in preparing the financial statements, or that has been obtained by the auditor as audit evidence, when such information is suitable for use by a broad range of users. When information has been provided by an individual or organization acting in the capacity of a management's expert, service organization, or auditor's expert the individual or organization is not considered an external information source with respect to that particular information.

Fair presentation framework—(see *Applicable financial reporting framework* and *General purpose framework*)

Financial statements—A structured representation of historical financial information, including disclosures, intended to communicate an entity's economic resources or obligations at a point in

[38] Such other person should be a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.
[39] Such other person should be a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

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. Disclosures comprise explanatory or descriptive information, set out as required, expressly permitted or otherwise allowed by the applicable financial reporting framework, on the face of a financial statement, or in the notes, or incorporated therein by cross-reference.

Firm—A sole practitioner/proprietor, partnership including limited liability partnership or any such entity of professional accountants as may be permitted by law, or public sector equivalent.

Fraud—An intentional act by one or more individuals among management, those charged with governance, employees, or third parties, involving the use of deception to obtain an unjust or illegal advantage.

Fraud risk factors—Events or conditions that indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud.

Fraudulent financial reporting—Involves intentional misstatements, including omissions of amounts or disclosures in financial statements, to deceive financial statement users.

Further procedures—Procedures performed in response to assessed risks of *material* misstatement, including tests of controls (if any), tests of details and analytical procedures.

General purpose financial statements—Financial statements prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework.

General information technology (IT) controls—Controls over the entity's IT processes that support the continued proper operation of the IT environment, including the continued effective functioning of information processing controls and the integrity of information (i.e., the completeness, accuracy and validity of information) in the entity's information system. Also see the definition of *IT environment*.

General purpose framework—A financial reporting framework designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users. The financial reporting framework may be a fair presentation framework or a compliance framework.

The term "fair presentation framework" is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework and:

(a) Acknowledges explicitly or implicitly that, to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements, it may be necessary for management to provide disclosures beyond those specifically required by the framework; or

(b) Acknowledges explicitly that it may be necessary for management to depart from a requirement of the framework to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements. Such departures are expected to be necessary only in extremely rare circumstances.

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

Governance — Describes the role of person(s) or organization(s) with responsibility for overseeing the strategic direction of the entity and obligations related to the accountability of the entity.

Inquiry—Inquiry consists of seeking information of knowledgeable persons, both financial and non- financial, within the entity or outside the entity.

Internal audit function—A function of an entity that performs assurance and consulting activities designed to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the entity's governance, risk management and internal control processes.

Internal auditors—Those individuals who carry out the activities of the internal audit function. Internal auditors may belong to an internal audit department or similar function.

Internal control—The process designed, implemented and maintained by those charged with governance, management and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of an entity's objectives with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The term "controls" refers to any aspects of one or more of the components of internal control.

IT environment—*The IT applications and supporting IT infrastructure, as well as the IT processes and personnel involved in those processes, that an entity uses to support business operations and achieve business strategies.*

Management—*The person(s) with executive responsibility for the conduct of the entity's operations. For some entities, management includes some or all of those charged with governance, for example, executive members of a governance board, or an owner-manager.*

Management's expert — An individual or organization possessing expertise in a field other than accounting or auditing, whose work in that field is used by the entity to assist the entity in preparing the financial statements.

Modified opinion — A qualified opinion, an adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion on the financial Statements.

Non-compliance (in the context of laws and regulations)—Acts of omission or commission by the entity, either intentional or unintentional, which are contrary to the prevailing laws or regulations. Such acts include transactions entered into by, or in the name of, the entity, or on its behalf, by those charged with governance, management or employees. Non-compliance does not include personal misconduct (unrelated to the business activities of the entity) by those charged with governance, management or employees of the entity.

Non-response—A failure of the confirming party to respond, or fully respond, to a positive confirmation request, or a confirmation request returned undelivered.

Observation—Consists of looking at a process or procedure being performed by others, for example, the auditor's observation of inventory counting by the entity's personnel, or of the performance of control activities.

Other auditor- means an auditor, other than the principal auditor, with responsibility for reporting on the financial information of a component which is included in the financial information audited by the principal auditor.

Opening balances—Those account balances that exist at the beginning of the period. Opening balances are based upon the closing balances of the prior period and reflect the effects of transactions and events of prior periods and accounting policies applied in the prior period. Opening balances also include matters requiring disclosure that existed at the beginning of the period, such as contingencies and commitments.

Other information—Financial or non-financial information (other than financial statements and the auditor's report thereon) included in an entity's annual report.

Other Matter paragraph—A paragraph included in the auditor's report that refers to a matter other than those presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the auditor's judgment, is relevant to users' understanding of the audit, the auditor's responsibilities or the auditor's report.

Outcome of an accounting estimate—The actual monetary amount which results from the resolution of the underlying transaction(s), event(s) or condition(s) addressed by the accounting estimate.

Partner—Any individual with authority to bind the firm with respect to the performance of a professional services engagement.

Performance materiality—The amount or amounts set by the auditor at less than materiality for the financial statements as a whole to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality for the financial statements as a whole. If applicable, performance materiality also refers to the amount or amounts set by the auditor at less than the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures.

Personnel—Partners and staff of the firm.

Pervasive—A term used, in the context of misstatements, to describe the effects on the financial statements of misstatements or the possible effects on the financial statements of misstatements, if any, that are undetected due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. Pervasive effects on the financial statements are those that, in the auditor's judgment:

(a) Are not confined to specific elements, accounts or items of the financial statements;

(b) If so confined, represent or could represent a substantial proportion of the financial statements; or

(c) In relation to disclosures, are fundamental to users' understanding of the financial statements.

Population—The entire set of data from which a sample is selected and about which the auditor wishes to draw conclusions.

Positive confirmation request—A request that the confirming party respond directly to the auditor indicating whether the confirming party agrees or disagrees with the information in the request, or providing the requested information.

Practitioner—A professional accountant in public practice.

Preconditions for an audit—The use by management of an acceptable financial reporting framework in the preparation of the financial statements and the agreement of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance to the premise on which an audit is conducted.

Predecessor auditor—The auditor from a different audit firm, who audited the financial statements of an entity in the prior period and who has been replaced by the current auditor.

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 acknowledged and understand that they have the following responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of an audit in accordance with the SA for LCE. That is, responsibility:

(a) For the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including where relevant their fair presentation;

(b) For such internal control as management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and

(c) To provide the auditor with:

  (i) Access to all information of which management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;

  (ii) Additional information that the auditor may request from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance for the purpose of the audit; and

  (iii) Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

In the case of a fair presentation framework, (a) above may be restated as "for the preparation and *fair* presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting framework," or "for the preparation of financial statements *that give a true and fair view* in accordance with the financial reporting framework."

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."

* ***Professional accountant***— Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

* ***Professional accountant in public practice***—Refers to the member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India who is in practice in terms of section 2 of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949. This term is also used to refer to a firm of chartered accountants in public practice.

Professional judgment—The application of relevant training, 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.

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 evidence.

Professional standards—Standard on Auditing for Audits of Financial Statements of Less Complex Entities (SA for LCE) and relevant ethical requirements.

* ***Public sector***—National governments, regional (for example, state, provincial, territorial) governments, local (for example, city, town) governments and related governmental entities (for example, agencies, boards, commissions and enterprises).

Principal auditor- means the auditor with responsibility for reporting on the financial information of an entity when that financial information includes the financial information of one or more components audited by another auditor.

Reasonable assurance (in the context of audit engagements)—A high, but not absolute, level of assurance.

* ***Recalculation***—Consists of checking the mathematical accuracy of documents or records. Recalculation may be performed manually or electronically.

Related party—A party that is either:

(a) A related party as defined in the applicable financial reporting framework; or

(b) Where the applicable financial reporting framework establishes minimal or no related party requirements:

  (i) A person or other entity that has control or significant influence, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, over the reporting entity;

  (ii) Another entity over which the reporting entity has control or significant influence, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries; or

  (iii) Another entity that is under common control with the reporting entity through having:

    a. Common controlling ownership;

    b. Owners who are close family members; or

    c. Common key management.

However, entities that are under common control by a state (that is, a national, regional or local government) are not considered related unless they engage in significant transactions or share resources to a significant extent with one another.

Relevant assertions—An assertion about a class of transactions, account balance or disclosure is relevant when it has an identified risk of material misstatement. The determination of whether an assertion is a relevant assertion is made before consideration of any related controls (i.e., the inherent risk).

Relevant ethical requirements—Principles of professional ethics and ethical requirements that are applicable to professional accountants when undertaking the audit engagement. Relevant ethical requirements ordinarily comprise the provisions of the Code of Ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India ("the Code of Ethics") related to audits of financial statements.

* ***Reperformance***—The auditor's independent execution of procedures or controls that were originally performed as part of the entity's internal controls.

Risks arising from the use of IT—Susceptibility of information processing controls to ineffective design or operation, or risks to the integrity of information (i.e., the completeness, accuracy and validity of transactions and other information) in the entity's information system, due to ineffective design or operation of controls in the entity's IT processes (see IT environment).

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:

(a) Inherent risk—The susceptibility of an assertion about a class of transaction, account balance or disclosure to a misstatement that could be material, either individually or when aggregated with other misstatements, before consideration of any related controls.

(b) Control risk—The risk that a misstatement that could occur in an assertion about a class of transaction, account balance or disclosure 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.

Sampling—(see *Audit sampling*)

Sampling risk—The risk that the auditor's conclusion based on a sample may be different from the conclusion if the entire population were subjected to the same audit procedure. Sampling risk can lead to two types of erroneous conclusions:

(a) In the case of a test of controls, that controls are more effective than they actually are, or in the case of a test of details, that a material misstatement does not exist when in fact it does. The auditor is primarily concerned with this type of erroneous conclusion because it affects audit effectiveness and is more likely to lead to an inappropriate audit opinion.

(b) In the case of a test of controls, that controls are less effective than they actually are, or in the case of a test of details, that a material misstatement exists when in fact it does not. This type of erroneous conclusion affects audit efficiency as it would usually lead to additional work to establish that initial conclusions were incorrect.

Sampling unit—The individual items constituting a population.

Service auditor—An auditor who, at the request of the service organization, provides an assurance report on the controls of a service organization.

Service organization—A third-party organization (or segment of a third-party organization) that provides services to user entities that are relevant to a user entity's process to prepare its financial statements.

* ***Significance***—The relative importance of a matter, taken in context. The significance of a matter is judged by the practitioner in the context in which it is being considered. This might include, for example, the reasonable prospect of its changing or influencing the decisions of intended users of the practitioner's report; or, as another example, where the context is a judgment about whether to report a matter to those charged with governance, whether the matter would be regarded as important by them in relation to their duties. Significance can be considered in the context of quantitative and qualitative factors, such as relative magnitude, the nature and effect on the subject matter and the expressed interests of intended users or recipients.

Significant class of transactions, account balance or disclosure—A class of transactions, account balance or disclosure for which there is one or more relevant assertions.

Significant deficiency in internal control—A deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control that, in the auditor's professional judgment, is of sufficient importance to merit the attention of those charged with governance.

Significant risk—An identified risk of material misstatement:

(a) For which the assessment of inherent risk is close to the upper end of the spectrum of inherent risk due to the significance of the combination of the likelihood of a misstatement occurring and the magnitude of the potential misstatement should that misstatement occur; or

(b) That is to be treated as a significant risk in accordance with the requirements of the SA for LCE.

Special purpose financial statements—Financial statements prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework.

Special purpose framework—A financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users. The financial reporting framework may be a fair presentation framework or a compliance framework.

Statistical sampling—An approach to sampling that has the following characteristics:

(a) Random selection of the sample items; and

(b) The use of probability theory to evaluate sample results, including measurement of sampling risk.

A sampling approach that does not have characteristics (a) and (b) is considered non-statistical sampling.

Stratification—The process of dividing a population into sub-populations, each of which is a group of sampling units which have similar characteristics (often monetary value).

Subsequent events—Events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report, and facts that become known to the auditor after the date of the auditor's report.

Substantive procedure—An audit procedure designed to detect material misstatements at the assertion level. Substantive procedures comprise:

(a) Tests of details (of classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures); and

(b) Substantive analytical procedures.

Sufficiency (of audit evidence)—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.

System of internal control—The system designed, implemented and maintained by those charged with governance, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of an entity's objectives with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

* ***Test***—The application of procedures to some or all items in a population.

Tests of controls—An audit procedure designed to evaluate the operating effectiveness of controls in preventing, or detecting and correcting, material misstatements at the assertion level.

Those charged with governance—The person(s) or organization(s) (for example, 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, 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.

Tolerable misstatement—A monetary amount set by the auditor in respect of which the auditor seeks to obtain an appropriate level of assurance that the monetary amount set by the auditor is not exceeded by the actual misstatement in the population.

Tolerable rate of deviation—A rate of deviation from prescribed internal control procedures set by the auditor in respect of which the auditor seeks to obtain an appropriate level of assurance that the rate of deviation set by the auditor is not exceeded by the actual rate of deviation in the population.

Uncorrected misstatements—Misstatements that the auditor has accumulated during the audit and that have not been corrected.

Unmodified opinion—The opinion expressed by the auditor when the auditor concludes that the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

User entity—An entity that uses a service organization and whose financial statements are being audited.

Walk-through test (or Walk-through)—Involves tracing a few transactions through the financial reporting system.

Written representation—A written statement by management provided to the auditor to confirm certain matters or to support other audit evidence. Written representations in this context do not include financial statements, the assertions therein, or supporting books and records.

APPENDIX 2

Illustrative Engagement Letter

Illustration 1: For non-corporate entities preparing their financial statements as per the Accounting Standards issued by ICAI

The following is an illustrative engagement letter for an audit of general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by ICAI. This letter is not authoritative but is intended only to be a guide that may be used in conjunction with the considerations outlined in the SA for LCE. It will need to be varied according to individual requirements and circumstances. It is drafted to refer to the audit of financial statements for a single reporting period and would require adaptation if intended or expected to apply to recurring audits (see paragraph 4.4.2).

***

To the appropriate representative of management or those charged with governance of ABC & Associates:[40]

[*The objective and scope of the audit*]

You[41]have requested that we audit the financial statements of ABC & Associates, which comprise the balance sheet as at March 31, 20XX, and the profit and loss account, and statement of cash flows (where applicable) for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Standard on Auditing for Audits of Financial Statements of Less Complex Entities (SA for LCE) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

[*The responsibilities of the auditor*]

We will conduct our audit in accordance with the SA for LCE. The SA for LCE requires that we comply with ethical requirements. As part of an audit in accordance with the SA for LCE, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

[40] The addressees and references in the letter would be those that are appropriate in the circumstances of the engagement.

[41] Throughout this letter, references to "you," "we," "us," "management," "those charged with governance" and "auditor" would be used or amended as appropriate in the circumstances.

- Understand internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the SA for LCE.

[*The responsibilities of management and identification of the applicable financial reporting framework*][42]

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that [management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance][43] acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

(a) For the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by ICAI;

(b) For such internal control as [management] determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and

(c) To provide us with:

  (i) Access to all information of which [management] is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;

  (ii) Additional information that we may request from [management] for the purpose of the audit; and

  (iii) Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

[42] For purposes of this illustrative engagement letter, it is assumed that the auditor has not determined that the law or regulation prescribes those responsibilities in appropriate terms; the descriptions in paragraph 4.2.1(b) of this standard are therefore used)

[43] Use terminology as appropriate in the circumstances.

As part of our audit process, we will request from [management, and where appropriate, those charged with governance], written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

We look forward to full cooperation from your staff during our audit.

[*Other relevant information*]

[*Insert other information, such as fee arrangements, billings and other specific terms, as appropriate*.]

[Reporting]

[*Insert appropriate reference to the expected form and content of the auditor's report including, if applicable, the reporting on other information.*]

The form and content of our report may need to be amended in the light of our audit findings.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgement of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

Yours faithfully,

(signature)
(Name of the Member)
(Designation)[44]
(Name of the Firm)

Date:

Place:

Acknowledged on behalf of ABC & Associates by

.....

Name and Designation

Date

[44] Partner or proprietor, as the case may be.

Illustration 2: For Companies preparing their financial statements as per the Accounting Standards specified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013

The following is an illustrative engagement letter for an audit of general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with the accounting standards specified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013. This letter is not authoritative but is intended only to be a guide that may be used in conjunction with the considerations outlined in the SA for LCE. It will need to be varied according to individual requirements and circumstances. It is drafted to refer to the audit of financial statements for a single reporting period and would require adaptation if intended or expected to apply to recurring audits (see paragraph 4.4.2).

***

Audit of Financial Statements under the Companies Act 2013 and the Rules Thereunder

To the Board of Directors of ..... (name of the Company)

(Address)

Dear Sirs,

[The objective and scope of the audit]

I / We refer to the letter dated _____ informing me / us about my / our appointment (reappointment) as the auditors of the Company. You have requested that I / we audit the financial statements of the Company as defined in Section 2(40) of the Companies Act, 2013 ("2013 Act"), for the financial year(s) beginning April 1, 20XX and ending March 31, 20YY[45]. I am / We are pleased to confirm my / our acceptance and my / our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

My / Our audit will be conducted with the objective of me / our expressing an opinion if the aforesaid financial statements give the information required by the 2013 Act in the manner so required, and give a true and fair view in conformity with the applicable accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the state of affairs of the Company as at 31st March, 20YY, and its profit/loss and its cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Further, the objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Standards on Auditing (SAs) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

[The Responsibilities of the Auditor]

I / We will conduct my / our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs), specified under Section 143(10) of the 2013 Act. Those Standards require that I / we comply with ethical requirements. As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and

[45] An Engagement Letter may need to be entered into for each year of the period covered by the Eligibility Letter issued by the auditor u/s 139 and the Appointment Letter received from the Company, to supplement / update for any subsequent changes.

maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements due to fraud or error may occur and not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the SAs.

[The Responsibilities of management and identification of the applicable financial reporting framework]

My/Our audit will be conducted on the basis that the Management and those charged with governance (Audit Committee/Board) acknowledge and understand that they have the responsibility:

(a) For the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the accounting standards specified under Section 133 of the 2013 Act and other generally accepted accounting principles in India. This includes:

- Compliance with the applicable provisions of the 2013 Act;
- Proper maintenance of accounts and other matters connected therewith;
- The responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis;
- The preparation of the annual accounts in accordance with the accounting standards specified under Section 133 of the 2013 Act and providing proper explanation relating to any material departures from those accounting standards;

- Selection of accounting policies and applying them consistently and making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company at the end of the financial year and of the profit and loss of the Company for that period;
- Taking proper and sufficient care for the maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the 2013 Act for safeguarding the assets of the Company and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities;
- Laying down internal financial controls with reference to financial statements to be followed by the company and that such internal financial controls with reference to financial statements are adequate and were operating effectively; and
- Devising proper systems to ensure compliance with the provisions of all applicable laws and that such systems were adequate and operating effectively.

(b) Identifying and informing me / us of financial transactions or matters that may have any adverse effect on the functioning of the Company.

(c) Identifying and informing me / us of:

- All the pending litigations and confirming that the impact of the pending litigations on the Company's financial position has been disclosed in its financial statements;
- All material foreseeable losses, if any, on long term contracts including derivative contracts and the accrual for such losses as required under any law or accounting standards;
- Any delay in transferring amounts, required to be transferred to the Investor Education and Protection Fund by the Company;
- Any funds advanced or loaned or invested by the Company to or in any other person(s) or entity(ies), including foreign entities ("Intermediaries"), with the understanding, whether recorded in writing or otherwise, that the Intermediary shall, directly or indirectly lend or invest in other persons or entities identified in any manner whatsoever by or on behalf of the Company ("Ultimate Beneficiaries") or provide any guarantee, security or the like on behalf of the Ultimate Beneficiaries;
- Any funds received by the Company from any person(s) or entity(ies), including foreign entities ("Funding Parties"), with the understanding, whether recorded in writing or otherwise, that the Company shall, directly or indirectly, lend or invest in other persons or entities identified in any manner whatsoever by or on behalf of the Funding Party ("Ultimate Beneficiaries") or provide any guarantee, security or the like on behalf of the Ultimate Beneficiaries;
- Any declaration or payment of dividend by the Company in contravention of the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made thereunder; and
- Any instance of use of accounting software by the Company that does not have an audit trail (edit log) feature, or any instance where the audit trail feature has been disabled or tampered with at any time during the year.

(d) Informing me / us of facts that may affect the financial statements, of which management may become aware during the period from the date of my / our report to the date the financial statements are issued.

(e) Identifying and informing me / us as to whether any director is disqualified as on March 31, 20YY from being appointed as a director in terms of Section 164(2) of the 2013 Act. This should be supported by written representations received from the directors as on March 31, 20YY and taken on record by the Board of Directors.

(f) To provide me / us, *inter alia*, with:

(i) Access, at all times, to all information, including the books, accounts, vouchers and other records and documentation of the Company, whether kept at the Head Office or elsewhere, of which the Management is aware that are relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters. This will include books of account maintained in electronic mode;

(ii) Access to reports, if any, relating to internal reporting on frauds (e.g., vigil mechanism reports etc.), including those submitted by cost accountant or company secretary in practice to the extent it relates to their reporting on frauds in accordance with the requirements of Section 143(12) of the 2013 Act;

(iii) Additional information that I / we may request from the Management for the purposes of my / our audit;

(iv) Unrestricted access to persons within the Company from whom I / we deem it necessary to obtain audit evidence. This includes my / our entitlement to require from the officers of the Company such information and explanations as I / we may think necessary for the performance of my / our duties as the auditors of the Company; and

(v) All the required support to discharge my/ our duties as the statutory auditors as stipulated under the Companies Act, 2013/ Standards on Auditing and applicable pronouncements.

As part of my / our audit process, I / we will request from the Management written confirmation concerning representations made to me / us in connection with my / our audit.

My / Our report prepared in accordance with relevant provisions of the 2013 Act would be addressed to the shareholders of the Company for adoption of the accounts at the Annual General Meeting. In respect of other services, my / our report would be addressed to the Board of Directors. The form and content of my / our report may need to be amended in the light of my / our audit findings.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 143(12) of the 2013 Act, if in the course of performance of my / our duties as auditor, I / we have reason to believe that an offence involving fraud is being or has been committed against the Company by officers or employees of the Company, I / we will be required to report to the Central Government, in accordance with the rules prescribed in this regard which, *inter alia,* requires me / us to forward my / our report to the Board or Audit Committee, as the case may be, seeking their reply or observations, to enable me / us to forward the same to the Central Government.

As stated above, given that I am / we are required as per Section 143(12) of the Act to report on frauds, such reporting will be made in good faith and, therefore, cannot be considered as breach of maintenance of client confidentiality requirements or be subject to any suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding since it is done in pursuance of the 2013 Act or of any rules or orders made thereunder.

I / We also wish to invite your attention to the fact that our audit process is subject to 'peer review' /'quality review' under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949. The reviewer(s) may inspect, examine or take abstract of my / our working papers during the course of the peer review/quality review.

I / We may involve specialists and staff from our affiliated network firms to perform certain specific audit procedures during the course of my / our audit.

In terms of Standard on Auditing (SA) 720(Revised), "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information" specified under Section 143(10) of the Companies Act, 2013, I / we request you to provide to me / us a Draft of the Annual Report containing the audited financial statements so as to enable me / us to read the same and communicate material inconsistencies, if any, with the audited financial statements, before issuing the auditor's report on the financial statements.

{Other relevant information}

{Insert Other information, such as fee arrangements, billings[46] *and other specific terms, as appropriate.}*

I / We look forward to full cooperation from your staff during my / our audit.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgement of, and agreement with, the arrangements for my / our audit of the financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

Yours faithfully,

(signature)
(Name of the Member)
(Designation)[47]
(Name of the Firm)

Date:

Place:

Copy to: Chairman, Audit Committee
Acknowledged on behalf of <<Name of the company>>
Name and Designation: _____
Date: _____

---

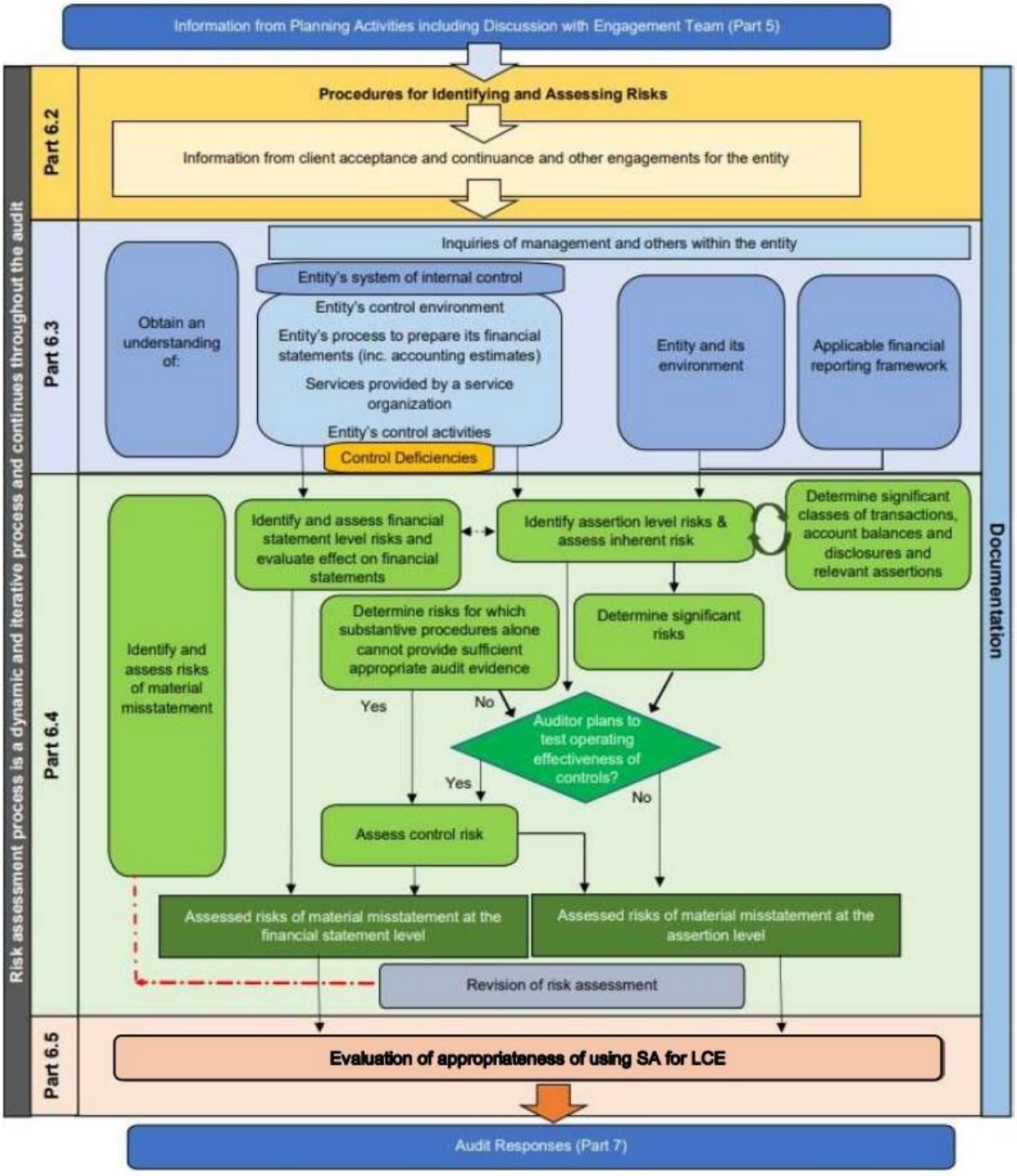
* delete as applicable

[46] For example, "My / Our fees and out-of-pocket expenses for the audit of the financial statements for the year have been fixed by the members at the Annual General Meeting at Rs._____, plus out-of-pocket expenses and indirect taxes/ will be mutually agreed between the Board of Directors of the Company and me / ourselves.* I / We will bill as the work progresses. I / We will notify you promptly of any circumstances I / we encounter that could significantly affect my / our estimate of fees and discuss with you any additional fees, as necessary."

[47] Partner or proprietor, as the case may be.

APPENDIX 3

Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement (Part 6)



APPENDIX 4

Fraud Risk Factors

The fraud risk factors set out below are examples of factors that may be faced by auditors during an audit of less complex entities. Examples are separately presented for the two types of fraud – fraudulent financial reporting and misappropriation of assets.

The risk factors are further classified based on the three conditions generally present when material misstatements due to fraud occur: (a) incentives/pressures, (b) opportunities, and (c) attitudes/rationalizations. Although the risk factors cover a broad range of situations, they are only examples and, accordingly, the auditor may identify additional or different risk factors. Not all of these examples are relevant in all circumstances, and some may be of greater or lesser significance in entities of different sizes or with different ownership characteristics or circumstances. Also, the order of the examples risk factors provided is not intended to reflect their relative importance or frequency of occurrence.

Risk Factors Relating to Misstatements Arising from Fraudulent Financial Reporting

The following are examples of risk factors relating to misstatements arising from fraudulent financial reporting.

Incentives/Pressures

Financial stability or profitability is threatened by economic, industry, or entity operating conditions, such as (or as indicated by):

- Significant declines in customer demand or increasing business failures in the industry or overall economy.
- High degree of competition or market saturation, accompanied by declining margins.
- Operating losses causing the threat of bankruptcy or foreclosure.
- Recurring negative cash flows from operations or an inability to generate cash flows from operations.

Pressure exists for management to meet the requirements or expectations of third parties due to:

- Pressure to renew, or obtain additional, financing, or to meet debt repayment or debt covenant requirements and therefore to overstate performance or position in order to demonstrate profitability and long-term viability.
- Pressure to understate revenue in order to reduce tax liabilities.

Opportunities

Opportunities to engage in fraudulent financial reporting that can arise from the following:

- Related-party transactions not in the ordinary course of business or with related entities not audited or audited by another firm.
- The domination of management by a single person or small group (in a non owner-managed business) without compensating controls.
- The system of internal control is deficient as a result of the following:

- Limited segregation of duties or anti-fraud controls (e.g., fraud hotlines)
- Inadequate involvement of management in operations or other activities that may help management to prevent or detect misstatements in accounting information, or to identify controls that are not operating as intended.
- Accounting and information systems that are not effective, including situations involving significant deficiencies in internal control.

Attitudes/Rationalizations

- Poor communication, implementation, support, or enforcement of the entity's values or ethical standards by management, or the communication of inappropriate values or ethical standards.
- The owner-manager makes no distinction between personal and business transactions.
- Dispute between shareholders in a closely held entity.
- Recurring attempts by management or owners to justify marginal or inappropriate accounting on the basis of materiality or to help the company survive.
- The relationship between management and the current or predecessor auditor is strained by disputes, unreasonable demands on the auditor, restrictions on access to people or information, or domineering management behavior.

Risk Factors Arising from Misstatements Arising from Misappropriation of Assets

Some of the risk factors related to misstatements arising from fraudulent financial reporting may also be present when misstatements arising from misappropriation of assets occur, which often is a common fraud in less complex entities. For example, deficiencies in internal control may be present when misstatements due to either fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets exist. The following are examples of risk factors related to misstatements arising from misappropriation of assets.

Incentives/Pressures

- Personal financial obligations may create pressure on management or employees with access to cash or other assets susceptible to theft to misappropriate those assets.
- Adverse relationships between the entity and employees with access to cash or other assets susceptible to theft may motivate those employees to misappropriate those assets. For example:
  - Known or anticipated future employee layoffs.
  - Recent or anticipated changes to employee compensation or benefit plans.
  - Promotions, compensation, or other rewards inconsistent with expectations.

Opportunities

Certain characteristics or circumstances may increase the susceptibility of assets to misappropriation:

- Large amounts of cash on hand or processed.

- Inventory items that are small in size, of high value, or in high demand.
- Fixed assets which are small in size, marketable, or lacking observable identification of ownership.

Inadequate internal control over assets may increase the susceptibility of misappropriation of those assets. For example, misappropriation of assets may occur because there is the following:

- Inadequate segregation of duties or independent checks.
- Inadequate system of authorization and approval of transactions (for example, in purchasing).
- Inadequate record keeping or physical safeguards over cash, inventory, or fixed assets.
- Lack of mandatory vacations for employees performing key control functions.
- Inadequate management understanding of information technology.

Attitudes/Rationalizations

- Disregard for the need for monitoring or reducing risks related to misappropriations of assets.
- Disregard for internal control by overriding existing controls or failing to take appropriate remedial action on known misappropriations, including petty theft.
- Behavior indicating displeasure or dissatisfaction with the entity or its treatment of the employee.

APPENDIX 5

Assertions

In identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement, the auditor of less complex entities (LCEs) may use the categories of assertions as described below or may express them differently provided all aspects described below have been covered. The auditor may choose to combine the assertions about classes of transactions and events, and related disclosures, with the assertions about account balances, and related disclosures.

An auditor of an LCE may use the following assertions in considering the different types of potential misstatements that may occur. The assertions may fall into the following categories:

Assertions About Classes of Transactions and Events, and Related Disclosures, For the Period Under Audit

- Occurrence—transactions and events that have been recorded or disclosed have occurred, and such transactions and events pertain to the entity.
- Completeness—all transactions and events that should have been recorded have been recorded, and all related disclosures that should have been included in the financial statements have been included.
- Accuracy—amounts and other data relating to recorded transactions and events have been recorded appropriately, and related disclosures have been appropriately measured and described.
- Cutoff—transactions and events have been recorded in the correct accounting period.
- Classification—transactions and events have been recorded in the proper accounts.
- Presentation—transactions and events are appropriately aggregated or disaggregated and clearly described, and related disclosures are relevant and understandable in the context of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Assertions About Account Balances, and Related Disclosures, At the Period End

- Existence—assets, liabilities and equity interests exist.
- Rights and obligations—the entity holds or controls the rights to assets, and liabilities are the obligations of the entity.
- Completeness—all assets, liabilities and equity interests that should have been recorded have been recorded, and all related disclosures that should have been included in the financial statements have been included.
- Accuracy, valuation and allocation—assets, liabilities and equity interests have been included in the financial statements at appropriate amounts and any resulting valuation or allocation adjustments have been appropriately recorded, and related disclosures have been appropriately measured and described.
- Classification—assets, liabilities and equity interests have been recorded in the proper accounts.
- Presentation—assets, liabilities and equity interests are appropriately aggregated or

disaggregated and clearly described, and related disclosures are relevant and understandable in the context of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.

The assertions described above, adapted as appropriate, may also be used by the auditor in considering the different types of misstatements that may occur in disclosures not directly related to recorded classes of transactions, events or account balances.

APPENDIX 6

Examples of Factors Influencing Sample Size for Tests of Controls and Test of Details

The following are factors that the auditor may consider when determining the sample size for tests of controls. These factors, which need to be considered together, assume the auditor does not modify the nature or timing of tests of controls or otherwise modify the approach to substantive procedures in response to assessed risks.

Factor Influencing Sample Size for Tests of Controls	**Effect on sample size**
An increase in the extent to which the auditor's risk assessment takes into account plans to test the operating of effectiveness of controls	Increase
An increase in the tolerable rate of deviation	Decrease
An increase in the expected rate of deviation of the population to be tested	Increase
An increase in the auditor's desired level of assurance that the tolerable rate of deviation is not exceeded by the actual rate of deviation in the population	Increase
An increase in the number of sampling units in the population	Negligible effect

The following are factors that the auditor may consider when determining the sample size for tests of details. These factors, which need to be considered together, assume the auditor does not modify the approach to tests of controls or otherwise modify the nature or timing of substantive procedures in response to the assessed risks.

Factor Influencing Sample Size for Tests of Details	**Effect on sample size**
An increase in the auditor's assessment of the risk of material misstatement	Increase
An increase in the use of other substantive procedures directed at the same assertion	Decrease
An increase in the auditor's desired level of assurance that tolerable misstatement is not exceeded by actual misstatement in the population	Increase
An increase in tolerable misstatement	Decrease
An increase in the amount of misstatement the auditor expects to find in the population	Increase
Stratification of the population when appropriate	Decrease
The number of sampling units in the population	Negligible effect

APPENDIX 7

Illustrative Representation Letter

The following illustrative letter includes written representations that are required by Part 8.6 of the SA for LCE. It is assumed in this illustration that the requirement to obtain a written representation relating to going concern is not relevant; and that there are no exceptions to the requested written representations. If there were exceptions, the representations would need to be modified to reflect the exceptions.

(Entity Letterhead)

(To Auditor) (Date)

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of ABC Company for the year ended March 31, 20XX for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view*) in accordance with [applicable financial reporting framework].

We confirm that:

Financial Statements

- We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement dated [insert date], for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with [applicable financial reporting framework]; in particular the financial statements are fairly presented (or give a true and fair view) in accordance therewith.
- The methods, the data, and the significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of [applicable financial reporting framework].
- All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which [applicable financial reporting framework] require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to the representation letter.
- Any actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements are accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
- [Any other matters that the auditor may consider appropriate.]

Information Provided

- We have provided you with:
    - Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation and other matters;

- Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

- All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the entity and involves:
  - Management;
  - Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
  - Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with law or regulation whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- [Any other matters that the auditor may consider necessary.]

Management Management