

EXPOSURE DRAFT

ED XX/13

(May 2013)

Proposed Auditing Standard ASA 2013-2 *Amendments to Australian Auditing Standards*

Issued for Comment by the **Auditing and Assurance Standards Board**

Draft

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Australian Government

Auditing and Assurance Standards Board

Commenting on this Exposure Draft

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A copy of all non-confidential submissions will be placed on public record on the AUASB website: www.auasb.gov.au

Obtaining a Copy of this Exposure Draft

This Exposure Draft is available on the AUASB website: www.auasb.gov.au

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ISSN 1030-603X

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PREFACE

Reasons for Issuing ED xx/13

The Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) is proposing to issue Auditing Standard ASA 2013-2 *Amendments to Australian Auditing Standards*, pursuant to the requirements of the legislative provisions and the Strategic Direction explained below.

The AUASB is an independent statutory committee of the Australian Government established under section 227A of the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001*, as amended (ASIC Act). Under section 336 of the *Corporations Act 2001*, the AUASB may make Auditing Standards for the purposes of the corporations legislation. These Auditing Standards are legislative instruments under the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*.

Under the Strategic Direction given to the AUASB by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), the AUASB is required, inter alia, to develop auditing standards that have a clear public interest focus and are of the highest quality.

Other Relevant Exposure Drafts

ED xx/13 is to be read in conjunction with ED xx/13 Proposed Auditing Standard ASA 610 (Revised) *Using the Work of Internal Auditors*.

Auditing Standards Amended by ASA 2013-2

This proposed Auditing Standard makes amendments to the following Auditing Standards:

ASQC 1	<i>Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements</i> , as amended
ASA 200	<i>Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with Australian Auditing Standards</i>
ASA 220	<i>Quality Control for an Audit of a Financial Report and Other Historical Financial Information</i> , as amended
ASA 230	<i>Audit Documentation</i>
ASA 240	<i>The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of a Financial Report</i> , as amended
ASA 260	<i>Communication with Those Charged with Governance</i> , as amended
ASA 265	<i>Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control to Those Charged with Governance and Management</i>
ASA 300	<i>Planning an Audit of a Financial Report</i> , as amended
ASA 315	<i>Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment</i> , as amended
ASA 402	<i>Audit Considerations Relating to an Entity Using a Service Organisation</i> , as amended
ASA 500	<i>Audit Evidence</i> , as amended
ASA 550	<i>Related Parties</i> , as amended

ASA 600 *Special Considerations—Audits of a Group Financial Report (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

Main Proposals

The amendments to the Australian Auditing Standards comprise consequential changes arising from the revision of Auditing Standard ASA 610 *Using the Work of Internal Auditor* (see ED xx/13 Proposed Auditing Standard ASA 610 (Revised)).

The main proposals covered by the amendments are:

- (a) A new requirement in ASA 315 (as amended) for the auditor's risk assessment procedures to include enquiries of appropriate individuals within the internal audit function (if the function exists);
- (b) New and revised application and other explanatory material in ASA 315 (as amended) relating to:
 - (i) how enquiries of the internal audit function may inform the external auditor's risk assessment;
 - (ii) procedures for evaluating the internal audit function; and
 - (iii) how the work of the internal audit function may be used in obtaining audit evidence; and
- (c) Consequential amendments to other Auditing Standards that do not have an impact on the requirements of the standards.

Proposed Operative Date

It is intended that this proposed Auditing Standard will be operative for financial reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2014.

New Auditing Standard

This proposed Auditing Standard is a new pronouncement of the AUASB and accordingly does not supersede a pre-existing Auditing Standard.

Request for Comments

Comments are invited on this Exposure Draft of the proposed issuance of ASA 2013-2 *Amendments to Australian Auditing Standards* by no later than 14 June 2014.

The AUASB prefers that respondents express a clear opinion on whether the proposed Auditing Standard, as a whole, is supported and that this opinion be supplemented by detailed comments, whether supportive or critical, on the above matters. The AUASB regards both supportive and critical comments as essential to a balanced review of the Auditing Standard and will consider all submissions.

Specific Matters for Comment

In particular, the AUASB is seeking comments from respondents on the following questions:

1. Have applicable laws and regulations been appropriately addressed in the proposed standard?
2. Are there any references to relevant laws or regulations that have been omitted?

3. Are there any laws or regulations that may, or do, prevent or impede the application of the proposed standard, or may conflict with the proposed standard?
4. What, if any, are the additional significant costs to/benefits for auditors and the business community arising from compliance with the requirements of this proposed Auditing Standard? If there are significant costs, do these outweigh the benefits to the users of audit services?
5. Are there any other significant public interest matters that constituents wish to raise?
6. Are there any additional consequential amendments to any of the Auditing Standards that should be included in this amending standard?

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AUTHORITY STATEMENT

The Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) makes this Auditing Standard ASA 2013-2 *Amendments to Australian Auditing Standards*, pursuant to section 227B of the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001* and section 336 of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Draft

AUDITING STANDARD ASA 2013-2

Amendments to Australian Auditing Standards

Application

1. This Auditing Standard applies to:
 - (a) an audit of a financial report for a financial year, or an audit of a financial report for a half-year, in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*;
 - (b) an audit of a financial report, or a complete set of financial statements, for any other purpose;
 - (c) a review, by the independent auditor of the entity, of a financial report, or a complete set of financial statements, comprising historical financial information, for any other purpose; and
 - (d) a firm that performs:
 - (i) an audit of a financial report for a financial year, or an audit or review of a financial report for a half-year, in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*;
 - (ii) an audit or review of a financial report, or a complete set of financial statements, for any other purpose;
 - (iii) an audit or review of other historical financial information;
 - (iv) an audit or review other than of historical financial information; and
 - (v) other assurance engagements.
2. This Auditing Standard also applies, as appropriate, to an audit of other historical financial information.

Operative Date

3. This Auditing Standard is operative for financial reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2014.

Introduction

Scope of this Auditing Standard

4. This Auditing Standard makes amendments to the Australian Auditing Standards. The amendments arise principally from consequential changes arising from the revision of Auditing Standard ASA 610 *Using the Work of Internal Auditors*.
5. This Auditing Standard uses underlining, striking out and other typographical material to identify the amendments to Auditing Standards, in order to make the amendments more understandable. However, the amendments made by this Auditing Standard do not include that underlining, striking out or other typographical material.

Objective

6. The objective of this Auditing Standard is to make amendments to the following Auditing Standards:

- (a) ASQC 1 *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements*, as amended
- (b) ASA 200 *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with Australian Auditing Standards*
- (c) ASA 220 *Quality Control for an Audit of a Financial Report and Other Historical Financial Information*, as amended
- (d) ASA 230 *Audit Documentation*
- (e) ASA 240 *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of a Financial Report*, as amended
- (f) ASA 260 *Communication with Those Charged with Governance*, as amended
- (g) ASA 265 *Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control to Those Charged with Governance and Management*
- (h) ASA 300 *Planning an Audit of a Financial Report*, as amended
- (i) ASA 315 *Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment*, as amended
- (j) ASA 402 *Audit Considerations Relating to an Entity Using a Service Organisation*, as amended
- (k) ASA 500 *Audit Evidence*, as amended
- (l) ASA 550 *Related Parties*, as amended
- (m) ASA 600 *Special Considerations—Audits of a Group Financial Report (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

Definitions

7. For the purposes of this Auditing Standard, the meanings of terms are set out in each Auditing Standard and in the *AUASB Glossary*. This Auditing Standard does not introduce new definitions.

Amendments to Auditing Standards

Amendments to ASQC 1, as amended

8. The definition in paragraph 12(f)) is amended to read as follows:

~~Engagement team means all partners and staff performing the engagement, and any individuals engaged by the firm or a network firm who perform audit procedures on the engagement. This excludes external experts engaged by the firm or a network firm. [Deleted by the AUASB. Refer Aus 12.6]~~

9. A new footnote is attached to the amended definition in paragraph 12(f), and subsequent footnote references are re-numbered, to read as follows:

[\[Footnote deleted by the AUASB.\]](#)

10. A new paragraph Aus 12.6 is inserted, and subsequent Aus paragraphs are re-numbered, to read as follows:

Engagement team means all partners and staff performing the engagement, and any individuals engaged by the firm or a network firm who perform audit procedures on the engagement. This excludes an auditor's external experts engaged by the firm or by a network firm.

Amendments to ASA 200

11. Paragraph A72 is amended to read as follows:

In some cases, an Auditing Standard (and therefore all of its requirements) may not be relevant in the circumstances. For example, if an entity does not have an internal audit function, nothing in ASA 610 ([Revised](#)) is relevant.

12. Footnote 26 attached to paragraph A72 is amended to read as follows:

See ASA 610 ([Revised](#)) *Using the Work of Internal Auditors*, [paragraph 2](#).

Amendments to ASA 220, as amended

13. The definition in paragraph 7(d) is amended to read as follows:

~~Engagement team means all partners and staff performing the engagement, and any individuals engaged by the firm or a network firm who perform audit procedures on the engagement. This excludes an auditor's external expert engaged by the firm or by a network firm. [\[Deleted by the AUASB. Refer Aus 7.3\]](#)~~

14. A new footnote is attached to the amended definition in paragraph 7(d), and subsequent footnote references are re-numbered, to read as follows:

[\[Footnote deleted by the AUASB.\]](#)

15. A new paragraph Aus 7.3 is inserted, and subsequent Aus paragraphs are re-numbered, to read as follows:

Engagement team means all partners and staff performing the engagement, and any individuals engaged by the firm or a network firm who perform audit procedures on the engagement. This excludes an auditor's external experts engaged by the firm or by a network firm.

Amendments to ASA 230

16. Paragraph A19, sub-paragraph (a) is amended to read as follows:

The documentation requirement applies only to requirements that are relevant in the circumstances. A requirement is not relevant only in the cases where:

- (a) The entire Auditing Standard is not relevant (for example, if an entity does not have an internal audit function, nothing in ASA 610 ([Revised](#)) is relevant); or

17. Footnote 10 attached to paragraph A19(a) is amended to read as follows:

See ASA 610 ([Revised](#)) *Using the Work of Internal Auditors*, [paragraph 2](#).

Amendments to ASA 240, as amended

18. Paragraph 19 is amended to read as follows:

For those entities that have an internal audit function, the auditor shall make enquiries of ~~internal audit~~ [appropriate individuals within the function](#) to determine whether ~~it has~~ [they have](#)

knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the entity, and to obtain its views about the risks of fraud. (Ref: Para. A18)

19. The heading above paragraph A18 is amended to read as follows:

Enquiries of the Internal Audit Function (Ref: Para. 19)

20. Paragraph A18 is amended to read as follows:

ASA 315 and ASA 610 (Revised) establish requirements and provide guidance ~~in-relevant to~~ audits of those entities that have an internal audit function. In carrying out the requirements of those Auditing Standards in the context of fraud, the auditor may enquire about specific ~~internal audit~~ activities of the function including, for example:

- The procedures performed, if any, by the internal auditors function during the year to detect fraud.
- Whether management has satisfactorily responded to any findings resulting from those procedures.

21. Footnote 15 attached to paragraph A18 is amended to read as follows:

See ASA 315, paragraphs 6(a) and 23, and ASA 610 (Revised) *Using the Work of Internal Auditors*.

22. Appendix 1 *Examples of Fraud Risk Factors* is amended, under the heading “Opportunities”, to read as follows:

Internal control components are deficient as a result of the following:

- Inadequate monitoring of controls, including automated controls and controls over interim financial reporting (where external reporting is required).
- High turnover rates or employment of staff in accounting, ~~internal audit, or~~ information technology staff or the internal audit function that are not effective.

Amendments to ASA 260, as amended

23. The first dot point in paragraph A14 is amended to read as follows:

~~Where the entity has an internal audit function, the extent to which the auditor will use the work of internal audit, and how the external and internal auditors can best work together in a constructive and complementary manner. [Deleted by the AUASB. Refer Aus A14.1]~~

24. Paragraph Aus A14.1 is inserted to read as follows:

25. [Where the entity has an internal audit function, how the external auditor and internal auditors can work in a constructive and complementary manner, including any planned use of the work of the internal audit function.](#)

26. A new footnote (footnote 7) is attached to paragraph Aus A14.1, and subsequent footnotes are re-numbered, to read as follows:

[See ASA 610 \(Revised\), paragraph 20.](#)

27. The last sentence in paragraph A33 is amended to read as follows:

Similarly, when the entity has an internal audit function, the auditor may discuss matters with the ~~internal auditor~~ appropriate individuals within the function before communicating with those charged with governance.

28. The second sentence in paragraph A43 is amended to read as follows:

Further, ASA 315 identifies participation by those charged with governance, including their interaction with [the](#) internal audit [function](#), if any, and external auditors, as an element of the entity's control environment.

29. Footnote 10 attached to the amended second sentence in paragraph A43 is amended to read as follows:

See ASA 315, paragraph A7077.

Amendments to ASA 265

30. The second sentence of paragraph A24 is amended to read as follows:

The auditor is also not required to repeat information about such deficiencies if it has been previously communicated to management by other parties, such as [the](#) internal auditors [function](#) or regulators.

Amendments to ASA 300, as amended

31. In Appendix 1 *Considerations in Establishing the Overall Audit Strategy*, the ninth dot point under the heading *Characteristics of the Engagement* is amended to read as follows:

- ~~The availability of the work of internal auditors and the extent of the auditor's potential reliance on such work.~~ [Whether the entity has an internal audit function and if so, whether, in which areas and to what extent, the work of the function can be used for purposes of the audit.](#)

Amendments to ASA 315, as amended

32. Paragraph 6 is amended to read as follows:

The risk assessment procedures shall include the following:

- (a) Enquiries of management, [of appropriate individuals within the internal audit function \(if the function exists\)](#), and of others within the entity who in the auditor's judgement may have information that is likely to assist in identifying risks of material misstatement due to fraud or error. (Ref: Para. A6-A13)
- (b) Analytical procedures. (Ref: Para. A7-A10A14-A17)
- (c) Observation and inspection. (Ref: Para. A11A18)

33. Paragraph 22 is amended to read as follows:

The auditor shall obtain an understanding of the major activities that the entity uses to monitor internal control ~~over~~ [relevant to](#) financial reporting, including those related to those control activities relevant to the audit, and how the entity initiates remedial actions to address deficiencies in its controls. (Ref: Para. A98-A100A106-A108)

34. Paragraph 23 is amended to read as follows:

If the entity has an internal audit function,¹ the auditor shall obtain an understanding of the ~~following in order to determine whether the internal audit function is likely to be relevant to the audit:~~ [nature of the internal audit function's responsibilities, its organisational status, and the activities performed, or to be performed.](#) (Ref: Para. A109-A116)

¹ See ASA 610(Revised) *Using the Work of Internal Auditors*, paragraph 7(a).

- (a) ~~The nature of the internal audit function's responsibilities and how the internal audit function fits in the entity's organisational structure; and~~
- (b) ~~The activities performed, or to be performed, by the internal audit function. (Ref Para. A101-A103)~~

35. The heading above paragraph A6 is amended to read as follows:

Enquiries of Management, the Internal Audit Function and Others within the Entity
(Ref: Para. 6(a))

36. Paragraphs A6-A7 are amended to read as follows:

A6. Much of the information obtained by the auditor's enquiries is obtained from management and those responsible for financial reporting. Information may also be obtained by the auditor through enquiries with the internal audit function, if the entity has such a function, and others within the entity. ~~However, the auditor may also obtain information, or a different perspective in identifying risks of material misstatement, through enquiries of others within the entity and other employees with different levels of authority. For example:~~

- ~~• Enquiries directed towards those charged with governance may help the auditor understand the environment in which the financial report is prepared.~~
- ~~• Enquiries directed toward internal audit personnel may provide information about internal audit procedures performed during the year relating to the design and effectiveness of the entity's internal control and whether management has satisfactorily responded to findings from those procedures.~~
- ~~• Enquiries of employees involved in initiating, processing, or recording complex or unusual transactions may help the auditor to evaluate the appropriateness of the selection and application of certain accounting policies.~~
- ~~• Enquiries directed toward in-house legal counsel may provide information about such matters as litigation, compliance with laws and regulations, knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity, warranties, post sales obligations, arrangements (such as joint ventures) with business partners and the meaning of contract terms.~~
- ~~• Enquiries directed towards marketing or sales personnel may provide information about changes in the entity's marketing strategies, sales trends, or contractual arrangements with its customers.~~

A7. The auditor may also obtain information, or a different perspective in identifying risks of material misstatement, through enquiries of others within the entity and other employees with different levels of authority. For example:

- Enquiries directed towards those charged with governance may help the auditor understand the environment in which the financial report is prepared. ASA 260* identifies the importance of effective two-way communication in assisting the auditor to obtain information from those charged with governance in this regard.
- Enquiries of employees involved in initiating, processing or recording complex or unusual transactions may help the auditor to evaluate the appropriateness of the selection and application of certain accounting policies.

* ISA 260, *Communication with Those Charged with Governance*, paragraph 4(b)

- Enquiries directed toward in-house legal counsel may provide information about such matters as litigation, compliance with laws and regulations, knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity, warranties, post-sales obligations, arrangements (such as joint ventures) with business partners and the meaning of contract terms.
- Enquiries directed towards marketing or sales personnel may provide information about changes in the entity's marketing strategies, sales trends, or contractual arrangements with its customers.
- Enquiries directed to the risk management function (or those performing such roles) may provide information about operational and regulatory risks that may affect financial reporting.
- Enquiries directed to information systems personnel may provide information about system changes, system or control failures, or other information system-related risks.

37. Paragraphs A8-A13 are inserted, and all subsequent paragraphs are re-numbered, to read as follows:

A8. As obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment is a continual, dynamic process, the auditor's enquiries may occur throughout the audit engagement.

Enquiries of the Internal Audit Function

A9. If an entity has an internal audit function, enquiries of the appropriate individuals within the function may provide information that is useful to the auditor in obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, and in identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement at the financial statement and assertion levels. In performing its work, the internal audit function is likely to have obtained insight into the entity's operations and business risks, and may have findings based on its work, such as identified control deficiencies or risks, that may provide valuable input into the auditor's understanding of the entity, the auditor's risk assessments or other aspects of the audit. The auditor's enquiries are therefore made whether or not the auditor expects to use the work of the internal audit function to modify the nature or timing, or reduce the extent, of audit procedures to be performed.[#] Enquiries of particular relevance may be about matters the internal audit function has raised with those charged with governance and the outcomes of the function's own risk assessment process.

A10. If, based on responses to the auditor's enquiries, it appears that there are findings that may be relevant to the entity's financial reporting and the audit, the auditor may consider it appropriate to read related reports of the internal audit function. Examples of reports of the internal audit function that may be relevant include the function's strategy and planning documents and reports that have been prepared for management or those charged with governance describing the findings of the internal audit function's examinations.

A11. In addition, in accordance with ASA 240,[~] if the internal audit function provides information to the auditor regarding any actual, suspected or alleged fraud, the auditor takes this into account in the auditor's identification of risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

[#] The relevant requirements are contained in ASA 610 (Revised).
[~] ASA 240, paragraph 19.

A12. Appropriate individuals within the internal audit function with whom enquiries are made are those who, in the auditor's judgement, have the appropriate knowledge, experience and authority, such as the chief internal audit executive or, depending on the circumstances, other personnel within the function. The auditor may also consider it appropriate to have periodic meetings with these individuals.

Considerations specific to public sector entities (Ref: Para 6(a))

A13. Auditors of public sector entities often have additional responsibilities with regard to internal control and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Enquiries of appropriate individuals in the internal audit function can assist the auditors in identifying the risk of material noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations and the risk of deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting.

38. Paragraph A79 is inserted [after existing paragraph A71] to read as follows:

~~A.71~~ A78. Relevant audit evidence may be obtained through a combination of enquiries and other risk assessment procedures such as corroborating enquiries through observation or inspection of documents. For example, through enquiries of management and employees, the auditor may obtain an understanding of how management communicates to employees its views on business practices and ethical behaviour. The auditor may then determine whether relevant controls have been implemented by considering, for example, whether management has a written code of conduct and whether it acts in a manner that supports the code.

A79. The auditor may also consider how management has responded to the findings and recommendations of the internal audit function regarding identified deficiencies in internal control relevant to the audit, including whether and how such responses have been implemented, and whether they have been subsequently evaluated by the internal audit function.

39. The heading above paragraph A109 [existing paragraph A101] is amended to read as follows:

The Entity's Internal Audit Functions (Ref: Para.23)

40. Paragraph A109 [existing paragraph A101] is amended to read as follows:

~~A101. The entity's internal audit function is likely to be relevant to the audit if the nature of the internal audit function's responsibilities and activities are related to the entity's financial reporting, and the auditor expects to use the work of the internal auditors to modify the nature or timing, or reduce the extent, of audit procedures to be performed. If the auditor determines that the internal audit function is likely to be relevant to the audit, ASA 610 applies.~~

A109. If the entity has an internal audit function, obtaining an understanding of that function contributes to the auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, in particular the role that the function plays in the entity's monitoring of internal control over financial reporting. This understanding, together with the information obtained from the auditor's enquiries in paragraph 6(a) of this Auditing Standard, may also provide information that is directly relevant to the auditor's identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement.

41. Paragraphs A110-A111 [existing paragraph A102] are amended to read as follows:

~~A102.~~ A110. The objectives and scope of an internal audit function, ~~and therefore~~ the nature of its responsibilities and its status within the organisation, including the function's

authority and accountability, vary widely and depend on the size and structure of the entity and the requirements of management and, where applicable, those charged with governance. These matters may be set out in an internal audit charter or terms of reference. ~~The responsibilities of an internal audit function may include, for example, monitoring of internal control, risk management, and review of compliance with laws and regulations. On the other hand, the responsibilities of the internal audit function may be limited to the review of the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of operations, for example, and accordingly, may not relate to the entity's financial reporting.~~

A111. The responsibilities of an internal audit function may include performing procedures and evaluating the results to provide assurance to management and those charged with governance regarding the design and effectiveness of risk management, internal control and governance processes. If so, the internal audit function may play an important role in the entity's monitoring of internal control over financial reporting. However, the responsibilities of the internal audit function may be focused on evaluating the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of operations and, if so, the work of the function may not directly relate to the entity's financial reporting.

42. Paragraph A112 [existing paragraph A103] is amended to read as follows:

~~A103. A112. If the nature of the internal audit function's responsibilities are related to the entity's financial reporting, the external auditor's consideration of the activities performed, or to be performed by, the internal audit function may include review of~~ The auditor's enquiries of appropriate individuals within the internal audit function in accordance with paragraph 6(a) of this Auditing Standard help the auditor obtain an understanding of the nature of the internal audit function's responsibilities. If the auditor determines that the function's responsibilities are related to the entity's financial reporting, the auditor may obtain further understanding of the activities performed, or to be performed, by the internal audit function by reviewing the internal audit function's audit plan for the period, if any, and discussing of that plan with the internal auditors appropriate individuals within that function.

43. Paragraphs A113-A116 are inserted, and subsequent paragraphs are re-numbered, to read as follows:

A113. If the nature of the internal audit function's responsibilities and assurance activities are related to the entity's financial reporting, the auditor may also be able to use the work of the internal audit function to modify the nature or timing, or reduce the extent, of audit procedures to be performed directly by the auditor in obtaining audit evidence. Auditors may be more likely to be able to use the work of an entity's internal audit function when it appears, for example, based on experience in previous audits or the auditor's risk assessment procedures, that the entity has an internal audit function that is adequately and appropriately resourced relative to the size of the entity and the nature of its operations, and has a direct reporting relationship to those charged with governance.

A114. If, based on the auditor's preliminary understanding of the internal audit function, the auditor expects to use the work of the internal audit function to modify the nature or timing, or reduce the extent, of audit procedures to be performed, ASA 610 (Revised) applies.

A115. As is further discussed in ASA 610 (Revised), the activities of an internal audit function are distinct from other monitoring controls that may be relevant to financial reporting, such as reviews of management accounting information that are designed to contribute to how the entity prevents or detects misstatements.

A116. Establishing communications with the appropriate individuals within an entity's internal audit function early in the engagement, and maintaining such communications throughout the engagement, can facilitate effective sharing of information. It creates an environment in which the auditor can be informed of significant matters that may come to the attention of the internal audit function when such matters may affect the work of the auditor. ASA 200 discusses the importance of the auditor planning and performing the audit with professional scepticism, including being alert to information that brings into question the reliability of documents and responses to enquiries to be used as audit evidence. Accordingly, communication with the internal audit function throughout the engagement may provide opportunities for internal auditors to bring such information to the auditor's attention. The auditor is then able to take such information into account in the auditor's identification and assessment of risks of material misstatement.

Amendments to ASA 402, as amended

44. The fifth dot point in paragraph A1 is amended to read as follows:
- Reports by service organisations, the internal auditors function or regulatory authorities on controls at the service organisation.

Amendments to ASA 500, as amended

45. The second sentence in paragraph A51 is amended to read as follows:
- For example, the auditor may intend to make use of the entity's performance measures for the purpose of analytical procedures, or to make use of the entity's information produced for monitoring activities, such as ~~internal auditor's reports~~ of the internal audit function.
46. The second sentence in paragraph A57 is amended to read as follows:
- This may be the case when, for example, responses to enquiries of management, internal auditors, and others are inconsistent, or when responses to enquiries of those charged with governance made to corroborate the responses to enquiries of management are inconsistent with the response by management.

Amendments to ASA 550, as amended

47. The third dot point in paragraph A15 is amended to read as follows:
- The ~~Internal auditors~~ function;
48. The sixth dot point in paragraph A17 is amended to read as follows:
- Periodic reviews by the internal auditors function, where applicable.
49. The twelfth dot point in paragraph A22 is amended to read as follows:
- Reports of the ~~Internal auditors' reports~~ function.

Amendments to ASA 600

50. The fifth dot point in paragraph A27 is amended to read as follows:
- Responses of those charged with governance of the group, group management, [appropriate individuals within the internal audit function](#) (and if considered appropriate, component management, the component auditors, and others) to the group engagement team's enquiry whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud affecting a component or the group.
51. The fourth dot point in paragraph A51 is amended to read as follows:
- Whether [the internal audit function](#) has performed work at the component and any effect of that work on the group audit.
52. In Appendix 2 *Examples of Matters about Which the Group Engagement Team Obtains an Understanding*, the eighth dot point in paragraph 1 is amended to read as follows:
- Monitoring of controls, including activities of [the internal audit function](#) and self-assessment programs.
53. In Appendix 2 *Examples of Matters about Which the Group Engagement Team Obtains an Understanding*, paragraph 2 is amended to read as follows:
- ~~Internal audit~~ [The internal audit function](#) may be regarded as part of group-wide controls, for example, when the ~~internal audit~~ function is centralised. ASA 610 ([Revised](#)) deals with the group engagement team's evaluation of ~~the competence and~~ [whether the internal audit function's organisational status and relevant policies and procedures adequately supports the objectivity of the internal auditors, the level of competence of the internal audit function, and whether the function applies a systematic and disciplined approach where it plans the group engagement team expects](#) to use ~~their~~ [the function's](#) work.
54. In Appendix 2 *Examples of Matters about Which the Group Engagement Team Obtains an Understanding*, footnote 30 attached to paragraph 2 is amended to read as follows:
- See ASA 610 ([Revised](#)) *Using the Work of Internal Auditors*, paragraph 9[16-17](#).
55. In Appendix 5 *Required and Additional Matters Included in the Group Engagement Team's Letter of Instruction*, the sixth dot point in the first paragraph is re-numbered to reads as follows:
- [Aus 0.4 The ethical requirements that are relevant to the group audit and, in particular, the independence requirements.](#)
56. In Appendix 5 *Required and Additional Matters Included in the Group Engagement Team's Letter of Instruction*, the third dot point in the second paragraph is amended to reads as follows:
- The findings of [the internal audit function](#), based on work performed on controls at or relevant to components.

Conformity with International Standards on Auditing

This Auditing Standard has been made for Australian legislative purposes and there is no equivalent International Standard on Auditing (ISA) issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), an independent standard-setting board of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

Compliance with this Auditing Standard does not affect compliance with the ISAs.

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