

**PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING 550
(REVISED AND REDRAFTED)****RELATED PARTIES**(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after ~~date~~[December 15, 2009](#))**[MARK-UP FROM ED]****CONTENTS [To be updated]**

	Paragraph
Introduction	
Scope of this ISA	1-8
Effective Date	9
Objectives	10
Definitions	11
Requirements	
Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities	12-19
Identification and Assessment of the Risks of Material Misstatement Associated with Related Party Relationships and Transactions.....	20-21
Responses to the Risks of Material Misstatement Associated with Related Party Relationships and Transactions.....	22-25
Evaluation of the Accounting for and Disclosure of Identified Related Party Relationships and Transactions.....	26
Written Representations.....	27
Communication with Those Charged with Governance	28
Documentation	29
Application and Other Explanatory Material	
Responsibilities of the Auditor	A1-A3
Relationships that may Indicate Control or Significant Influence.....	A4-A5
Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities	A6-A19
Identification and Assessment of the Risks of Material Misstatement Associated with Related Party Relationships and Transactions.....	A20-A22
Responses to the Risks of Material Misstatement Associated with Related Party Relationships and Transactions.....	A23-A35

Evaluation of the Accounting for and Disclosure of Identified Related Party

Relationships and Transactions.....	A36-A37
Written Representations.....	A38
Communication with Those Charged with Governance.....	A39

Introduction

Scope of this ISA

1. This International Standard on Auditing (ISA) deals with the auditor's responsibilities regarding related party relationships and transactions when performing an audit of financial statements. Specifically, it expands on how ISA 315 (Redrafted),¹ "Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement Through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment," ISA 330 (Redrafted),² "The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks," and ISA 240 (Redrafted)³, "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements," are to be applied in relation to risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions.

Nature of Related Party Relationships and Transactions

2. Many related party transactions are 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.³—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. For example:
 - Related parties may operate through an extensive and complex range of relationships and structures, and may enter into with a corresponding increase in the complexity of related party transactions.
 - Information systems may be ineffective at identifying or summarizing transactions and outstanding balances between an entity and its related parties.
 - Related party 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.

Responsibilities of the Auditor

34. Because related parties are not entirely independent of each other, many financial reporting frameworks establish specific 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 applicable financial reporting framework establishes 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. (Ref: Para. A43)

¹ ISA 315 (Redrafted), "Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement Through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment."

² ISA 330 (Redrafted), "The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks."

³ ISA 240 (Redrafted), "The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements."

45. Even if the applicable financial reporting framework establishes minimal or no related party requirements, the auditor nevertheless needs to obtain an understanding of the entity's related party relationships and transactions sufficient to be able to conclude whether the financial statements, insofar as they are affected by those relationships and transactions: (Ref: Para. A1)
- (a) Achieve fair presentation (for fair presentation frameworks); or (Ref: Para. A24)
 - (b) Are not misleading (for compliance frameworks). (Ref: Para. A32)
56. In addition, an understanding of the entity's related party relationships and transactions is relevant to the requirement for the auditor's to evaluate whether one or more identification of fraud risk factors are present in accordance with ISA 240 (Redrafted),⁴ because fraud may be more easily committed through related parties.
67. As described in [proposed] ISA 200 (Revised), ["Overall Objective of the Independent auditor, and [Fundamental] Concepts Relevant to an Audit of Financial Statements,"] Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements of the financial statements will not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs.⁵ In the context of related parties, inherent limitations regarding-on the auditor's ability to detect material misstatements are greater for such reasons as the following: **ISSUE D1**
- Management may be unaware of the existence of all related party relationships and transactions.
 - Related party relationships may present a greater opportunity for collusion, concealment or manipulation by management.
78. Maintaining an-the required attitude of professional skepticism throughout the audit⁶ as required by [proposed] ISA 200 (Revised) is therefore particularly important in this context, given the potential for undisclosed related party relationships and transactions. The requirements in this ISA are designed to assist the auditor in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions, and in designing audit procedures to respond to such risks.

Effective Date

89. This ISA is effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after [dateDecember 15, 2009].⁷

Objectives

910. The objectives of the auditor are: **ISSUE A1**

⁴ ISA 240 (Redrafted), paragraph 24.

⁵ [Proposed] ISA 200 (Revised and Redrafted), "Overall Objective of the Independent auditor, and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing," paragraph [A37].

⁶ [Proposed] ISA 200 (Revised and Redrafted), paragraph [18].

⁷ ~~This date will not be earlier than December 15, 2008.~~

- (a) To obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; and
- (b) Irrespective of whether the applicable financial reporting framework establishes related party requirements, to obtain an understanding of related party relationships and transactions sufficient to be able:
 - (II) To ~~identify-recognize~~ fraud risk factors, if any, arising from related party relationships and transactions that are relevant to the identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
 - (II) To ~~obtain an understanding of related party relationships and transactions sufficient to be able to~~ conclude whether the financial statements, insofar as they are affected by those relationships and transactions:
 - (i) Achieve fair presentation (for fair presentation frameworks); or
 - (ii) Are not misleading (for compliance frameworks); and

Definitions

~~101.~~ For purposes of the ISAs, the following terms have the meanings attributed below:

- (a) “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; and
- ~~(b) “Dominant influence” – Domination of the entity by a single individual or small group of individuals allowing them to impose their will on the significant decisions affecting the entity’s business. Such an individual or group of individuals may form part of management or those charged with governance, or may have no official role within the entity; and~~ **[ISSUE E]**
- ~~(be)~~ “Related Party” – ~~A party that:~~ (Ref: Para. A5-A6) **[ISSUE B(I)]**
 - (i) A person or other entity that has ~~C~~controls or significantly influences, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, over the entity;
 - (ii) ~~The~~ Another entity over which the entity has controls or significantly influences, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries; or
 - (iii) Another entity that is under common control with the entity ~~(such as through having common management or a common controlling shareholder by virtue of being a fellow subsidiary within a group)~~. (Ref: Para. A74)

When the applicable financial reporting framework provides additional criteria or more specificity in defining related parties, the definition in the framework is used in addition to (i) to (iii) above. ~~(Ref: Para. A5)~~

Requirements

Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities

112. As part of the risk assessment procedures and related activities the auditor is required to perform during the audit~~by ISA 315 (Redrafted)~~,⁸ the auditor shall perform the audit procedures and related activities set out in paragraphs 123 to 189 ~~in order~~ to obtain information relevant to identifying the risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions. (Ref: Para. A6)

Understanding the Entity's Related Party Relationships and Transactions

123. The team discussion ~~among that key~~ members of the engagement team are required to hold⁹ ~~by ISAs 315 (Redrafted) and 240 (Redrafted)~~ shall include specific consideration of the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatements due to fraud or error that could result from the entity's related party relationships and transactions. (Ref: Para. A87-A98)
134. ~~If the applicable financial reporting framework establishes related party requirements,~~ The auditor shall inquire of management regarding: **ISSUE F**
- (a) ~~Obtain from management the names of the related parties that management has identified in accordance with the framework~~ The identity of the entity's related parties; and (Ref: Para. A10-A12)
 - ~~(b) Inquire of management regarding:~~ (Ref: Para. A9)
 - ~~(ib)~~ The nature of the relationships between the entity and these related parties; and
 - ~~(ci)~~ Whether the entity entered into any transactions with these related parties during the period, and if so, the general nature type and purpose of the transactions.
15. ~~If the applicable financial reporting framework establishes minimal or no related party requirements, the auditor shall inquire of management regarding:~~
- ~~(a) The identity of the parties:~~
 - ~~(i) That control or significantly influence the entity;~~
 - ~~(ii) That the entity controls or significantly influences; or~~
 - ~~(iii) That are under common control with the entity; and~~
 - ~~(b) The nature of any business undertaken between the entity and these parties.~~
146. The auditor shall inquire ~~Through inquiries~~ of management and others within the entity, and ~~by performing~~ other risk assessment procedures considered appropriate, ~~the auditor shall to~~ obtain an understanding of the controls, if any, that management has established to: (Ref: Para. A139-A174, A2046)

⁸ ISA 315 (Redrafted), paragraph 5.

⁹ ISA 315 (Redrafted), paragraph 10; and ISA 240 (Redrafted), paragraph 15.

- (a) Identify, account for, and disclose related party relationships and transactions in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; and
- (b) Authorize and approve significant transactions and arrangements with related parties; ; (Ref: Para. A18 and A25) and **ISSUE G**
- (c) ~~Authorize and approve significant transactions and arrangements outside the normal course of business. (Ref: Para. A15)~~

15. If the entity does not have controls over related party relationships and transactions that are relevant to the audit, the auditor shall inquire of management and others within the entity, and perform other risk assessment procedures considered appropriate, to obtain an understanding of the controls, if any, that management has established to authorize and approve significant transactions and arrangements outside the entity's normal course of business. (Ref: Para. A18, A21 and A25) **ISSUE G**

167. The auditor shall share relevant information obtained about the entity's related parties with the other members of the engagement team. (Ref: Para. A19)

Maintaining Alertness for Related Party Information When Performing the Audit

178. ~~If, during the audit,~~ the auditor identifies significant transactions outside the entity's normal course of business, the auditor shall inquire of management: (Ref: Para. A21)

(a) ~~to~~ Understand the nature of these transactions; and (Ref: Para. A22)

(b) ~~whether they involve~~ Whether they involve related parties could be involved. (Ref: Para. A23-47) **ISSUE B(I)**

189. ~~During the audit, the auditor shall also be alert for 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. In addition,~~ The auditor shall inspect, at a minimum, the following documents for information that may indicate the existence of related party relationships or transactions: (Ref: Para. A24)

- (a) Bank and legal confirmations obtained as part of the auditor's procedures; and
- (b) Minutes of meetings of shareholders and of those charged with governance. (Ref: Para. A18-A19)

During the audit, the auditor shall also be alert for 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. (Ref: Para. A25) **ISSUE H**

~~{SUBPARAGRAPH MOVED TO PARA 22}~~

Identification and Assessment of the Risks of Material Misstatement Associated with Related Party Relationships and Transactions

219. In meeting the requirement to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement ~~as required by ISA 315 (Redrafted),¹⁰~~ the auditor shall treat ~~at least the following as circumstances giving rise to significant risks:~~ identified significant related party transactions outside the entity's normal course of business as giving rise to significant risks. **ISSUE II**
- ~~Management has made an assertion in the financial statements stating that a related party transaction was conducted on terms equivalent or similar to those prevailing in an arm's length or market transaction. (Ref: Para. A22)~~
20. If, ~~in carrying out the risk assessment procedures and related activities in relation to related parties,~~ the auditor identifies fraud risk factors ~~(including circumstances relating to the existence of a dominant party)~~ when performing the risk assessment procedures and related activities in connection with related parties, the auditor shall consider such information when identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement due to fraud in accordance with ISA 240 (Redrafted). (Ref: Para. A260-A274)

Responses to the Risks of Material Misstatement Associated with Related Party Relationships and Transactions

212. As part of the requirement for the auditor to respond ~~es~~ to assessed risks ~~required by ISA 330 (Redrafted),¹¹~~ the auditor designs and performs further audit procedures that are responsive to the assessed risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions. These audit procedures shall include those required by paragraphs 223-25. (Ref: Para. A283-A3126)

Identification of Previously Unidentified or Undisclosed Related Parties or Significant Related Party Transactions

22. 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 ~~perform appropriate procedures to~~ determine whether the underlying circumstances ~~reveal~~ confirm the existence of ~~related parties that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor~~ those relationships or transactions.
23. If, ~~when the applicable financial reporting framework establishes related party requirements,~~ the auditor identifies related parties or significant related party transactions that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor, the auditor shall: **ISSUE JI**
- (a) Promptly communicate the relevant information ~~any newly identified related parties to the other members of the engagement team to enable them to determine whether this information affects the results of, and conclusions drawn from, audit procedures already performed, including whether the risks of material misstatement need to be reassessed;~~

¹⁰ ISA 315 (Redrafted), paragraph 24.

¹¹ ISA 330 (Redrafted), paragraphs 5-6.

(Ref: Para. A32)

- (b) 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; and
 - (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;
- (cd) Perform appropriate substantive audit procedures to respond to risks relating to such newly identified related parties or significant related party transactions; and (Ref: Para. A327)
- (de) If the ~~non-identification or~~ non-disclosure by management appears intentional, ~~(i) communicate this information to those charged with governance (unless all of them are part of management and are aware of the information already communicated by the auditor¹²), and (ii) evaluate the implications on for~~ (i) communicate this information to those charged with governance (unless all of them are part of management and are aware of the information already communicated by the auditor¹²), and (ii) evaluate the implications on for the audit. (Ref: Para. A328)

Identified Significant Related Party Transactions Outside the Entity's Normal Course of Business

24. For identified significant related party transactions outside the entity's normal course of business, the auditor shall:
- (a) ~~When in meeting the requirement to evaluate~~ In meeting the requirement to evaluate the business rationale of the transactions ~~as required by ISA 240 (Redrafted),¹³~~ as required by ISA 240 (Redrafted),¹³ evaluate whether their terms and the way they have been accounted for are consistent with management's explanations; and (Ref: Para. A329-A360)
 - (b) Obtain audit evidence that they have been appropriately authorized and approved. (Ref: Para. A371-A382)

Assertions that Related Party Transactions were Conducted on Terms Equivalent ~~or Similar~~ to Those Prevailing in an Arm's Length ~~Terms or Normal Market Conditions~~ Transaction

25. When management has made an assertion in the financial statements stating that a related party transaction was conducted on terms equivalent ~~or similar~~ to those prevailing in an arm's length transaction ~~or transaction under normal market conditions~~, the auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the assertion. If the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the assertion, the auditor shall request management to delete or correct the assertion as appropriate. If management disagrees, the auditor shall consider the implications on the audit, including on the auditor's report. (Ref: Para. A393-A425)

¹² ~~In accordance with ISA 260 (Revised), "Communication with Those Charged with Governance," where all of those charged with governance are also involved in managing the entity, when matters are communicated with person(s) with management responsibilities, and those person(s) also have governance responsibilities, the matter need not be communicated again with those same person(s) in their governance role.~~

¹³ ISA 240 (Redrafted), paragraph 32(c).

Evaluation of the Accounting for and Disclosure of Identified Related Party Relationships and Transactions

26. In forming the opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall evaluate: [\(Ref: Para. A43\)](#)
- (a) Whether the identified related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; and [\(Ref: Para. A44\)](#)
 - (b) Whether the [effects of the](#) related party relationships and transactions ~~could cause the financial statements to:~~
 - (i) [Prevent the financial statements from](#) ~~Fail to~~ achieve [inge](#) fair presentation (for fair presentation frameworks); or [\(Ref: Para. A2\)](#)
 - (ii) [Cause the financial statements to](#) ~~B~~be misleading (for compliance frameworks).
(Ref: Para. ~~A3A36-A37~~)

Written Representations

27. ~~In addition to any specific written representations the auditor believes are necessary in relation to related parties, the auditor shall, w~~Where the applicable financial reporting framework establishes related party requirements, [the auditor shall](#) obtain written representations from management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance that: [\(Ref: Para. A45-A46\)](#)
- (a) 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; and
 - (b) They have appropriately accounted for and disclosed such relationships and transactions in accordance with the requirements of the framework. ~~(Ref: Para. A38)~~ **ISSUE K1**

Communication with Those Charged with Governance

28. Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity ~~and are aware of the matters already communicated by the auditor~~, the auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance significant matters identified during the audit regarding the entity's related party relationships and transactions. (Ref: Para. A47~~39~~)

Documentation

29. [In meeting the documentation requirements of ISA 230 \(Redrafted\)¹⁴ and other ISAs, T](#)the auditor shall include in the audit documentation the names of the identified related parties and; ~~unless otherwise clear~~, the nature of the related party relationships.

¹⁴ [ISA 230 \(Redrafted\), "Audit Documentation."](#)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Responsibilities of the Auditor (Ref: Para. ~~34-45~~)

A1. An applicable financial reporting framework that establishes minimal related party requirements is one that defines the meaning of a related party but that definition has a substantially narrower scope than the definition set out in paragraph 10(b) of this ISA, so that a requirement in the framework to disclose related party relationships and transactions would apply to substantially fewer related party relationships and transactions. **ISSUE B(III)**

A~~2~~¹. In the context of a fair presentation framework,¹⁵ related party relationships and transactions may cause the financial statements to fail to achieve fair presentation if, for example, the economic reality of such relationships and transactions is not appropriately reflected in the financial statements. For instance, fair presentation ~~would~~may not be achieved if the sale of a property by the entity to a controlling shareholder at a price above or below fair market value has been accounted for as a transaction involving a profit or loss for the entity when,~~in reality,~~ it may constitute a contribution or return of capital or the payment of a dividend.

A~~3~~². In the context of a compliance framework,¹⁵ whether related party relationships and transactions ~~may~~cause the financial statements to be misleading ~~depends upon~~in the particular circumstances of the engagement. For example, the financial statements may be prepared for the benefit of a third party who is contemplating acquiring a significant equity stake in the entity at a price that is premised on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements may be misleading in these circumstances if the entity's status as a going concern depends largely on the financial support of one or more related parties, and that fact is not disclosed. ~~As [proposed] ISA 700 (Redrafted) indicates, h~~However, cases in which financial statements prepared in accordance with a compliance framework are misleading in the circumstances are expected to it will be extremely rare for the auditor to consider financial statements that are prepared and presented in accordance with a compliance framework to be misleading if in accordance with [proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted)¹⁶ the auditor determined that the framework is acceptable.¹⁷

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities

A~~4~~³. The public sector auditor's responsibilities regarding related party relationships and transactions may be affected by the audit mandate, or by obligations on public sector entities arising from legislation, regulation, ministerial directives, government policy requirements, or resolutions of the legislature. Consequently, the public sector auditor's responsibilities may not be limited to addressing the risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions, but may also include a broader responsibility to address the

¹⁵ [Proposed] ISA 200 (Revised and Redrafted), paragraph [16(a)], defines the meaning of fair presentation and compliance frameworks.

¹⁶ [Proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted), "Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements."

¹⁷ [Proposed] ISA 700 (Redrafted), "The Independent Auditor's Report on General Purpose Financial Statements," paragraph [A14].

risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations governing public sector bodies that lay down specific requirements in the conduct of business with related parties. Further, the public sector auditor may need to have regard to public sector financial reporting requirements for related party relationships and transactions that may differ from those in the private sector.

Relationships that may Indicate Control or Significant Influence (Ref: Para. 104~~(be)~~)

A5. Many financial reporting frameworks discuss the concepts of control and significant influence. Although they may discuss these concepts using different terms, they generally explain that:

- (a) Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities; and
- (b) Significant influence (which may be gained by share ownership, statute or agreement) is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of an entity, but is not control over those policies. [ISSUE B(IV)]

A64. The following relationships may indicate the existence of control or significant influence:

- (a) Direct or indirect equity or other financial interests in the entity ~~(or vice versa)~~.
- (b) The entity's direct or indirect equity or other financial interests in other entities.
- (~~cb~~) Being part of ~~the management or~~ those charged with governance or key management (i.e. those members of management who have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity) of the entity. [ISSUE B(IV)]
- (~~de~~) Being a close family member of any ~~individual person~~ referred to in subparagraph (~~cb~~).
- (~~ed~~) Having a business relationship with any ~~individual person~~ referred to in subparagraph (~~cb~~).

A7. In this ISA, another entity is not considered to be a related party of the entity if it is only related because both the entity and the other entity are controlled or significantly influenced by a state (i.e. a national, regional or local government), unless there is evidence that the entity exercises influence over, or is influenced by, the other entity. Evidence of the exercise of such influence includes, for example, when the other entity:

- (a) Transacts business with the entity on terms and conditions that are not equivalent to those prevailing in arm's length transactions (otherwise than through regulation);
- (b) Shares resources with the entity; or
- (c) Engages in economically significant transactions with the entity. [ISSUE B(II)]

A5. The related party definition in the applicable financial reporting framework may be broader than that set out in paragraph 11(c)(i)-(iii) and may include, in addition to parties that are actually controlling or significantly influencing the entity, parties that have the ability to exert control or significant influence over the entity.

Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities ~~(Ref: Para. 12)~~

~~A6. Risk assessment procedures and related activities that the auditor performs in accordance with ISA 315 (Redrafted) provide information that is relevant to identifying the risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions. For example, risk assessment procedures to obtain an understanding of:~~

- ~~•The entity's ownership and governance structures;~~
- ~~•The types of investments that the entity is making and plans to make; and~~
- ~~•The way the entity is structured and how it is financed~~

~~provide insight into how the entity is controlled or significantly influenced, how it controls or significantly influences other parties, and whether it is under common control with other parties. Such procedures and related activities include, but are not limited to, inquiries of management and others within the entity.~~

Understanding the Entity's Related Party Relationships and Transactions

Discussion among the Engagement Team (Ref: Para. 12~~3~~)

~~A7.~~ Matters that may be addressed in the discussion among the engagement team include:

- The nature and extent of the entity's relationships and transactions with related parties (using, for example, the auditor's record of identified related parties updated after each audit).
- An emphasis on the importance of maintaining an attitude of professional skepticism throughout the audit regarding the potential for material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions.
- The circumstances or conditions of the entity that may indicate the existence of related party relationships or transactions that management has not identified or disclosed to the auditor (for example, a complex organizational structure or an inadequate information system).
- The importance that management and those charged with governance attach to the identification, appropriate accounting for, and disclosure of related party relationships and transactions (if the applicable financial reporting framework establishes related party requirements), and the related risk of management override of relevant controls.

~~A9.~~ In addition, the discussion in the context of fraud may include specific consideration of how related parties may be involved in fraud. For example:

- A consideration of circumstances that might indicate earnings management that could result in fraudulent financial reporting may include consideration of how special-

purpose entities¹⁸ controlled by management might be used to facilitate earnings management.

- A consideration of transactions between the entity and a known business partner of a key member of management may include consideration of how the transactions could be arranged to facilitate misappropriation of the entity's assets.

Inquiries and Other Risk Assessment Procedures (Ref: Para. 134 and 16)

A10. Where the applicable financial reporting framework establishes related party requirements, information regarding the identity of the entity's related parties is likely to be available to management because the entity's information systems will need to record, process and summarize related party relationships and transactions to enable the entity to meet the accounting and disclosure requirements of the framework. Where the framework does not establish related party requirements, however, the entity may not have such information systems in place. Under those circumstances, the auditor's inquiries regarding the identity of the entity's related parties are likely to form part of the auditor's risk assessment procedures and related activities performed in accordance with ISA 315 (Redrafted) to obtain information regarding:

- The entity's ownership and governance structures;
- The types of investments that the entity is making and plans to make; and
- The way the entity is structured and how it is financed. [ISSUE F]

A11. In the context of a group audit, the group engagement team is required to provide each component auditor with a list of related parties prepared by group management and any other related parties of which the group engagement team is aware.¹⁹ Where the entity is a component within a group, this information provides a useful basis for the auditor's inquiries of management regarding the identity of the entity's related parties.

A129. The auditor may also obtain some information regarding the identity of the entity's related parties through inquiries of management during the engagement acceptance or continuance process.

A130. Others within the entity are those considered likely to have knowledge of the entity's related party relationships and transactions, and the entity's controls over such relationships and transactions. These may include, to the extent that they do not form part of management:

- Those charged with governance;

¹⁸ Special-purpose entities (sometimes referred to as structured finance entities) are entities that are established for specific limited purposes, such as providing financing, liquidity, hedging or credit support.

¹⁹ ISA 600 (Revised and Redrafted), "Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)," paragraph 40(e).

- Personnel in a position to initiate, process, or record transactions that are both significant and outside the entity's normal course of business, and those who supervise or monitor such personnel;
- Internal audit;
- In-house legal counsel; and
- The chief ethics officer or equivalent person.

A141. ~~As [proposed] ISA 200 (Revised) explains,~~ The audit is conducted on the premises that management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand their responsibility for:

- ~~The P~~preparation~~ing~~ and presentation~~ing~~ of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; and
- ~~The D~~designing~~ing~~, implementation~~ing~~ and ~~maintaining~~ maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.²⁰

Accordingly, where the framework establishes related party requirements, management, with oversight from those charged with governance, is responsible for the designing, implementation~~ing~~ and ~~maintaining~~ maintenance of adequate controls over related party relationships and transactions so that these are identified and appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the framework. In their oversight role, those charged with governance are responsible for monitoring how management is discharging its responsibility for such controls. ~~Irrespective of the extent to which the applicable financial reporting framework establishes~~ Regardless of any related party requirements the framework may establish, ~~in order to fulfill their oversight responsibilities,~~ those charged with governance may, in order to fulfill their oversight responsibilities, ~~wish to~~ obtain from management information to enable them to understand the nature and business rationale of the entity's related party relationships and transactions.

A152. In meeting the requirement to obtain~~ing~~ an understanding of the control environment ~~in accordance with ISA 315 (Redrafted),~~²¹ the auditor may consider features of the control environment relevant in mitigating the risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions, such as:

- Internal ethical codes, appropriately communicated to the entity's personnel and enforced, governing the circumstances in which the entity may enter into specific types of related party transactions.
- Policies and procedures for open and timely disclosure of the interests that management and those charged with governance have in related party transactions.

²⁰ [Proposed] ISA 200 (Revised and Redrafted), paragraph [8].

²¹ ISA 315 (Redrafted), paragraph 14.

- The assignment of responsibilities within the entity for identifying, recording, summarizing, and disclosing related party transactions.
- Timely disclosure and discussion between management and those charged with governance of significant related party transactions outside the entity's normal course of business, including whether those charged with governance have appropriately challenged the business rationale of such transactions (for example, by seeking advice from external professional advisors).
- Clear guidelines for the approval of related party transactions involving actual or perceived conflicts of interest, such as approval by a subcommittee of those charged with governance comprising individuals independent of management.
- Periodic reviews by internal audit, where applicable.
- Proactive action taken by management to resolve related party disclosure issues, such as by seeking advice from the auditor or external legal counsel.
- The existence of whistle-blowing policies and procedures, where applicable.

A163. Controls over related party relationships and transactions within some entities may be weak, ineffective or non-existent for a number of reasons, such as:

- The low importance attached by management to identifying and disclosing related party relationships and transactions.
- The lack of appropriate oversight by those charged with governance.
- An intentional disregard for such controls because related party disclosures may reveal information that management considers sensitive, for example, the existence of transactions involving close-family members of management.
- An insufficient understanding by management of the related party requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- The absence of disclosure requirements under the applicable financial reporting framework.

Where such controls are ineffective or non-existent, the auditor may be unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about related party relationships and transactions. In these circumstances, the auditor may need to consider the implications for the audit, including the auditor's report.²² ~~This may be particularly the case in larger, more complex entities.~~

A174. ~~As discussed in ISA 240 (Redrafted), f~~Fraudulent financial reporting ~~and misappropriation of assets often arise through~~ involves management override of controls that otherwise may appear to be operating effectively.²³ The risk of management override of controls is higher if management has ~~related party~~ relationships that involve control or significant influence with

²² [Proposed] ISA 705, "Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report," establishes requirements and provides guidance when a modification to the auditor's opinion on the financial statements is required.

²³ ISA 240 (Redrafted), paragraphs 31 and A4.

parties with which the entity does business because these relationships may present management with greater incentives and opportunities to perpetrate fraud. For example, management's financial interests in certain related parties within the entity's group or in other parties that are not otherwise related parties as defined may provide incentives for management to override controls by (a) directing the entity, against its interests, to conclude transactions benefiting these ~~se related~~ parties, or (b) colluding with ~~those~~ such parties or controlling their actions. Examples of possible fraud include:

- Creating fictitious terms of transactions with related or other parties designed to misrepresent the business rationale of these transactions.
- Fraudulently organizing the transfer of assets from or to management or others at amounts significantly above or below market value.
- Engaging in complex transactions with related or other parties, such as special-purpose entities,²⁴ that are structured to misrepresent the financial position or financial performance of the entity.

A185. Authorization involves the granting of permission by a party or parties with the appropriate authority (whether management, those charged with governance or the entity's shareholders) for the entity to enter into specific transactions in accordance with pre-determined criteria, whether judgmental or not. Approval involves those parties' acceptance of the transactions the entity has entered into as having satisfied the criteria on which authorization was granted. Examples of controls the entity may have established to authorize and approve significant transactions and arrangements with related parties or significant transactions and arrangements outside the entity's normal course of business include:

- Monitoring controls to identify such transactions and arrangements for authorization and approval.
- Approval of the terms and conditions of the transactions and arrangements by management, ~~and~~ those charged with governance, ~~and/or~~ and/or, where applicable, shareholders.
- ~~The completion of documentary procedures to evidence formal authorization and approval, such as signed minutes of meetings at which the transactions and arrangements were approved.~~

A19. Relevant related party information that may be shared among the engagement team members includes, for example:

- The identity of the entity's related parties.
- The nature of the related party relationships and transactions.
- Significant or complex related party relationships or transactions that may require special audit consideration, including transactions in which management or those charged with

²⁴ ~~Special purpose entities (sometimes referred to as structured finance entities) are entities that are established for specific limited purposes, such as providing financing, liquidity, hedging or credit support.~~

governance are financially involved.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

~~A20+16. As discussed in ISA 315 (Redrafted), the control environment in small entities is likely to be different from that in larger entities. In particular, those charged with governance in small entities may not include an independent or outside member, and the role of governance may be undertaken directly by the owner-manager where no other owners exist. Consistent with their simpler businesses, Control activities in smaller entities are likely to be less formal and smaller entities may have fewer or no documented processes in place for dealing with related party relationships and transactions. Instead, the An owner-manager in a small business may mitigate some of the risks that may arise from related party transactions, or potentially increase those risks, through active involvement in all the main aspects of the transactions. Accordingly, for such entities, the auditor may find that inquiry of management will provide the main means of only be able to obtaining an understanding of the related party relationships and transactions through inquiry of management.~~

Maintaining Alertness for Related Party Information When Performing the Audit (Ref: Para. 178-189)

A21. Obtaining further information on significant transactions outside the entity's normal course of business enables the auditor to evaluate whether fraud risk factors, if any, are present and, where the applicable financial reporting framework establishes related party requirements, to identify the risks of material misstatement.~~A17. —~~ Examples of transactions outside the entity's normal course of business may include:

- Complex equity transactions, such as corporate restructurings or acquisitions.
- Transactions with offshore entities in jurisdictions with weak corporate laws.
- The leasing of premises or the rendering of management services by the entity to another party if no consideration is exchanged.
- Sales transactions with unusually large discounts or returns.
- Transactions with circular arrangements, for example, sales with a commitment to repurchase.
- Contracts whose terms are changed before expiry.

A22. Inquiring into the nature of the significant transactions outside the entity's normal course of business involves obtaining an understanding of the business rationale of the transactions, and the terms and conditions under which these have been entered into.

A23. A related party could be involved in a significant transaction outside the entity's normal course of business not only by directly influencing the transaction through being a party to the transaction, but also by indirectly influencing it through an intermediary that is not a related party as defined. For example, if the entity forms part of a group that is ultimately controlled by a person and that person also controls another group not related to the entity, that person may be able to influence the terms and conditions of a given transaction between the entity and any component of that other group. Such influence may indicate the presence of a fraud risk

factor even though the transaction itself may not be deemed to be a transaction between related parties as defined. **ISSUE B(1)**

~~A2419. In the course of performing other risk assessment procedures, T~~the auditor may also inspect some or all of the following records or documents ~~in the course of performing other audit procedures,~~ which may provide new information about related party relationships and transactions: **ISSUE H**

- Third party confirmations obtained by the auditor (in addition to bank and legal confirmations).
- Entity income tax returns.
- Information supplied by the entity to regulatory authorities.
- Shareholder registers to identify the entity's principal shareholders.
- Statements of conflicts of interest from management and those charged with governance.
- Records of the entity's investments and those of its pension plans.
- Specific significant contracts and agreements not in the entity's ordinary course of business, including those involving management ~~and or~~ those charged with governance.
- Specific invoices and correspondence from the entity's professional advisors.
- Life insurance policies acquired by the entity.
- Significant contracts re-negotiated by the entity during the period.
- The entity's ~~H~~internal audit working papers.
- Records or documents associated with the entity's filings with a securities regulator (for example, prospectuses).

~~A2518. An arrangement involves a formal or informal agreement between the entity and one or more other parties for such purposes as:~~

- The establishment of a business relationship through appropriate corporate vehicles or structures.
- The conduct of certain types of transactions under specific terms and conditions.
- The provision of designated services or financial support.

Examples of arrangements that may indicate the existence of related party relationships or transactions that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor include:

- Special-purpose entities.
- Agreements for the provision of services to certain parties under terms and conditions that are outside the entity's normal course of business.
- Guarantees and guarantor relationships.

Identification and Assessment of the Risks of Material Misstatement Associated with Related Party Relationships and Transactions (Ref: Para. 20-24)

A269. Domination of management by a single person or small group of persons without compensating controls is a fraud risk factor.²⁵ ~~The existence of a party with dominant influence over the entity is a risk factor on its own because such a party has the ability to impose its will on the entity. A related party may be in a position to exert such dominant influence. This type of influence arises mainly from the party's significant direct or indirect majority control over the entity, and~~ may be evidenced in such ways as the following: **ISSUE E**

- The ~~dominant-related~~ party has vetoed significant business decisions taken by management or those charged with governance.
- ~~All~~ Significant transactions are referred to the ~~dominant-related~~ party for final approval.
- There is little or no debate among management and those charged with governance regarding business proposals initiated by the ~~dominant-related~~ party.
- Transactions involving the ~~dominant-related~~ party (or a close family member of the related party) are ~~not rarely~~ independently reviewed and approved.

The ~~dominant-related~~ party's influence may be greater in some cases if ~~that party-it~~ has played a leading role in founding the entity and continues to play a leading role in managing the entity.

A271. In the presence of other risk factors, the existence of a ~~dominant-related~~ party with dominant influence may indicate significant risks of material misstatement due to fraud. For example:

- An unusually high turnover of senior management or professional advisors may suggest unethical or fraudulent business practices that serve the ~~dominant-related~~ party's purposes.
- The use of business intermediaries for significant transactions for which there appears to be no clear business justification may suggest that the ~~dominant-related~~ party could have an interest in such transactions through control of such intermediaries for fraudulent purposes.
- Evidence of the ~~dominant-related~~ party's excessive participation in or preoccupation with the selection of accounting policies or the determination of significant estimates may suggest the possibility of fraudulent financial reporting.

~~Assertions that Related Party Transactions were Conducted on Terms Equivalent or Similar to Arm's Length Terms or Normal Market Conditions~~

Responses to the Risks of Material Misstatement Associated with Related Party Relationships and Transactions (Ref: Para. 21-2)

A283. The nature, timing and extent of the further audit procedures that the auditor may select to respond to the assessed risks of material misstatement associated with related party

²⁵ ISA 240 (Redrafted), Appendix 1.

relationships and transactions depend upon the nature of those risks and the circumstances of the entity.²⁶ ~~ISA 330 (Redrafted) provides further guidance on considering the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. ISA 240 (Redrafted) establishes requirements and provides guidance on appropriate responses to assessed risks of fraud.~~

A294. Examples of substantive audit procedures that the auditor may perform when the auditor has assessed a significant risk that management has not appropriately accounted for or disclosed specific related party transactions in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework (whether due to fraud or error) include:

- Confirming or discussing specific aspects of the transactions with intermediaries such as banks, law firms, guarantors, or agents, where practicable and not prohibited by law, regulation or ethical rules.
- Confirming the purposes, specific terms or amounts of the transactions with the related parties (this audit procedure may be less effective where the auditor judges that the entity is likely to influence the related parties in their responses to the auditor).
- Where applicable, reading the financial statements or other relevant financial information, if available, of the related parties for evidence of the accounting of the transactions in the related parties' ~~books~~ accounting records.

A3025. If the auditor has assessed a significant risk of material misstatement due to fraud as a result of the presence of a related party with dominant influence ~~over the entity~~, the auditor may, in addition to the general requirements of ISA 240 (Redrafted), perform audit procedures such as the following to obtain an understanding of the business relationships that such a ~~dominant related~~ party may have established directly or indirectly with the entity and to determine the need for further appropriate substantive audit procedures:

- Inquiries of, and discussion with, management and those charged with governance.
- Inquiries of the dominant-related party.
- Inspection of significant contracts with the dominant-related party.
- Appropriate background research, such as through the Internet or specific external business information databases.
- Review of the entity's whistle-blowing records, where available.

A3126. Depending upon the results of the auditor's risk assessment procedures, the auditor may consider whether it would be appropriate to obtain audit evidence without testing the entity's controls over related party relationships and transactions. In some circumstances, however, it may not be possible to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence from substantive audit procedures alone in relation to the risks of material misstatement associated with related party

²⁶ ISA 330 (Redrafted) provides further guidance on considering the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. ISA 240 (Redrafted) establishes requirements and provides guidance on appropriate responses to assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

relationships and transactions. For example, where intra-group transactions between the entity and its components are numerous and a significant amount of information regarding these transactions is initiated, recorded, processed or reported electronically in an integrated system, the auditor may determine that it is not possible to design effective substantive audit procedures that by themselves would reduce the risks of material misstatement associated with these transactions to an acceptably low level. In such a cases, in meeting the requirement to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence as to the operating effectiveness of relevant controls as required by ISA 330,²⁷ the auditor would tests the entity's controls over the completeness and accuracy of the recording of the related party relationships and transactions in order to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

Identification of Previously Unidentified or Undisclosed Related Parties or Significant Related Party Transactions (Ref: Para. 23)

A~~32~~⁶. Communicating promptly any newly identified related parties to the other members of the engagement team assists enables them to in determining whether this information affects the results of, and conclusions drawn from, risk assessment procedures already performed, including whether the risks of material misstatement need to be reassessed.

A~~33~~²⁷. Examples of substantive audit procedures that the auditor may perform to respond to risks relating to newly identified related parties or significant related party transactions include:

- Making inquiries regarding the nature of the entity's relationships with the newly identified related parties, including (where appropriate and not prohibited by law, regulation or ethical rules) inquiring of parties outside the entity who are presumed to have significant knowledge of the entity and its business, such as principal agents, major representatives, consultants, guarantors, or other close business partners.
- Conducting an analysis of accounting records for transactions with the newly identified related parties. Such an analysis may be facilitated using computer-assisted audit techniques.
- Verifying the terms and conditions of the newly identified related party transactions, and evaluating whether the transactions have been accounted for in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

A~~34~~²⁸. If management appears to have intentionally failed to disclose related parties or significant related party transactions to the auditor, this may indicate a fraud-risk of material misstatement due to fraud. The requirements and guidance in ISA 240 (Redrafted) regarding the auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements are relevant in these circumstances. The auditor may also consider whether it is necessary to re-evaluate the reliability of management's responses to the auditor's inquiries and management's representations to the auditor.

²⁷ ISA 330 (Redrafted), paragraph 8(b).

Identified Significant Related Party Transactions Outside the Entity's Normal Course of Business
(Ref: Para. 24)

A3529. In evaluating the business rationale of a significant related party transaction outside the entity's normal course of business, the auditor may consider the following:

- Whether the transaction:
 - Is overly complex (for example, it may involve multiple related parties within a consolidated group).
 - Has unusual terms of trade, such as unusual prices, interest rates, guarantees and repayment terms.
 - Lacks an apparent logical business reason for its occurrence.
 - Involves previously unidentified related parties.
 - Is processed in an unusual manner.
- Whether management has discussed the nature of, and accounting for, such a transaction with those charged with governance.
- Whether management is placing more emphasis on a particular accounting treatment rather than considering giving due regard to the underlying economics of the transaction.

Where management's explanations are materially inconsistent with the terms of the related party transaction or how the transaction has been accounted for in the financial statements, the auditor may need to consider the reliability of management's explanations and representations on other significant matters.

A360. The auditor may also seek to understand the business rationale of such a transaction from the related party's perspective, as this may help the auditor to better understand the economic reality of the transaction and why it was carried out. A business rationale from the related party's perspective that appears inconsistent with the nature of its business may represent a fraud risk factor.

A371. Authorization and approval by management, those charged with governance, or, where applicable, the ~~entity's~~ shareholders, of significant related party transactions outside the entity's normal course of business may provide audit evidence that these have been duly considered at the appropriate levels within the entity and that their terms and conditions have been appropriately reflected in the financial statements. The existence of transactions of this nature that were not subject to such authorization and approval, in the absence of rational explanations based on discussion with management ~~and or~~ those charged with governance, may indicate risks of material misstatement due to error or fraud. In these circumstances, the auditor may need to be alert for other transactions of a similar nature. Authorization and approval alone, however, may not be sufficient in concluding whether ~~fraud~~ risks of material misstatement due to fraud are absent because authorization and approval may be ineffective if there has been collusion between the related parties or if the entity is subject to the dominant influence of ~~another a related~~ party.

Considerations Specific to Smaller Entities

A382. A smaller entity may not have the same compensating controls provided by different levels of authority and approval that may exist in a larger entity. Accordingly, when auditing a smaller entity, the auditor may rely to a lesser degree on authorization and approval for audit evidence regarding the validity of significant related party transactions outside the entity's normal course of business. Instead, the auditor may consider performing other audit procedures such as inspecting relevant documents, confirming specific aspects of the transactions with relevant parties, or observing the owner-manager's involvement with the transactions.

Assertions that Related Party Transactions were Conducted on Terms Equivalent ~~or Similar~~ to Those Prevailing in an Arm's Length ~~Terms or Normal Market Conditions~~ Transaction (Ref: Para. 25)

A3922. Although audit evidence may be readily available regarding how the price of a related party transaction compares to that of ~~an~~ similar arm's length ~~or market~~ transaction, there are ordinarily practical difficulties that limit the auditor's ability to obtain audit evidence that all other aspects of the transaction are equivalent ~~or similar~~ to those of ~~an~~ the arm's length ~~or market~~ transaction. For example, although the auditor may be able to confirm that a related party transaction has been conducted at a market price, it may be impracticable to confirm whether other terms and conditions of the transaction (such as credit terms, contingencies and specific charges) are equivalent to those that would ordinarily be agreed between independent parties. Accordingly, there is a significant may be a risk that management's assertion that a related party transaction was conducted on terms equivalent ~~or similar~~ to those prevailing in an arm's length ~~or market~~ transaction may be materially misstated.

A4033. Management is responsible for the substantiation of an assertion that a related party transaction was conducted on terms equivalent ~~or similar~~ to those prevailing in ~~of~~ an arm's length transaction. Management's support for the assertion may include:

- Comparing the terms of the related party transaction to those of an identical or similar transaction with one or more unrelated parties.
- Engaging an external expert to determine a market value and to confirm market terms and conditions for the transaction.
- Comparing the terms of the transaction to known market terms for broadly similar transactions on an open market.

A341. Evaluating management's support for this assertion may involve one or more of the following:

- Considering the appropriateness of management's process for supporting the assertion.
- Verifying the source of the internal or external data supporting the assertion, and testing the data to determine their accuracy, completeness and relevance.
- Evaluating the reasonableness of any significant assumptions on which the assertion is based.

A4235. In the absence of audit evidence to substantiate an assertion that a related party transaction was conducted on terms equivalent to those prevailing in an arm's length transaction, Aa refusal by management to delete or correct a material misstatement regarding such an assertion that a related party transaction was conducted on terms equivalent or similar to those of an arm's length transaction, either by amending the relevant disclosure or by providing additional appropriate disclosures, may have implications ~~on for~~ the audit, such as the reliability of the representations made by management, the assessment of ~~fraud~~ risks of material misstatement due to fraud, consideration of the need to modify the audit opinion, and consideration of whether to withdraw from the engagement. The auditor may also find it appropriate to consult legal counsel.

Evaluation of the Accounting for and Disclosure of Identified Related Party Relationships and Transactions (Ref: Para. 26)

Materiality Considerations in Evaluating Misstatements

A436. A consideration of ~~both~~ the size and nature of a related party transaction and the circumstances of its occurrence is important in evaluating whether a misstatement to which it gives rise is material. ~~because:~~ (a) The significance of the transaction to the financial statement users may not depend solely on the recorded amount of the transaction but also on other specific relevant factors, such as the nature of the related party relationship. (for example, the applicable financial reporting framework may deem transactions between the entity and those charged with governance to be significant regardless of the amounts involved); or **ISSUE B(V)**

(b) ~~There may be no objective basis for measuring the transaction.~~

Evaluation of Related Party Disclosures (Ref: Para. 26(a))

A3744. Evaluating the entity's related party disclosures in the context of the disclosure requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework means considering whether the facts and circumstances of the entity's related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately summarized and presented so that the disclosures are understandable. Disclosures of related party transactions may not be understandable if:

- (a) The business rationale and the effects of the transactions on the financial statements are unclear or misstated; or
- (b) Key terms, conditions, or other important elements of the transactions necessary for understanding them are not appropriately disclosed.

Written Representations (Ref: Para. 27)

A3845. Circumstances in which it may be appropriate to obtain written representations from those charged with governance include:

- When they have approved specific related party transactions that (a) materially affect the financial statements, or (b) involve management.
- When they have made specific oral representations to the auditor on details of certain related party transactions.

- When they have financial or other interests in the related parties or the related party transactions.

A46. The auditor may also obtain ~~Specific~~ written representations regarding specific assertions that management may have made, may address, where appropriate, specific related party issues, such as ~~the existence of a representation that specific related party transactions do not involve~~ undisclosed side agreements ~~on significant related party transactions.~~

Communication with Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. 28)

A4739. Communicating significant related party matters identified during the audit with those charged with governance helps the auditor to establish a common understanding with them of the nature and resolution of these matters. This may also provide an opportunity for the auditor to alert those charged with governance to significant related party relationships and transactions of which they may not have been previously aware. Examples of significant related party matters include:

- Non-disclosure (whether intentional or not) by management to the auditor of related parties or significant related party transactions. [ISSUE J]
- The identification of significant related party transactions that have not been appropriately authorized and approved, which may give rise to suspected fraud.
- Disagreement with management regarding the accounting for and disclosure of significant related party transactions in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
- Non-compliance with applicable law or regulations prohibiting or restricting specific types of related party transactions.
- Difficulties in confirming the identity of the party that ultimately controls the entity.