

**ENGAGEMENTS TO REVIEW HISTORICAL FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS—  
DRAFT REVISED INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON REVIEW  
ENGAGEMENTS 2400**

(Effective for reviews of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, [date])

[CLEAN]

This Agenda Item contains the current working draft of revised ISRE 2400 *Engagements to Review Historical Financial Statements*. It is presented for reference purposes only. The Task Force believes providing the current working draft is useful in the context of the Board's consideration of the issues raised for discussion in Agenda Item 4-A, regarding the practitioner's objectives and the procedures to be performed in a review.

Requirements and guidance in shading indicate the relevant sections of the draft revised ISRE discussed in Agenda Item 4-A.

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## Introduction

### Scope of this ISRE

1. This International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) deals with:
  - (a) The practitioner's responsibilities when engaged to perform a review of historical financial statements, when the practitioner is not the auditor of the entity's financial statements; and
  - (b) The form and content of the practitioner's report on the financial statements.
2. A practitioner engaged to perform a review of an entity's financial statements or interim financial information, who is the auditor of the entity financial statements, performs such a review in accordance with ISRE 2410.<sup>1</sup> (Ref: Para. A1)
3. This ISRE is to be applied, adapted as necessary, to reviews of other historical financial information. Limited assurance engagements performed for information other than historical financial information are performed under ISAE 3000.<sup>2</sup> (Ref: Para. A2)

### The Engagement to Review Historical Financial Statements

4. The review of historical financial statements is a limited assurance engagement, as described in the *International Framework for Assurance Engagements* ("the Framework").<sup>3</sup> (Ref: Para. A3- A4)
5. In a review of financial statements the practitioner expresses a conclusion that is designed to enhance the degree of confidence of intended users regarding the preparation of an entity's financial statements in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework. A review engagement conducted in accordance with this ISRE and relevant ethical requirements enables the practitioner to form that conclusion. (Ref: Para. A2-A3)
6. Applying the concepts of limited assurance explained in the Framework,<sup>4</sup> a review engagement under this ISRE involves providing the practitioner's conclusion on the financial statements reviewed expressed in negative form. The form of conclusion expressed by the practitioner will depend upon the applicable financial reporting framework and any applicable law or regulation. (Ref: Para. A4)
7. In a review of financial statements the practitioner performs procedures, primarily inquiry and analytical review, to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to have a

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<sup>1</sup> International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2410, *Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity*

<sup>2</sup> International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000, *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information*

<sup>3</sup> *International Framework for Assurance Engagements* (Framework), paragraph 7

<sup>4</sup> Framework, paragraphs 11, 48 and 59

reasonable basis to form a conclusion on the financial statements as a whole, expressed in the negative form as required under this ISRE. (Ref: Para. A5)

8. Where there is indication the financial statements are likely to be materially misstated, the practitioner performs such further procedures as the practitioner considers necessary to have a reasonable basis to form a conclusion on the financial statements as a whole in accordance with this ISRE.

### Authority of this ISRE

9. This ISRE contains the objectives of the practitioner in following the ISRE, which provide the context in which the requirements of this ISRE are set and are intended to assist the practitioner in understanding what needs to be accomplished in the review engagement.
10. The ISRE contains requirements, expressed using “shall,” that are designed to enable the practitioner to meet the stated objectives.
11. It also contains introductory material, definitions, and application and other explanatory material that provides context relevant to a proper understanding of the ISRE. The application and other explanatory material provides further explanation of the requirements and guidance for carrying them out. While such guidance does not itself impose a requirement, it is relevant to the proper application of the requirements. The application and other explanatory material may also provide background information on matters addressed in this ISRE that assist in the application of the requirements. Where appropriate, additional considerations specific to public sector audit organizations, or firms other than smaller firms, are included within the application and other explanatory material which assist the application of the requirements in this ISRE in those settings. They do not, however, limit or reduce the responsibility of the firm to apply and comply with the requirements in this ISRE.

### Effective Date

12. This ISRE is required to be applied to a review of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, [date].

### Objectives

13. The practitioner’s objectives in conducting a review of financial statements are:
  - (a) To perform procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to form a conclusion about whether anything has come to the attention of the practitioner that causes the practitioner to believe the financial statements are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework; and
  - (b) To report on the financial statements as a whole, and communicate as required by this ISRE, in accordance with the practitioner’s findings.

***Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Evidence in a Review***

14. If the practitioner is not able to perform procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to form a conclusion on the financial statements in the form required under this ISRE, the practitioner is required to either disclaim a conclusion in the report provided for the engagement or, where appropriate, withdraw from the engagement if withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation. (Ref. Para A6-A8)

**Definitions**

15. The following terms have the meanings attributed below for the purposes of this ISRE: (Ref. Para. A9)
- (a) *Analytical procedures*—Evaluations of financial information through analysis of plausible relationships among both financial and non-financial data. Analytical procedures also encompass such investigation as is necessary of identified fluctuations or relationships that are inconsistent with other relevant information or that differs from expected values by a significant amount.
  - (b) *Further procedures*—Additional procedures performed when there is indication that the financial statements being reviewed are likely to contain a material misstatement. (Ref. Para. A9–A10)
  - (c) *Inquiry*—Inquiry consists of seeking information of knowledgeable persons, both financial and non-financial, within the entity or outside the entity.
  - (d) *Practitioner*—A professional accountant in public practice who conducts the review engagement. The term includes the practitioner or other members of the engagement team, or, as applicable, the firm. Where this ISRE expressly intends that a requirement or responsibility be fulfilled by the engagement partner, the term “engagement partner” rather than “practitioner” is used. “Engagement partner” and “firm” are to be read as referring to their public sector equivalents where relevant.
  - (e) *Relevant ethical requirements*—Ethical requirements the engagement team is subject to, which ordinarily comprise Parts A and B of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code) together with national requirements that are more restrictive.
  - (f) *Risk of material misstatement*—The risk that the financial statements as whole are materially misstated prior to review.
16. The terms “management” and “those charged with governance” are defined in the Handbook’s Glossary of Terms<sup>5</sup> (the Glossary). For the purposes of this ISRE, references to “management” should hereafter be read as, “management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance.” Where it is intended that requirements or guidance apply only to

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<sup>5</sup> The Glossary of Terms relating to International Standards issued by the IAASB in the *Handbook of International Quality Control, Auditing, Review, Other Assurance, and Related Services Pronouncements* (the Glossary) published by IFAC

those charged with governance the relevant text of this ISRE refers only to those charged with governance. (Ref: Para. A10–A12)

## Requirements

### Conduct of a Review Engagement in Accordance with this ISRE

17. The practitioner shall have an understanding of the entire text of this ISRE, including its application and other explanatory material, to understand its objectives and to apply its requirements properly.

#### *Complying with Relevant Requirements*

18. The practitioner shall comply with each requirement of this ISRE unless a requirement is not relevant for the engagement, for example if the circumstances addressed by the requirement do not exist in the engagement. (Ref: Para. A13)
19. The practitioner shall not represent compliance with this ISRE unless the practitioner has complied with all the requirements of this ISRE relevant to the review engagement.

### Ethical Requirements

20. The practitioner shall comply with relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, relating to an engagement to review financial statements. (Ref: Para. A14–A16)

### Professional Skepticism and Professional Judgment

21. The practitioner shall plan and perform the engagement with professional skepticism recognizing that circumstances may exist that cause the financial statements to be materially misstated. (Ref: Para. A17–A20)
22. The practitioner shall exercise professional judgment in planning and performing the engagement. (Ref: Para. A21–A25)

### Engagement Quality Control

#### *System of Quality Control*

23. Quality control systems, policies and procedures are the responsibility of the firm. ISQC 1<sup>6</sup> applies to firms of professional accountants in respect of a firm's engagements to review financial statements. The provisions of this ISRE regarding quality control at the level of individual review engagements are premised on the basis that firms are subject to ISQC 1<sup>7</sup> or national requirements that are at least as demanding, when performing review engagements. (Ref: Para. A26–A28)

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<sup>6</sup> International Standard on Quality Control (ISQC) 1, *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements*

<sup>7</sup> ISQC 1, paragraph 4

*Role of the Engagement Team*

24. The engagement partner shall take responsibility for the overall quality of each review engagement to which that partner is assigned. Within the context of the firm's system of quality control, the engagement partner shall take responsibility for: (Ref: Para. A29)
  - (a) The review being performed in accordance with the firm's quality control policies and procedures, specifically: (Ref: Para. A30-A34)
    - (i) Following appropriate procedures regarding the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and engagements; (Ref: Para. A30)
    - (ii) Being satisfied that the engagement team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to perform the review engagement, and have complied with relevant ethical requirements;
    - (iii) Directing, supervising and performing the review engagement in compliance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and
    - (iv) Maintaining appropriate engagement documentation; and
  - (b) The practitioner's report being appropriate in the circumstances.
25. Throughout the engagement, the engagement partner shall remain alert, through observation and making inquiries as necessary, for evidence of non-compliance with relevant ethical requirements by members of the engagement team. If matters come to the engagement partner's attention through the firm's system of quality control or otherwise that indicate that members of the engagement team have not complied with relevant ethical requirements, the engagement partner, in consultation with others in the firm, shall determine the appropriate action. (Ref: Para. A32)
26. An effective system of quality control for a firm includes a monitoring process designed to provide the firm with reasonable assurance that the firm's policies and procedures relating to the system of quality control are relevant, adequate and operative effectively. The engagement partner shall consider the results of the firm's monitoring process as evidenced in the latest information circulated by the firm and, if applicable, other network firms and whether deficiencies noted in that information may affect the review engagement. (Ref: Para. A31)

**Engagement Acceptance and Continuance**

27. The practitioner shall be satisfied that appropriate procedures regarding the continuance of client relationships and acceptance of engagements have been carried out, and shall determine that conclusions reached in regard to acceptance and continuance of client relationships and review engagements are appropriate.

*Factors Affecting Continuance of Client Relationships and Engagement Acceptance*

28. Unless required by law or regulation, the practitioner shall not accept a review engagement if: (Ref: Para. A36–A41)
- (a) The practitioner is unable to identify the purpose for the review engagement and the intended users of the financial statements, or is not satisfied that there is a rational purpose for the engagement, (Ref: Para. A36–A38)
  - (b) The basis upon which the engagement is to be performed is not agreed with management or those charged with governance through establishing that the preconditions for a review engagement are present; (Ref: Para. A34) or
  - (c) The practitioner’s preliminary knowledge of the engagement circumstances indicates that the entity’s accounting system is such that information needed to perform the review engagement is likely to be unavailable or unreliable; (Ref: Para. A35) or
  - (d) Management imposes a limitation on the scope of the practitioner’s work for the proposed review engagement, and the practitioner believes the scope limitation will result in the practitioner disclaiming a conclusion on the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A35)

*Preconditions for a Review Engagement*

29. In order to establish whether the preconditions for a review engagement are present, prior to accepting the engagement the practitioner shall: (Ref: Para. A37)
- (a) Determine whether the financial reporting framework applied in the preparation of the financial statements is acceptable; (Ref: Para. A42–A48) and
  - (b) Obtain the agreement of management that it acknowledges and understands its responsibilities: (Ref: Para. A49)
    - (i) For preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including where relevant their fair presentation;
    - (ii) For such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
    - (iii) To provide the practitioner with:
      - a. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
      - b. Additional information that the practitioner may request from management for the purpose of the review; and
      - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom the practitioner determines it necessary to obtain review evidence.



30. If the preconditions for a review engagement in paragraph 29 are not present, the practitioner shall discuss the matter with management, or the engaging party if that is not management. If changes cannot be made to meet the preconditions, in accordance with paragraph 28 the practitioner shall not accept the engagement as an assurance engagement unless required to do so by law or regulation. However, an engagement conducted under such circumstances does not comply with this ISRE. Accordingly, the practitioner shall not include any reference within the assurance report to the engagement having been conducted in accordance with this ISRE.

*Additional Considerations When the Wording of the Practitioner's Report is Prescribed by Law or Regulation*

31. In some cases when the review is performed pursuant to applicable law or regulation of a jurisdiction, the relevant law or regulation may prescribe the layout or wording of the practitioner's report in a form or in terms that are significantly different from the requirements of this ISRE. In these circumstances, the practitioner shall evaluate:
- (a) Whether users might misunderstand the assurance obtained from the review of the financial statements and, if so,
  - (b) Whether additional explanation in the practitioner's report can mitigate possible misunderstanding.

If the practitioner concludes that additional explanation in the practitioner's report cannot mitigate possible misunderstanding, the practitioner shall not accept the review engagement unless required by law or regulation to do so. A review conducted in accordance with such law or regulation does not comply with this ISRE. Accordingly, the practitioner shall not include any reference within the practitioner's report to the review having been conducted in accordance with this ISRE. (Ref: Para. A54)

*Agreeing the Terms of Engagement*

32. The practitioner shall agree the terms of the engagement with management or those charged with governance, as appropriate. (Ref: Para. 55)
33. The agreed terms of engagement shall be recorded in an engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement, and shall include: (Ref: Para. A57–A59)
- (a) The objective and scope of the review;
  - (b) The responsibilities of the practitioner;
  - (c) The responsibilities of management, including those in paragraph 29(b); (Ref: Para. A46-51; A54)
  - (d) Identification of the applicable financial reporting framework for the preparation of the financial statements;
  - (e) A statement that the engagement is not an audit, and that the practitioner will not express an audit opinion on the financial statements;

- (f) The intended use and distribution of the financial statements, and any restrictions on either their use or their distribution; and
  - (g) Reference to the expected form and content of the report to be issued by the practitioner, and a statement that there may be circumstances in which the report may differ from its expected form and content.
34. If the terms of engagement are changed during the course of the engagement, the practitioner and management shall agree on and record the new terms of the engagement in an engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement.

#### *Recurring Engagements*

35. On recurring review engagements, the practitioner shall assess whether circumstances, including changes in the engagement acceptance considerations, require the terms of engagement to be revised and whether there is a need to remind management of the existing terms of the engagement. (Ref: Para. A60)

#### *Acceptance of a Change in the Terms of the Review Engagement*

36. The practitioner shall not agree to a change in the terms of the engagement, where there is no reasonable justification for doing so. (Ref: Para. A61–A63)
37. If prior to completing the review engagement the practitioner is requested to change the engagement to an engagement for which no assurance is obtained, the practitioner shall determine whether there is reasonable justification for doing so. (Ref: Para. A64–A65)

#### **Communication with Management and Those Charged with Governance**

38. The practitioner shall communicate with management or those charged with governance, as appropriate, on a timely basis during the course of the review engagement. The practitioner shall address all significant matters concerning the review that, in the practitioner's professional judgment, needs to be communicated. (Ref: Para. A66-71)

#### **Performing the Engagement**

##### *Materiality in a Review of Financial Statements*

39. The practitioner shall determine materiality for the financial statements as a whole, and apply it in performing the review procedures and evaluating the results obtained from those procedures. (Ref: Para. A73–A76)

##### *The Practitioner's Knowledge and Understanding*

40. The practitioner's shall obtain: (Ref: Para. A72; A77–A81)
- (a) Knowledge and understanding of the entity and its environment, including the entity's accounting system and accounting records relevant to the review; and

- (b) An understanding of the applicable financial reporting framework, including its application in the industry in which the entity operates;

sufficient to identify where risks of material misstatement are likely to exist in the financial statements as a whole, and to be able to design procedures to respond to those risks. The practitioner obtains knowledge and understanding of the entity and its environment through a combination of:

- (i) The practitioner's preliminary knowledge obtained at the engagement acceptance stage; and
- (ii) Performing inquiry and analytical procedures.

#### *Designing and Performing Inquiry and Analytical Procedures*

- 41. The practitioner shall design and perform inquiry and analytical procedures to respond to identified areas of risk of material misstatement in the financial statements, sufficient to have a basis to form a conclusion on the financial statements as a whole in the form required under this ISRE. (Ref: Para. A82; A84; A86)
- 42. In designing analytical procedures, the practitioner shall consider whether the data from the entity's accounting system and accounting records is satisfactory for the purpose of performing the analytical procedures. (Ref: Para. A87–A90)
- 43. In designing inquiries to identify where there may be risk of material misstatements occurring in the financial statements, the practitioner shall include inquiries of management, and others within the entity as appropriate concerning: (Ref: Para. A85)
  - (a) All material items in the financial statements, including disclosures, and
  - (b) Significant, unusual or complex transactions, events or matters that have affected or may affect the entity's financial statements, including:
    - (i) Significant changes in the entity's business activities or operations;
    - (ii) Significant changes to the terms of contracts that materially affect the entity's financial statements, including terms of finance and debt contracts or covenants;
    - (iii) Significant journal entries or other adjustments to the financial statements;
    - (iv) Significant transactions occurring or recognized near the end of the reporting period;
    - (v) The status of any uncorrected misstatements identified during the previous review or audit engagement carried out; and
    - (vi) Effects or possible implications for the entity of transactions or relationships with related parties; and
  - (c) Knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged:
    - (i) Fraud or illegal acts affecting the entity, and

- (ii) Non-compliance with provisions of laws and regulations that are generally recognized to have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, such as tax and pension laws and regulations.
- (d) Management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, and whether there are events or conditions that appear to cast doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

*Further Procedures When There is Indication the Financial Statements are Likely to be Materially Misstated* (Ref: Para. A83; A91–A95)

- 44. If results obtained from the inquiry and analytical procedures performed indicate that material misstatements are likely in the financial statements, the practitioner shall design and perform further procedures sufficient to either:
  - (a) Determine that affected items in the financial statements are materially misstated; or
  - (b) Conclude that the affected items are not likely to be materially misstated.
- 45. The practitioner shall communicate with management about the circumstances that give rise to the need to perform of further procedures, and that the practitioner will perform such procedures as the practitioner considers necessary to be able to reach a conclusion regarding the affected items.
- 46. The practitioner and evaluate results obtained from the further procedures performed to form a conclusion whether the affected items in the financial statements are materially misstated.

*Procedures in a Review Engagement Related to Specific Circumstances*

**Fraud and Illegal Acts**

- 47. A review of financial statements is not designed to uncover all fraud or illegal acts affecting the financial statements. However, an indication that fraud or illegal acts have occurred in an entity may indicate that a material misstatement is likely in the entity's financial statements. If during performance of the review there is indication that fraud or illegal acts have occurred, or non-compliance with laws or regulations, that affect the entity's financial statements the practitioner shall:
  - (a) Communicate that matter to the appropriate level of senior management or those charged with governance as appropriate; and
  - (b) Request management's assessment of the effect(s), if any, on the financial statements, including any amendments needed to reflect those effect in the financial statements; and

- (c) Assess the effect(s), if any, of management's assessment of the effects communicated to the practitioner in paragraph 47(b), on the practitioner's conclusion on the financial statements and on the practitioner's report.

#### Going Concern

48. A review of financial statements includes inquiring as to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern when the applicable financial reporting framework includes the assumption of an entity's continuance as a going concern. If during the performance of the review there is an indication of significant doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the practitioner shall: (Ref: Para. A96–A98)
- (a) Inquire of management about plans for future actions based on management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and about the feasibility of those plans, and also whether management believes the outcome of those plans will improve the situation regarding the entity's ability to continue as a going concern; and
  - (b) Consider the results of the inquiries to evaluate whether management's responses provide a sufficient basis for the practitioner to conclude whether the financial statements are materially misstated or are misleading with regard to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### Use of Work Performed by Others

49. In performing the review it may be necessary for the practitioner to use work performed by other practitioners, or the work of an individual or organization possessing expertise in a field other than accounting or auditing, for the purpose of the review. If the practitioner uses work performed by another practitioner or an expert in the course of performing the review and intends to rely on that work, the practitioner shall:
- (a) Take appropriate steps to be satisfied that the work performed by the other practitioner or the expert is adequate for the practitioner's purposes in relation to the review engagement; and
  - (b) Document the steps taken as part of the engagement documentation.

#### *Reconciling the Financial Statements to the Underlying Accounting Records*

50. The practitioner shall obtain evidence that the financial statements agree with, or reconcile to the entity's underlying accounting records. (Ref: Para. A99)

#### *Consideration of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework in relation to the Financial Statements*

51. The practitioner shall read the financial statements and:
- (a) Evaluate whether the financial statements adequately refer to or describe the applicable financial reporting framework; (Ref: Para. A101–A102)

- (b) Consider whether, in the context of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework and the results of procedures performed: (Ref: Para. A103)
  - (i) The terminology used in the financial statements, including the title of each financial statement, is appropriate;
  - (ii) The financial statements adequately disclose the significant accounting policies selected and applied;
  - (iii) The accounting policies selected and applied are consistent with the applicable financial reporting framework and are appropriate;
  - (iv) Accounting estimates made by management appear reasonable;
  - (v) The information presented in the financial statements appears relevant, reliable, comparable, and understandable; and
  - (vi) The financial statements provide adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the information conveyed in the financial statements.

### Written Representations

52. The practitioner shall request management to provide a written representation that management has fulfilled its responsibilities described in the agreed terms of engagement. The written representation shall include that: (Ref: Para. A104–A105)

- (a) Management has fulfilled its responsibility for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including where relevant their fair presentation, and has provided the practitioner with all relevant information and access to information as agreed in the terms of the engagement; and
- (b) All transactions have been recorded and are reflected in the financial statements.

If law or regulation requires management to make written public statements about its responsibilities, and the practitioner determines that such statements provide some or all of the representations required by paragraphs 52(a)-52(b), the relevant matters covered by such statements need not be included in the written representation.

53. The practitioner shall also obtain management's written representations that management has disclosed to the practitioner:

- (a) Significant facts relating to any frauds or suspected frauds known to management that may have affected the entity;
- (b) Known actual or possible non-compliance with laws and regulations for which the effects of non-compliance affect the entity's financial statements;
- (c) All information relevant to preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the going concern assumption where the applicable financial reporting framework assumes use of that assumption in the financial statements; and

(d) Significant events that have occurred subsequent to the date of the financial statements and through to the date of the practitioner's report, that may require adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statements.

54. The practitioner shall request written representations from management on any specific items concerning the financial statements as the practitioner deems necessary to support other evidence relevant to the financial statements.

#### **Date of and Period(s) Covered by Written Representations**

55. The date of the written representations shall be as near as practicable to, but not after, the date of the practitioner's report. The written representations shall be for all financial statements and period(s) referred to in the practitioner's report.

#### ***Subsequent Events***

56. The practitioner shall perform inquiry and analytical procedures sufficient to conclude whether management has identified and addressed events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the practitioner's report that require adjustment of, or disclosure in, the financial statements.

57. If the practitioner identifies events not identified by management that require adjustment or, or disclosure in the financial statements, the practitioner shall draw these to management's attention to be appropriately reflected in the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

58. The practitioner has no responsibility to perform any procedures regarding the financial statements after the date of the practitioner's report. However, if, after the date of the practitioner's report but before the date the financial statements are issued, a fact becomes known to the practitioner that, had it been known to the practitioner at the date of the practitioner's report, may have caused the practitioner to amend to report, the practitioner shall:

(a) Discuss the matter with management; and

(b) Determine whether the financial statements need amendment and; if so,

(c) Inquire how management intends to address the matter in the financial statements.

59. If management does not amend the financial statements in circumstances where the practitioner believes they need to be amended, and the practitioner's report has already been provided to the entity, the practitioner shall notify management not to issue the financial statements to third parties before the necessary amendments have been made. If the financial statements are nevertheless subsequently issued without the necessary amendments, the practitioner shall take appropriate action, to seek to prevent reliance on the practitioner's report.

#### **Forming the Practitioner's Conclusion on the Financial Statements**

60. Based on evidence obtained from the procedures performed, the practitioner shall consider whether the practitioner has obtained sufficient appropriate evidence to conclude whether anything has come to the practitioner's attention that causes the practitioner to believe the financial statements as a whole are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, on either an unmodified or a modified basis. (Ref: Para. A106; A109)
61. The practitioner shall assess the impact of:
- (a) Unadjusted misstatements identified during the review, or in the previous year's review or audit of the entity's financial statements, on the financial statements as a whole; and
  - (b) Qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, including indicators of possible bias in management's judgments. (Ref: Para. A110–A111)
62. If the financial statements are prepared using a fair presentation framework the practitioner shall consider whether the financial statements fairly present, in all material respects, or give a true and fair view, as appropriate, in accordance with the applicable framework. The practitioner's consideration shall include: (Ref: Para. A107–A108)
- (a) The overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework; and
  - (b) Whether the financial statements, including the related notes, represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation or gives a true and fair view as appropriate, in context of the financial statements as a whole.

*Scope Limitations* (Ref: Para. A112–A115)

63. When the practitioner considers that:
- (a) The procedures performed do not provide a sufficient basis to form a conclusion on the financial statements in accordance with this ISRE, and
  - (b) It is not practicable to perform further procedures in relation to identified areas of likely material misstatement, due to particular circumstances that exist in the engagement;
- the practitioner shall discuss with management the effects that such limitations on the scope of the review have on:
- (i) The practitioner's ability to form a conclusion on the financial statements as a whole; and
  - (ii) The practitioner's report.

*Form of the Conclusion*

The Conclusion is Unmodified



64. The practitioner shall express an unmodified conclusion in the practitioner's report on the financial statements as a whole when the practitioner concludes, based on the evidence obtained, that nothing has come to the practitioner's attention that causes the practitioner to believe:
- (a) If the financial statements are prepared using a compliance framework, that the financial statements are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; or
  - (b) If the financial statements are prepared using a fair presentation framework, that the financial statements are not fairly presented, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, or do not give a true and fair view as appropriate, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

#### The Conclusion is Modified

65. The practitioner shall express a modified conclusion in the practitioner's report on the financial statements as a whole when:
- (a) The practitioner concludes that the financial statements are materially misstated; or
  - (b) The practitioner is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence in relation to one or more specific items in the financial statements that are material in relation to the financial statements as a whole, to have a sufficient basis to form a reasonable conclusion on the financial statements as a whole.
66. If the financial statements are prepared using a fair presentation framework the practitioner shall express a modified conclusion if:
- (a) The practitioner determines that the financial statements are not fairly presented, in all material respects, or do not give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; or
  - (b) The practitioner is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence to be able to conclude on whether the financial statements are fairly presented, or whether they give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
67. For a report that contains a modified conclusion on the financial statements:
- (a) The practitioner shall express:
    - (i) A qualified conclusion, when the practitioner concludes that the effects of the matter giving rise to the modification are material, but not pervasive to the financial statements; or
    - (ii) An adverse conclusion, when the effects of the matter(s) giving rise to the modification are both material and pervasive to the financial statements; or
  - (b) When the practitioner is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence on which to base the conclusion, the practitioner shall express:

- (i) A qualified conclusion when the practitioner concludes that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be material but not pervasive to the financial statements; or
  - (ii) A disclaimer of the conclusion, when the practitioner concludes that the possible effects of undetected misstatements, if any, could be both material and pervasive to the financial statements.
- 68. When the practitioner modifies the conclusion expressed on the financial statements the practitioner shall:
  - (a) Use the heading “Qualified Conclusion,” “Adverse Conclusion” or “Disclaimer of Conclusion,” as appropriate for the conclusion paragraph in the practitioner’s report; and
  - (b) Include a separate paragraph in the practitioner’s report that provides a description of the matter giving rise to the modification, immediately before the opinion paragraph.

#### Qualified Conclusions

- 69. When the practitioner expresses a qualified conclusion on the financial statements due to material misstatements in the financial statements, the practitioner shall state in the conclusion paragraph that, based on the review, except for the effects of the matter(s) described in the basis for qualified conclusion paragraph, nothing has come to the practitioner’s attention that causes the practitioner to believe:
  - (a) If the financial statements are prepared using a compliance framework, that the financial statements are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; or
  - (b) If the financial statements are prepared using a fair presentation framework that the financial statements are not fairly presented in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, or do not give a true and fair view of the matters to which the financial statements relate.

When the need to qualify the practitioner’s conclusion arises from an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence on which to base the conclusion, the practitioner shall use the corresponding phrase “except for the possible effects of the matter(s) ... for the qualified conclusion.”

- 70. In the basis for qualified conclusion paragraph, in relation to matter(s) giving rise to the qualified conclusion:
  - (a) If the qualification arises from a material misstatement in the financial statements:
    - (i) The practitioner shall describe and quantify the financial effects of the misstatement if the material misstatement relates to specific amounts in the financial statements (including quantitative disclosures), unless impracticable in which the practitioner shall so state;

- (ii) The practitioner shall explain how disclosures are misstated if the material misstatement relates to narrative disclosures;
  - (iii) The practitioner shall describe the nature of omitted information if the material misstatement relates to the non-disclosure of information required to be disclosed, and unless prohibited by law or regulation shall include the omitted disclosures where practicable to do so; and
- (b) If the qualification arises from inability to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence the practitioner shall include the reasons for that inability.

#### Adverse Conclusions

71. When the practitioner expresses an adverse conclusion on the financial statements, the practitioner shall state in the conclusion paragraph that because of the significance of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Adverse Conclusion paragraph:
- (a) If the financial statements are prepared using a compliance framework, that the financial statements are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; or
  - (b) If the financial statements are prepared using a fair presentation framework that the financial statements are not fairly presented in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, or do not give a true and fair view of the matters to which the financial statements relate.

#### Disclaiming a Conclusion

72. The practitioner shall disclaim expression of a conclusion on the financial statements when the practitioner determines that sufficient appropriate review evidence cannot be obtained to provide a reasonable basis for the practitioner's conclusion on the financial statements as a whole, and the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be both material and pervasive. In such circumstances, due to the significance of scope limitations the practitioner is unable to form a conclusion on the financial statements.
73. When the practitioner disclaims a conclusion due to inability to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence to be able to form a conclusion on the financial statements, the practitioner shall state in the conclusion paragraph that:
- (a) Because of the significance of the matter(s) described in the basis for disclaimer of conclusion paragraph, the practitioner is unable to complete the review in accordance with this ISRE to be able to form a conclusion on the financial statements; and accordingly
  - (b) The practitioner does not express a conclusion on the financial statements.

*Consequence of Inability to Form a Conclusion Due to a Management-Imposed Limitation on the Scope of the Review Arising After Engagement Acceptance*

74. If the practitioner is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence on the financial statements as a whole because of a limitation on the scope of the review imposed by management after the practitioner has accepted the engagement, the practitioner shall determine the implications of the scope limitation and the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements. The practitioner shall:
- (a) Qualify the conclusion under paragraphs 67(b)(i) and 69, if the effects are material but not pervasive; or
  - (b) If the effects are material and pervasive, so that a qualification of the conclusion under paragraph 74(a) would not adequately communicate the gravity of the situation, either:
    - (i) Withdraw from the review, where practicable and possible under applicable law and regulation; or
    - (ii) Disclaim a conclusion on the financial statements under paragraphs 67(b)(ii) and 72–73, if withdrawal from the review before issuing the practitioner’s report is not practicable or possible.

#### **Documentation**

75. The practitioner shall prepare documentation sufficient to provide evidence that: (Ref: Para. A116)
- (a) The practitioner’s objectives for the review have been achieved, and that the review was performed in accordance with this ISRE, and legal and regulatory requirements where relevant; and
  - (b) The report issued for the engagement is appropriate.
76. The practitioner shall document the following aspects of the engagement in a manner sufficient to enable an experienced practitioner, having no previous connection with the engagement to understand:
- (a) The nature, timing, and extent of the review procedures performed to comply with this ISRE and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and
  - (b) Results obtained from the review procedures, and the practitioner’s conclusions formed on the basis of those procedures;
  - (c) Significant matters arising during the engagement the practitioner’s conclusions reached thereon, and significant professional judgments made in reaching those conclusions.
77. The practitioner shall also document discussions with management, those charged with governance, and others as relevant to the performance of the review of significant matters arising during the engagement, including the nature of those matters.

78. If in the course of the engagement the practitioner identified information that is inconsistent with the practitioner's findings regarding significant matters affecting the financial statements, the practitioner shall document how the inconsistency was addressed.

### **The Practitioner's Report**

79. The practitioner's report for the review engagement shall be in writing, and shall contain the following elements: (Ref: Para. A117–A142)
- (a) A title, which shall clearly indicate that it is the report of an independent practitioner for a review engagement;
  - (b) The addressee(s), as required by the circumstances of the engagement;
  - (c) An introductory paragraph that:
    - (i) Identifies the financial statements reviewed, including identification of the title of each of the statements contained in the set of financial statements and the date and period covered by each financial statement; and
    - (ii) Refers to the summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
    - (iii) States that the financial statements have been reviewed;
  - (d) A description of the responsibility of management for the preparation of the financial statements, including an explanation that management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, and for the fair presentation of the financial statements where a fair presentation framework is used; (Ref: Para. A121–A124)
  - (e) A description of the practitioner's responsibility to express a conclusion on the financial statements based on the review, and of the scope of a review of the financial statements, including: (Ref: Para. A126–A135)
    - (i) A reference to this Standard and, where relevant, applicable law or regulation; and
    - (ii) A description of a review of financial statements in accordance with paragraph 80;
    - (iii) A statement of the practitioner's belief that the practitioner has obtained sufficient appropriate review evidence to provide a basis for the practitioner's conclusion; or
      - a. If the practitioner's conclusion is qualified or adverse, that the practitioner has obtained sufficient appropriate review evidence to provide a basis for the practitioner's modified conclusion; or
      - b. If the practitioner disclaims a conclusion the practitioner's states the following: "Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial statements based on performing the review in accordance with ISRE

2400. Because of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Conclusion paragraph, however, we are not able to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence to provide a basis for a conclusion;”

- (f) A paragraph under the heading “Practitioner’s Conclusion” that contains the practitioner’s conclusion on the financial statements as a whole and a reference to the applicable financial reporting framework used to prepare the financial statements, including identifying the jurisdiction of origin of the financial reporting framework that is not IFRS or International Public Sector Accounting Standards;
- (g) When the practitioner’s conclusion on the financial statements is modified in accordance with paragraphs 65–68:
  - (i) A paragraph with the heading “Qualified Conclusion,” “Adverse Conclusion,” or “Disclaimer of Conclusion,” as appropriate, that contains the practitioner’s modified conclusion expressed in accordance with paragraphs 69, 71 or 72 respectively; and
  - (ii) A paragraph that provides a description of the matter(s) giving rise to the modification, immediately before the conclusion paragraph, under an appropriate heading for example, “Basis for Qualified Conclusion,” “Basis for Adverse Conclusion” or “Basis for Disclaimer of Conclusion” as appropriate, in accordance with paragraph 68(b);
- (h) The date of the practitioner’s report; (Ref: Para. A130–A133)
- (i) The practitioner’s signature; (Ref: Para. A126) and
- (j) The location in the country or jurisdiction where the practitioner practices.

*Communication of the Nature of a Review of Financial Statements*

80. The practitioner shall include in the report a description of the nature of a review of financial statements and its limitations, including a statement that: (Ref: Para. A125)
- (a) The review is performed to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence from performing procedures on the basis of the practitioner’s knowledge and understanding of the entity and its environment, and understanding of the applicable financial reporting framework, to provide the basis for the practitioner’s conclusion on the financial statements as a whole.
  - (b) The procedures performed in a review of financial statements consist primarily of making inquiries, mainly of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other procedures in relation to the financial statements.
  - (c) A review of financial statements is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, and consequently does not enable the practitioner to obtain assurance that the practitioner would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit, and accordingly the practitioner does not express an audit opinion on the financial statements; and

- (d) An audit has not been performed, and had an audit been performed the practitioner may have uncovered material misstatements that could exist in the financial statements that have been reviewed.

### Emphasis of Matter and Other Matters in the Practitioner's Report

#### Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs

- 81. The practitioner may consider it necessary to draw users' attention to a matter presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the practitioner's judgment, is of such importance that it is fundamental to users' understanding of the financial statements. In such cases the practitioner shall include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the practitioner's report provided the practitioner has obtained sufficient appropriate review evidence that the matter does not appear to be materially misstated in the financial statements. Such paragraph shall refer only to information presented or disclosed in the financial statements.
- 82. The practitioner shall include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph immediately after the paragraph that contains the practitioner's conclusion on the financial statements under the heading "Emphasis of Matter," or other appropriate heading.

#### Other Matter Paragraphs

- 83. If the practitioner considers it necessary to communicate a matter other than those that are presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the practitioner's judgment, is relevant to users' understanding of the review, the practitioner's responsibilities or the practitioner's report and this is not prohibited by law or regulation, the practitioner shall do so in a paragraph in the practitioner's report with the heading "Other Matter" or other appropriate heading.

#### *Other Reporting Responsibilities*

- 84. A practitioner may be requested to address other reporting responsibilities in the practitioner's report on the financial statements that are in addition to the practitioner's responsibilities under this Standard to report on the financial statements. In such situations those other reporting responsibilities shall be addressed by the practitioner in a separate section in the practitioner's report which follows the section of the report sub-titled "Report on the Financial Statements," sub-titled "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" or otherwise as appropriate to the content of the section. (Ref: Para. A133–A135)

#### *Date of the Practitioner's Report*

- 85. The practitioner shall date the report no earlier than the date on which the practitioner has obtained sufficient appropriate review evidence on which to base the practitioner's conclusion on the financial statements, including evidence that: (Ref: Para. A136–A139)

- (a) All the statements that comprise the financial statements under the applicable financial reporting framework, including the related notes where applicable, have been prepared; and
- (b) Those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for those financial statements.

*Practitioner's Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation*

86. If the practitioner is required by law or regulation of a specific jurisdiction to use a specific layout or wording of the practitioner's report for a review of financial statements, the practitioner's report shall refer to this Standard only if the practitioner's report includes, at a minimum, the elements in paragraph 79. (Ref: Para. A140)

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## **Application and Other Explanatory Material**

### **Scope of this ISRE** (Ref: Para. 1–3)

- A1. In performing a review of financial statements the practitioner may be required to comply with legal or regulatory requirements in addition to those contained in this ISRE. This ISRE does not address the responsibilities of the practitioner that may exist in law or regulation, and such responsibilities may differ from those established in this ISRE. Accordingly, while the practitioner may find aspects of this ISRE helpful in such circumstances, it is the responsibility of the practitioner to ensure compliance with all relevant legal, regulatory and professional obligations.
- A2. Reviews may be requested by entities that are part of a group of entities, the group financial information of which is required to be audited, but where the financial information of certain components of the group are reviewed on account of their relative significance in the overall context of the group.<sup>8</sup>

### **The Engagement to Review Historical Financial Statements** (Ref: Para. 4–8)

- A3. Reviews of financial statements may be performed for a wide range of entities that vary by type of entity, and size and by level of complexity in financial reporting. In some countries or jurisdictions the review of financial statements of certain types of entity may also be the subject of domestic laws or regulations and related reporting requirements.
- A4. Reviews may be performed in a variety of circumstances. For example they may be required for, or requested by entities that are exempt from mandatory audit requirements specified in laws or regulations for entities of a certain type or classes. Reviews may

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<sup>8</sup> International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 600, *Special Consideration – Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*, paragraph A52



also be requested on a voluntary basis, such as in connection with financial reporting undertaken for arrangements under the terms of a private contract, or to support funding arrangements. (Ref: Para. 3-4)

- A5. In a review of financial statements the practitioner performs procedures designed to be sufficient to have a reasonable basis to form a conclusion on the financial statements, expressed in the negative form as required under this ISRE. Expression of the practitioner's conclusion in the required form provides a signal to users of the practitioner's report, that the practitioner's conclusion is based on evidence-gathering procedures that are limited, but nevertheless sufficient to provide a reasonable basis for expressing the conclusion in that form. (Ref: Para 5)

## Objectives

### *Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Evidence in the Review* (Ref: Para. 14)

- A6. An inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence (also referred to as a limitation on the scope of the review) may arise from:
- (a) Circumstances beyond the control of the entity;
  - (b) Circumstances relating to the nature or timing of the auditor's work; or
  - (c) Limitations imposed by management.
- A7. This ISRE sets out requirements and guidance for the practitioner when the practitioner encounters such circumstances either prior to accepting an engagement to perform a review, or when encountered during a review.
- A8. This ISRE requires the practitioner to disclaim a conclusion on the financial statements in the following circumstances:
- (a) The practitioner issues a report or is required to issue a report for the engagement; and
  - (b) The practitioner considers that results obtained from performance review procedures do not provide a reasonable basis for reporting a conclusion on the financial statements, and a qualified conclusion is insufficient in the circumstances for purposes of reporting to the intended users of the financial statements.

## Definitions (Ref: Para. 15–16)

- A9. This ISRE describes meanings attributed to certain terms for purposes of this ISRE. These are provided to assist practitioners in the consistent application and interpretation of this ISRE, and are not intended to override definitions that may be established for other purposes, whether in law, regulation or otherwise. The Glossary also includes descriptions of other terms found in this ISRE to assist in common and consistent interpretation and translation.

*Use of Terms “Management” and “Those Charged with Governance” in this ISRE*

- A10. In this ISRE the phrase “management” is used throughout in discussion of the responsibilities of management and those charged with governance of an entity. The way the practitioner applies the requirements of this ISRE regarding management or those charged with governance is affected by the fact that the responsibilities of management and those charged with governance are likely to differ between various types of entities, and between countries or jurisdictions also. In small entities where one or more owners also manage the business the roles of management and those charged with governance coincide.
- A11. Paragraph 16 states that for the purposes of this ISRE, references to “management” are to be read as, “management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance.” The words “where appropriate” signal that in different entity environments the practitioner will need to take account of the relevant management and governance structure and arrangements of the entity whose financial statements are being reviewed in applying the ISRE.
- A12. Various responsibilities relating to preparation of financial information and external financial reporting will fall to either management or those charged with governance according to factors such as:
- The resources and structure of the entity;
  - The respective roles of management and those charged with governance within the entity as set out in relevant law or regulation or, if the entity is not regulated, in any formal governance or accountability arrangements established for the entity (for example, as recorded in contracts, a constitution or other type of establishment documents of the entity).

For example, in small entities there is often no separation of the management and governance roles for the entity, or those charged with governance of the entity may also be involved in managing an entity. In most other cases, especially in larger entities, management is responsible for execution of the business or activities of the entity and reporting thereon, while those charged with governance have oversight of management. In larger entities those charged with governance will often have or assume responsibility for approving the financial information of the entity, particularly when it is intended for the use, or information of external parties. In large entities often a subgroup of those charged with governance such as an audit committee, is charged with certain oversight responsibilities. In different country settings the legal responsibility for preparation of financial statements for an entity in accordance with a specified framework is the legal responsibility of those charged with governance, and in other countries it is a management responsibility.

**Conduct of a Review Engagement in Accordance with this ISRE** (Ref: Para. 17-19)

- A13. This Standard does not override laws and regulations that govern a review of financial statements. In the event that those laws and regulations differ from the requirements of

this ISRE, a review conducted only in accordance with laws and regulations will not automatically comply with this ISRE.

## **Ethical Requirements**

*Compliance with Relevant Ethical Standards* (Ref: Para. 20)

- A14. The practitioner is subject to relevant ethical requirements relating to reviews of financial statements, including those pertaining to independence. Relevant ethical requirements ordinarily comprise Parts A and B of the IESBA Code related to a review of financial statements, together with national requirements that are more restrictive.
- A15. Part A of the IESBA Code establishes the fundamental principles of professional ethics relevant to the practitioner when conducting a review of financial statements, and provides a conceptual framework for applying those principles. The fundamental principles with which the practitioner is required to comply by the IESBA Code are:
- (a) Integrity;
  - (b) Objectivity;
  - (c) Professional competence and due care;
  - (d) Confidentiality; and
  - (e) Professional behavior.

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

- A16. In the case of an engagement to review financial statements it is in the public interest and, therefore, required by the IESBA Code, that the practitioner be independent of an entity whose financial statements are reviewed. The IESBA Code describes independence as comprising both independence of mind and independence in appearance. The practitioner's independence from the entity safeguards the practitioner's ability to form a conclusion on the financial statements based on the review performed without being affected by influences that might compromise the practitioner's conclusion. Independence enhances the practitioner's ability to act with integrity, to be objective and to maintain an attitude of professional skepticism.

## **Professional Skepticism and Professional Judgment**

*Professional Skepticism* (Ref: Para. 21)

- A17. Professional skepticism includes being alert to, for example:
- Evidence that contradicts other evidence obtained.
  - Information that brings into question the reliability of documents and responses to inquiries to be used as evidence.
  - Conditions that may indicate possible fraud.

- Any other circumstances that suggest the need for additional procedures.
- A18. Maintaining professional skepticism throughout the review is necessary if the practitioner is, for example, to reduce the risks of:
- Overlooking unusual circumstances.
  - Over-generalizing when drawing conclusions from evidence obtained.
  - Using inappropriate assumptions in determining the nature, timing, and extent of the procedures performed in the review, and evaluating the results thereof.
- A19. Professional skepticism is necessary to the critical assessment of evidence in a review. This includes questioning contradictory evidence and the reliability of responses to inquiries and other information obtained from management and those charged with governance. It also includes consideration of the sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence obtained in the light of the engagement circumstances.
- A20. The practitioner cannot be expected to disregard past experience of the honesty and integrity of the entity's management and those charged with governance. Nevertheless, a belief that management and those charged with governance are honest and have integrity does not relieve the practitioner of the need to maintain professional skepticism or allow the practitioner to be satisfied with evidence that is inadequate for the purpose of achieving the objective of the review.

*Professional Judgment* (Ref: Para. 22)

- A21. Professional judgment is essential to the proper conduct of the review. This is because interpretation of relevant ethical requirements and the requirements of this ISRE, and the informed decisions required throughout the review cannot be made without the application of relevant knowledge and experience to the facts and circumstances. Professional judgment is necessary in particular regarding decisions about:
- Materiality.
  - The nature, timing, and extent of review procedures used to meet the requirements of this ISRE and to gather review evidence.
  - Evaluating whether sufficient appropriate review evidence has been obtained, and whether more needs to be done to achieve the objectives of the practitioner under this ISRE.
  - The consideration of management's judgments in applying the entity's applicable financial reporting framework.
  - Drawing the conclusion on the financial statements based on the review evidence obtained, including considering the reasonableness of the estimates made by management in preparing the financial statements.
- A22. The distinguishing feature of the professional judgment expected of the practitioner is that it is exercised by a practitioner whose training, knowledge and experience have

assisted in developing the necessary competencies to achieve reasonable judgments. Consultation on difficult or contentious matters during the course of the review, both within the engagement team and between the engagement team and others at the appropriate level within or outside the firm, assists the practitioner in making informed and reasonable judgments.

- A23. The exercise of professional judgment in any particular case is based on the facts and circumstances that are known by the practitioner. The practitioner will be guided by such matters as the following:
- Knowledge acquired by carrying out audits or reviews of the financial statements for prior periods, where applicable;
  - The practitioner's knowledge of the business including knowledge of the accounting principles and practices of the industry in which the entity operates, and of the entity's accounting systems; and
  - The extent to which particular items in the financial statements are affected by management judgment.
- A24. Professional judgment can be evaluated based on whether the judgment reached reflects a competent application of assurance and accounting principles and is appropriate in the light of, and consistent with, the facts and circumstances that were known to the practitioner up to the date of the practitioner's report.
- A25. Professional judgment needs to be exercised throughout the review and is not to be used as the justification for decisions that are not otherwise supported by the facts and circumstances of the engagement or sufficient appropriate review evidence.

## **Engagement Quality Control**

*System of Quality Control* (Ref: Para. 23)

- A26. ISQC 1 deals with the firm's responsibilities to establish and maintain its system of quality control for assurance engagements, including review engagements. Those responsibilities are directed at establishing quality control systems, policies and procedures at the level of the firm. A jurisdiction that has not adopted ISQC 1 in relation to review engagements may have national standards that set out requirements for quality controls in firms performing such engagements. The provisions of this ISRE regarding quality controls at the level of individual engagements are premised on the basis that such national requirements are at least as demanding as those of ISQC 1.
- A27. Under ISQC 1 the firm has an obligation to establish and maintain a system of quality control to provide it with reasonable assurance that:
- (a) The firm and its personnel comply with professional standards and regulatory and legal requirements; and

- (b) Reports issued by the firm or engagement partners are appropriate in the circumstances.<sup>9</sup>

A28. The firm's system of quality control includes policies and procedures that address each of the following elements:

- Leadership responsibilities for quality within the firm;
- Relevant ethical requirements;
- Acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements;
- Human resources;
- Engagement performance; and
- Monitoring.

National requirements on quality controls for firms performing review engagements are at least as demanding as ISQC 1 when they address all the above elements, and impose obligations on the firm that achieve the objectives to which the requirements of ISQC 1 relate.

*Role of Engagement Teams* (Ref. Para. 24-26)

A29. Within the context of the firm's system of quality control, engagement teams have a responsibility to implement quality control procedures applicable to the engagement, and provide the firm with relevant information to enable the functioning of that part of the firm's system of quality control relating to independence.

A30. Engagement teams are entitled to rely on the firm's system of quality control, unless information provided by the firm or other parties suggests otherwise. For example, the engagement team may rely on the firm's system of quality control in relation to:

- Competence of personnel through their recruitment and formal training.
- Independence through the accumulation and communication of relevant independence information.
- Maintenance of client relationships through acceptance and continuance systems.
- Adherence to regulatory and legal requirements through the monitoring process.

In considering deficiencies identified in the firm's system of quality control that may affect the review engagement, the engagement partner may have regard to measures the firm took to rectify the situation that the engagement partner considers are sufficient in the context of that review engagement.

A31. A deficiency in the firm's systems of quality control does not necessarily indicate that a particular review engagement was not performed in accordance with professional standards

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<sup>9</sup> ISQC 1, *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements*, paragraph 11

and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, or that the practitioner's report was not appropriate.

- A32. The actions of the engagement partner and appropriate messages to the other members of the engagement team in taking responsibility for the overall quality on each engagement emphasize the importance of achieving quality in the engagement, including with regard to:
- (a) Performing work that complies with professional standards and regulatory and legal requirements;
  - (b) Complying with the firm's quality control policies and procedures as applicable;
  - (c) Issuing reports for the engagement that are appropriate in the circumstances; and
  - (d) The engagement team's ability to raise concerns without fear of reprisals.

#### Compliance with Ethical Requirements

- A33. ISQC 1 set out the responsibilities of the firm for establishing policies and procedures designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that the firm and its personnel comply with relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence. This ISRE sets out the engagement partner's responsibilities with respect to relevant ethical requirements, including evaluating whether members of the engagement team have complied with relevant ethical requirements, and determining the appropriate action if matters come to the engagement partner's attention that indicate that members of the engagement team have not complied with relevant ethical requirements.

#### Acceptance and Continuance of Client Relationships and Review Engagements

- A34. ISQC 1 requires the firm to obtain such information as it considers necessary in the circumstances before accepting an engagement with a new client, when deciding whether to continue an existing engagement, and when considering acceptance of a new engagement with an existing client. Information that assists the engagement partner in determining whether acceptance or continuance of client relationships and review engagements is appropriate includes information concerning the integrity of the principal owners, key management and those charged with governance. If the engagement partner has cause to doubt management's integrity to a degree that is likely to affect proper performance of the review, it will not be appropriate to accept the engagement to perform a review. Doing so may lead to the practitioner being associated with the entity's financial statements in an inappropriate manner.

#### **Engagement Acceptance and Continuance**

- A35. The practitioner's consideration of client continuance and relevant ethical requirements, including independence, occurs throughout the engagement as conditions and changes in circumstances occur. Performing initial procedures on both client continuance and evaluation of relevant ethical requirements (including independence) at the beginning of the current engagement means that they are completed prior to the performance of other significant activities for the engagement. For continuing engagements, such initial

procedures often occur shortly after (or in connection with) completion of the previous engagement. (Ref: Para. 27)

*Factors Affecting Continuance of Client Relationships and Engagement Acceptance* (Ref: Para. 28)

- A36. Assurance engagements may only be accepted when the engagement exhibits certain characteristics<sup>10</sup> (preconditions) that are within the control of the entity and upon which it is necessary for the practitioner and the entity's management to agree.
- A37. As required by this ISRE the practitioner may accept a request to perform a review of financial statements only if the basis upon which the review is to be performed is clearly established with the engaging party. If management does not or will not acknowledge its responsibilities in relation to the financial statements it is not appropriate to accept the engagement unless law or regulation requires the practitioner to do so. In circumstances where the practitioner is required to accept the review engagement the practitioner may need to explain to management and those charged with governance, where different, the importance of these matters and the implications for the engagement.
- A38. Other factors that influence the practitioner's decision on accepting a review engagement include whether it is possible to perform a review for an entity's financial statements. For example, if the state of the entity's accounting system is such that the practitioner has reason to doubt that information needed to perform the review will be available, or reliable for the purpose of performing analytical procedures, it is appropriate to agree to perform the review. This consideration is not directed at the need that sometimes arises in the course of an engagement to assist management with development of adjusting entries required to finalize the financial statements prepared by management. Also, if the practitioner has cause to doubt management's integrity, design of review procedures that involve making inquiries of management are unlikely to be effective for purposes of the review.

*Rational Purpose for the Review Engagement* (Ref: Para. 28(b))

- A39. The practitioner obtains an understanding of the purpose of the review in light of the intended use and intended users of the financial statements. In the absence of a rational purpose for the engagement the practitioner may believe the engaging party intends to associate the practitioner's name with the financial statements in an inappropriate manner.
- A40. If the proposed engagement is to review special purpose financial statements, the practitioner obtains an understanding of the specific purpose for which the financial statements are prepared and establishes the identity of the specific intended users of the financial statements.
- A41. If there is a significant limitation on the scope of the practitioner's work, or if the practitioner believes that, if an audit were performed it is likely that the practitioner would qualify or disclaim an opinion on the financial statements, or would express an adverse opinion on the financial statements, the proposed review engagement may not have a

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<sup>10</sup> Framework, paragraph 17



rational purpose in the context of an assurance engagement. The practitioner's preliminary understanding of the engagement circumstances may lead the practitioner to recommend that another type of engagement be performed that may be more appropriate in view of the intended use, or the needs of the intended users of the financial statements.

**The Applicable Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 29(a))**

- A42. A condition for acceptance of an assurance engagement is that the criteria<sup>11</sup> referred to in the definition of an assurance engagement are suitable and available to intended users.<sup>12</sup> For the purposes of this ISRE the applicable financial reporting framework provides the criteria the practitioner uses to review the financial statements including, where relevant, their fair presentation. Some financial reporting frameworks are fair presentation frameworks, and others are compliance frameworks. The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework determine the form and content of the financial statements, including what constitutes a complete set of financial statements.
- A43. The financial statements may be prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet:
- (a) The common financial information needs of a wide range of users (that is, “general purpose financial statements”); or
  - (b) The financial information needs of specific users (that is, “special purpose financial statements”).

**Acceptability of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework**

- A44. Without an acceptable financial reporting framework, management does not have an appropriate basis for the preparation of the financial statements and the practitioner does not have suitable criteria for the review of the financial statements.
- A45. In many cases the practitioner may presume that the applicable financial reporting framework is acceptable, for example a financial reporting framework that is prescribed by laws or regulations in a jurisdiction to be used in the preparation of general purpose financial statements for certain types of entities in the absence of any indications to the contrary.
- A46. Factors that are relevant to the practitioner's determination of the acceptability of the financial reporting framework to be applied in the preparation of the financial statements include:
- The nature of the entity (for example, whether it is a business enterprise, a public sector entity or a not for profit organization);

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<sup>11</sup> Criteria are the benchmarks used to evaluate or measure the subject matter including, where relevant, benchmarks for presentation and disclosure. Suitable criteria enable reasonably consistent evaluation or measurement of a subject matter within the context of professional judgment.

<sup>12</sup> *Framework*, paragraph 17(b)(ii)

- The purpose of the financial statements (for example, whether they are prepared to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users or the financial information needs of specific users);
  - The nature of the financial statements (for example, whether the financial statements are a complete set of financial statements or a single financial statement); and
  - Whether the applicable financial reporting framework is prescribed in relevant law or regulation.
- A47. If the financial reporting framework used to prepare the financial statements is not acceptable in view of the purpose of the financial statements and management will not agree to use of a financial reporting framework that is acceptable, in the practitioner's view, the practitioner declines the engagement.
- A48. Deficiencies in the applicable financial reporting framework that indicate that the framework is not acceptable may be encountered after the review engagement has been accepted. When use of that financial reporting framework is not prescribed by law or regulation management may decide to adopt another framework that is acceptable. When management does so the practitioner is required to agree the new terms of the review engagement with management to reflect the change in the framework, as the previously agreed terms will no longer be accurate.

**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged With Governance (Ref: Para. 29(b))**

- A49. The financial statements subject to review are those of the entity, prepared by management of the entity with oversight from those charged with governance. This ISRE does not impose responsibilities on management and does not override laws and regulations that govern their respective responsibilities. However, a review in accordance with this ISRE is conducted on the premise that management has acknowledged certain responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of the review. The review of the financial statements does not relieve management of their responsibilities.
- A50. As part of their responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements, management is required to exercise judgment in making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances, as well as to select and apply appropriate accounting policies. These judgments are made in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- A51. Because of the significance of the preconditions for undertaking a review of financial statements, the practitioner is required to obtain the agreement of management that they understand their responsibilities described in that paragraph before accepting an engagement to review financial statements. The practitioner obtains management's agreement either verbally or in writing however management's agreement is subsequently recorded within the written terms of the engagement.
- A52. The way in which the responsibilities for preparation of financial information or external financial reporting are divided between management and those charged with governance will vary according to the resources and structure of the entity and any relevant law or regulation, and the respective roles of management and those charged with governance

within the entity. In most cases management is responsible for execution while those charged with governance have oversight of management. In some cases, those charged with governance will have, or will assume, responsibility for approving the financial information of the entity, particularly when it is intended for the use, or information of external parties. In larger entities a subgroup of those charged with governance, such as an audit committee, may be charged with certain oversight responsibilities.

- A53. Despite the fact that there are likely to be differences in the extent of the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, in relation to the preparation of financial information for an entity and its financial reporting and related internal controls, a review engagement in accordance with this ISRE is only conducted on the precondition that management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance have acknowledged and understand their responsibilities.

*Additional Considerations When the Wording of the Practitioner's Report is Prescribed by Law or Regulation* (Ref: Para. 31)

- A54. Under the requirements of this ISRE, the practitioner shall not represent compliance with this ISRE unless the practitioner has complied with all the requirements of this ISRE that are relevant for the particular review engagement. Law or regulation may prescribe matters in relation to an engagement that would ordinarily cause the practitioner to decline the engagement were it possible to do so, for example if:

- The practitioner considers that the applicable financial reporting framework prescribed by law or regulation is not acceptable, or
- The prescribed layout or wording of the practitioner's report is in a form or in terms that are significantly different from the requirements of this ISRE.

A review conducted in these situations does not comply with this ISRE, and the practitioner may consider including a statement in the practitioner's report that the review is not conducted in accordance with this ISRE. The practitioner is, however, encouraged to apply this ISRE, including the requirements that address the practitioner's report, to the extent practicable, notwithstanding that the practitioner is not permitted to refer to the review being conducted in accordance with this ISRE.

*Agreeing the Terms of Engagement*

*Engagement Letter or Other Form of Written Agreement* (Ref: Para. 32)

- A55. It is in the interests of both the entity and the practitioner that the practitioner sends an engagement letter prior to performing the review engagement to help avoid misunderstandings with respect to the engagement. An engagement letter confirms the practitioner's acceptance of the engagement and helps avoid misunderstanding regarding such matters as:

- The objectives and scope of the engagement;

- The extent of the practitioner's responsibilities, and the form of the report to be issued; and
- The responsibilities of management in relation to the review engagement and the financial statements to be reviewed.

#### Responsibilities of Management Prescribed by Law or Regulation (Ref: Para.33(c))

A56. If, in the circumstances of the engagement, the practitioner concludes that it is not necessary to record certain terms of the engagement in an engagement letter, the practitioner is still required to seek the written agreement from management that it acknowledges and understands that it has the responsibilities set out in this ISRE. This written agreement may use the wording of the law or regulation if such law or regulation establishes responsibilities for management that are equivalent in effect to those described in this ISRE.

#### Form and Content of the Engagement Letter

A57. The form and content of the engagement letter may vary for each entity. In addition to including the matters required by paragraph 33, an engagement letter may make reference to, for example:

- Arrangements concerning the involvement of other practitioners and experts in some aspects of the review.
- Arrangements to be made with the predecessor practitioner, if any, in the case of an initial review.
- Emphasis of the point, to avoid confusion, that since an audit is not being performed, a review engagement will not satisfy any statutory or third party requirements for an audit.
- The expectation that management will provide written representations to the practitioner.
- The agreement of management to inform the practitioner of facts that may affect the financial statements, of which management may become aware during the period from the date of the practitioner's report to the date the financial statements are issued.
- A request for management to acknowledge receipt of the engagement letter and to agree to the terms of the engagement outlined therein.

#### Illustrative Engagement Letter

A58. An example of an engagement letter is set out in Appendix 1 to this ISRE.

#### Review of Components of Groups of Entities (Ref: Para. 33)

A59. A group auditor may request a review of a component within a group of entities to be performed in accordance with this ISRE, adapted as necessary in the circumstances of

the group audit engagement. The group engagement team may also specify additional procedures to supplement the work done for the review performed under this ISRE.

#### Recurring Engagements (*Ref: Para. 35*)

A60. The practitioner may decide not to send a new engagement letter or other written agreement each period. However, the following factors may make it appropriate to revise the terms of the review engagement or to remind the entity of existing terms:

- Any indication that the entity misunderstands the objective and scope of the review.
- Any revised or special terms of the review engagement.
- A recent change of senior management.
- A significant change in ownership.
- A significant change in nature or size of the entity's business.
- A change in legal or regulatory requirements.
- A change in the financial reporting framework adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.

#### Acceptance of a Change in the Terms of the Review Engagement (*Ref: Para. 36-37*)

##### Request to Change the Terms of the Review Engagement

A61. A request from the entity for the practitioner to change the terms of the review engagement may result from factors including:

- A change in circumstances affecting the need for the service;
- Misunderstanding as to the nature of a review as originally requested; or
- A restriction on the scope of the review engagement, whether imposed by management or caused by other circumstances.

The practitioner considers the justification given for the request, particularly the implications of a restriction on the scope of the review engagement.

A62. A change in circumstances that affects the entity's requirements or a misunderstanding concerning the nature of the service originally requested may be considered a reasonable basis for requesting a change in the review engagement.

A63. In contrast, a change may not be considered reasonable if it appears that the change relates to information that is incorrect, incomplete or otherwise unsatisfactory. An example might be where the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence regarding receivables and the entity asks for the engagement to be changed to a non-assurance, or related service engagement to avoid a qualified conclusion or a disclaimer of a conclusion by the practitioner.

##### Request to Change to Another Assurance Service or a Related Service

- A64. Before agreeing to change a review engagement to another assurance service, or a related service, a practitioner who was engaged to perform a review in accordance with this ISRE may need to assess, in addition to the matters referred to in this ISRE, any legal or contractual implications of the change.
- A65. If the practitioner concludes that there is reasonable justification to change the review engagement to another assurance or related service, the work performed in the review engagement to the date of change may be relevant to the changed engagement; however, the work required to be performed and the report to be issued would be those appropriate to the revised engagement. In order to avoid confusing the reader, the report on the other assurance engagement or related service would not include reference to:
- (a) The original review engagement; or
  - (b) Any procedures that may have been performed in the original review engagement, except where the review engagement is changed to an engagement to perform agreed-upon procedures and thus reference to the procedures performed is a normal part of the report.

**Communications with Management and Those Charged with Governance** (Ref: Para. 38)

- A66. In a review of financial statements the practitioner's communications with management take the form of:
- (a) Inquiries that the practitioner directs to management in the course of performing the review procedures; and
  - (b) Other communications with management or those charged with governance as appropriate, in the context of having effective two-way communications in understanding matters related to the review engagement in context, and developing a constructive working relationship for the engagement.
- A67. Law or regulation may restrict the practitioner's communication of certain matters with those charged with governance. For example, laws or regulations may specifically prohibit a communication, or other action, that might prejudice an investigation by an appropriate authority into an actual, or suspected, illegal act. In some circumstances potential conflicts between the practitioner's obligations of confidentiality and obligations to communicate may be complex. In such cases, the practitioner may consider obtaining legal advice.

*Considerations Specific to Larger-sized Entities*

- A68. In entities where different persons are responsible for the management and the governance of an entity, management has the responsibility to communicate matters of governance interest to those charged with governance. Communication by the practitioner under this ISRE does not relieve management of this responsibility. Similarly communication by management with those charged with governance of matters that the practitioner is required to communicate does not relieve the practitioner of the responsibility to also communicate them. Communication of these matters by management may, however, affect the form or timing of the practitioner's communication with those charged with governance.

## Communicating Significant Matters Concerning the Review

A69. Matters required to be communicated to management or those charged with governance as appropriate, under this ISRE include:

- The practitioner's responsibilities in relation to the review of the financial statements, included in the engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement;
- Significant findings from the review; for example:
  - The practitioner's views about significant qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures.
  - Communication of significant findings from performance of review procedures, including situations where further procedures were required to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence. The practitioner may need to confirm that those charged with governance have the same understanding of the facts and circumstances relevant to specific transactions or events.
  - Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the review; for example, unavailability of expected information; unexpected effort requirement to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence, or restrictions imposed on the practitioner by management. In some circumstances, such difficulties may constitute a scope limitation that, if not addressed by management or those charged with governance may lead to modification of the practitioner's conclusion, which is a further matter required to be communicated and discussed with management or those charged with governance.

## *Communication With Third Parties*

A70. In some jurisdictions the practitioner may be required by law or regulation to, for example:

- Notify a regulatory or enforcement body of certain matters communicated with those charged with governance. For example, in some countries the practitioner has a duty to report misstatements to authorities where management and those charged with governance fail to take corrective action;
- Submit copies of certain reports prepared for those charged with governance to relevant regulatory or funding bodies; or in some cases make such reports publicly available.

A71. Unless required by law or regulation to provide a third party with a copy of the auditor's written communications with those charged with governance, the auditor may need the prior consent of those charged with governance before doing so.

## Performing the Engagement

- A72. The planned nature, timing and extent of the procedures the practitioner considers are needed to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to obtain a reasonable basis to form a conclusion on the financial statements is influenced by:
- (a) The requirements of this ISRE;
  - (b) The agreed terms of the review engagement; and
  - (c) Requirements established under applicable laws or regulations, including additional reporting requirements contained in applicable laws or regulations. (Ref: Para. 40)

### *Materiality in a Review of Financial Statements* (Ref: Para. 39)

- A73. The practitioner's judgment about what is material in relation to the financial statements as a whole is the same regardless of the assurance obtained by a practitioner as the basis for the conclusion on the financial statements. The practitioner's consideration of materiality in a review engagement is viewed in this context.
- A74. The practitioner is required to determine materiality for the financial statements as a whole. Determination of materiality is a matter of professional judgment, and is affected by the practitioner's perception of the financial information needs of users of the financial statements. In this context, it is reasonable for the practitioner to assume that users:
- (a) Have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and accounting and a willingness to study the information in the financial statements with reasonable diligence;
  - (b) Understand that financial statements are prepared, presented and reviewed to levels of materiality;
  - (c) Recognize the uncertainties inherent in the measurement of amounts based on the use of estimates, judgment and the consideration of future events; and
  - (d) Make reasonable economic decisions on the basis of the information in the financial statements.
- A75. Financial reporting frameworks often discuss the concept of materiality in the context of the preparation and presentation of financial statements. Although financial reporting frameworks may discuss materiality in different terms, they generally explain that:
- Misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if they, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements;
  - Judgments about materiality are made in light of surrounding circumstances, and are affected by the size or nature of a misstatement, or a combination of both; and
  - Judgments about matters that are material to users of the financial statements are based on a consideration of the common financial information needs of users as a



group.<sup>13</sup> The possible effect of misstatements on specific individual users, whose needs may vary widely, is not considered.

- A76. Such a discussion, if present in the applicable financial reporting framework, provides a frame of reference to the practitioner in determining materiality for the review. If the applicable financial reporting framework does not include a discussion of the concept of materiality, the characteristics referred to above provide the practitioner with such a frame of reference.

*The Practitioner's Knowledge and Understanding* (Ref: Para. 40)

- A77. The practitioner's knowledge and understanding of the entity and its environment is obtained throughout the review engagement, and is updated as changes in conditions and circumstances occur. Initial procedures for client acceptance and continuance at the beginning of the current review engagement are based on the practitioner's preliminary knowledge of the entity and the engagement circumstances. The practitioner's knowledge and understanding is obtained on an iterative basis throughout performance of the engagement. The practitioner's knowledge and understanding applied in planning and designing the work effort for the review may be further expanded and refined through performance of the inquiry, analytical procedures and further procedures where necessary, and during evaluation of the results obtained.
- A78. The practitioner is required to exercise professional judgment to assess the sufficiency of knowledge and understanding of the entity and its environment needed for the review of the financial statements. The practitioner's primary consideration is whether the knowledge and understanding obtained is sufficient to perform the review in accordance with this ISRE, and to meet the practitioner's objectives for the engagement. The breadth and depth of the overall understanding that the practitioner obtains is ordinarily less than that possessed by management. The level of knowledge and understanding required is directed at having a reasonable basis for the practitioner to be able to form a conclusion on the financial statements, having obtained sufficient appropriate review evidence in relation to those financial statements.
- A79. Examples of factors the practitioner may consider concerning the entity and its environment are:
- The size and complexity of the entity and its operations;
  - The ownership, financing and governance structure, and significant related parties;
  - Whether the entity is a component of a group of entities, or an associate entity of another entity;
  - Significant or unusual transactions of the entity;

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<sup>13</sup> For example, the "Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements," adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board in April 2001, indicates that, for a profit-oriented entity, as investors are providers of risk capital to the enterprise, the provision of financial statements that meet their needs will also meet most of the needs of other users that financial statements can satisfy.

- The level of complexity of the applicable financial reporting framework;
  - Whether there are events of conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern;
  - The entity's financial reporting obligations or requirements, and whether those obligations or requirements exist under applicable law or regulation or in the context of voluntary financial reporting arrangements established under formalized governance or accountability arrangements, for example, under contractual arrangements with third parties;
  - Relevant provisions of laws and regulations that are generally recognized to have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, such as tax and pension laws and regulations.
  - The level of development of the entity's management and governance structure regarding management and oversight of the entity's accounting records and financial reporting systems that underpin preparation of the financial statements.
  - The 'tone at the top' and the entity's control environment through which the entity addresses risks relating to financial reporting and compliance with the entity's financial reporting obligations;
  - The degree of complexity of the entity's financial accounting and reporting systems, and resulting financial statements;
  - The types of matters that required accounting adjustments in the entity's financial statements in prior periods;
  - The level of development and proper design or relative sophistication of the entity's accounting systems and related controls through which the entity's accounting records and related information is maintained from which the entity's financial statements are derived.
- A80. The practitioner's understanding of the applicable financial reporting framework and its application in the context of the entity's industry provides important perspective for the practitioner's review of the entity's financial statements. This understanding encompasses the significant accounting policies selected by management, and development of significant accounting estimates under the applicable financial reporting framework. The understanding informs the practitioner's ability to design review procedures to target areas where risk of material misstatements are likely to exist in the financial statements as a whole. The practitioner's understanding of the application of the applicable financial reporting framework is derived from previous experience with the entity, previous experience with reviews or audits of other entities, and through making inquiries to obtain an appropriate level of understanding to be able to perform the engagement.
- A81. The practitioner may also consider the need to obtain reports from other practitioners, if any, and if considered necessary. For example if the entity is a group entity, reports from practitioners engaged to audit or review the financial statements of components of the

entity, or who have been engaged to perform procedures for the review in relation to branch operations of the entity located elsewhere.

*Designing and Performing Inquiry and Analytical Procedures* (Ref: Para. 41-43)

- A82. A review engagement primarily involves performing inquiry and analytical procedures. When designed and performed effectively in the light of the practitioner's knowledge and understanding as required in this ISRE, these procedures are expected to be sufficient for the practitioner to have a reasonable basis to form a conclusion on the financial statements, in the absence of an indication that the financial statements are likely to contain a material misstatement.
- A83. If the practitioner's evaluation of the results of inquiry and analytical procedures performed point to the likely existence of a material misstatement in the financial statements, the practitioner is required under this ISRE to design and perform further procedures to determine whether the material misstatement actually exists.

*Inquiry* (Ref: Para. 41 and 43)

- A84. In a review inquiry consists of seeking information of management and other persons within the entity with knowledge of financial and accounting matters, as the practitioner considers appropriate in the engagement circumstances. The practitioner also extends inquiries to obtain non-financial data as relevant to performance of the review procedures. Evaluating responses is integral to the inquiry process.
- A85. Depending on the engagement circumstances, inquiries may include:
- Inquiries about the entity's control environment, and 'tone at the top' as they relate to the entity's accounting and financial reporting systems and compliance with financial reporting obligations.
  - Inquiries concerning the entity's procedures for recording, classifying and summarizing transactions, accumulating information for inclusion in the financial statements and related disclosures.
  - Inquiries concerning accounting and financial reporting matters such as:
    - Whether all transactions have been recorded.
    - The entity's accounting principles and practices, and any changes thereto, in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.
    - Whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
    - Existence of related parties, including their identification and significant disclosures concerning related parties.
    - Events subsequent to the date of the financial statements that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

- Inquiries about actions taken at meetings of owners, those charged with governance and committees thereof, and proceedings at other meetings, if any, that affect the information and disclosures contained in the financial statements.
  - Inquiries about communications the entity has received, or expects to receive or obtain from regulatory agencies.
  - Inquiries about matters arising in the course of applying other review procedures. When performing further inquiries in relation to identified inconsistencies the practitioner considers the reasonableness and consistency of management's responses in light of the results obtained from other review procedures and the practitioner's knowledge and understanding of the entity and the industry in which it operates.
- A86. Evidence obtained through inquiry is often of particular importance in the case of inquiries about management intent. Information available to support management's intent may be limited, however, and in that case, understanding management's past history of carrying out its stated intentions, management's stated reasons for choosing a particular course of action, and management's ability to pursue a specific course of action may provide relevant information to corroborate the evidence obtained through inquiry.

*Analytical Procedures* (Ref: Para. 41–42)

- A87. In a review of financial statements the practitioner focuses analytical procedures at the level of the financial statements as a whole, to identify variances from expected trends, values or norms in the financial statements. Analytical procedures may also be applied to the individual financial statements or to elements of financial information contained in individual statements, as part of performing further procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence about individual account balances or transaction classes where there are indications of likely misstatements.
- A88. Understanding the techniques, purposes and limitations of analytical procedures is important in order to be able to apply these procedures effectively to develop review evidence. Various methods may be used to perform analytical procedures. These methods range from performing simple comparisons to performing complex analysis using advanced statistical techniques.
- A89. The practitioner may apply analytical procedures, for example, to evaluate the financial information underlying the financial statements through analysis of plausible relationships among both financial and non-financial data and assessment of results for consistency with expected values with a view to identifying relationships and individual items that appear unusual, or that vary from expected trends or values. The practitioner would compare recorded amounts, or ratios developed from recorded amounts to expectations developed by the practitioner from information obtained from relevant sources. Examples of sources of information the practitioner ordinarily uses to develop expectations are:
- Financial information for comparable prior period(s), taking known changes into account.

- Information about expected operating and financial results – for example, budgets, or forecasts including extrapolations from interim or annual data.
- Relationships among elements of financial information within the period.
- Information regarding the industry in which the client operates – for example, gross margin information; comparison of the entity’s ratio of sales to accounts receivable with industry averages, or with other entities of comparable size in the same industry. Relationships of financial information with relevant nonfinancial information—for example, payroll costs to number of employees.

A90. The practitioner’s consideration of whether data to be used for analytical procedures is satisfactory for the intended purpose(s) of those procedures is influenced by the nature and source of the data, and by the circumstances in which the data is obtained. The following considerations are relevant: (Ref: Para. 33)

- (a) Source of the information available. For example, information may be more reliable when it is obtained from independent sources outside the entity;
- (b) Comparability of the information available. For example, broad industry data may need to be supplemented or be adjusted to be comparable to that of an entity that produces and sells specialized products;
- (c) Nature and relevance of the information available. For example, whether the entity’s budgets are established as results to be expected rather than as goals to be achieved; and
- (d) The knowledge and expertise involved in the preparation of the information, and related controls that are designed to ensure its completeness, accuracy and validity. For example, controls over the preparation, review and maintenance of budgetary information.

*Further Procedures When There is Indication the Financial Statements are Likely to be Materially Misstated* (Ref: Para. 44–46)

- A91. The practitioner’s judgment about the nature, timing and extent of further procedures that are needed is guided by information obtained from the practitioner’s evaluation of the results of procedures performed, and the practitioner’s updated knowledge and understanding obtained in the course of the engagement.
- A92. In deciding how to address inconsistencies or unexpected variances identified with reference to amounts and disclosures contained in the financial statements that indicate likely material misstatements, the practitioner designs further procedures focused on the affected amounts or disclosures which may be:
- Additional inquiry or analytical procedures, for example being performed in greater detail or being focused on those amounts or disclosures or on specific accounts or transactions; or

- Other types of procedures, for example verification procedures, focused on obtaining evidence about those amounts or disclosures or specific accounts or transactions.

A93. For example:

- Responses to inquiries may provide information that differs significantly from other information that the practitioner has obtained, for example, information regarding the possibility of management bias in relation to deriving accounting estimates that are included in the financial statements. The practitioner decides how to address such inconsistencies with reference to the affected amounts and disclosures and designs further procedures to be able to identify material misstatements in those amounts and disclosures if they exist.
- Analytical procedures performed may identify fluctuations or relationships that are inconsistent with other relevant information or differ from expected values by a significant amount. If management is unable to provide explanations that satisfy the practitioner or that the practitioner does not consider adequate in light of other review evidence obtained, the practitioner may decide to direct further procedures towards confirming balances or verifying measurements or valuations reflected in account balances.

A94. In some cases a practitioner may decide that further procedures need to be directed to verifying management's assertions on key account balances or transactions, for example by obtaining external confirmations from third parties. The fact that the practitioner performs such procedures does not alter the overall nature of the engagement; it remains a review engagement.

A95. When the results of review procedures lead the practitioner to believe that the financial statements contain material misstatements that warrant expression of a modified conclusion, the practitioner is also required to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to determine that such material misstatements actually exist, to provide a reasonable basis for modifying the conclusion on the financial statements.

#### *Procedures in a Review Engagement Related to Specific Circumstances*

##### *Going Concern (Ref: Para. 48)*

A96. In evaluating management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the practitioner covers the same period as that used by management to make its assessment as required by the applicable financial reporting framework, or by law or regulation if it specifies a longer period. If management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern covers less than twelve months from the date of the financial statements being reviewed, the practitioner should request management to extend its assessment period to at least twelve months from that date.

A97. In evaluating management's assessment, the practitioner considers whether management's assessment includes all relevant information of which the practitioner is aware as a result of the review.

## Events that May Cast Doubt Regarding Use of the Going Concern Assumption in the Financial Statements

- A98. The practitioner is required to direct review procedures to obtain information about whether there are events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, and management's assessment of the entity as a going concern. The list of factors below gives examples of conditions that provide perspective for the practitioner's review procedures in this area. The list is not all-inclusive, and the existence of one or more of the items does not always signify that uncertainty exists about whether the entity can continue as a going concern.

### Financial

- Net liability or net current liability position
- Fixed-term borrowings approaching maturity without realistic prospects of renewal or repayment; or excessive reliance on short-term borrowings to finance long-term assets
- Indications of withdrawal of financial support by creditors
- Negative operating cash flows indicated by historical or prospective financial statements
- Adverse key financial ratios
- Substantial operating losses or significant deterioration in the value of assets used to generate cash flows
- Arrears or discontinuance of dividends
- Inability to pay creditors on due dates
- Inability to comply with the terms of loan agreements
- Change from credit to cash-on-delivery transactions with suppliers
- Inability to obtain financing for essential new product development or other essential investments

### Operating

- Management intentions to liquidate the entity or to cease operations
- Loss of key management without replacement
- Loss of a major market, key customer(s), franchise, license, or principal supplier(s)
- Labor difficulties
- Shortages of important supplies
- Emergence of a highly successful competitor

Other

- Non-compliance with capital or other statutory requirements
- Pending legal or regulatory proceedings against the entity that may, if successful, result in claims that the entity is unlikely to be able to satisfy
- Changes in law or regulation or government policy expected to adversely affect the entity
- Uninsured or underinsured catastrophes when they occur

The significance of such events or conditions often can be mitigated by other factors. For example, the effect of an entity being unable to make its normal debt repayments may be counter-balanced by management's plans to maintain adequate cash flows by alternative means, such as by disposing of assets, rescheduling loan repayments, or obtaining additional capital. Similarly, the loss of a principal supplier may be mitigated by the availability of a suitable alternative source of supply.

*Reconciling the Financial Statements to the Underlying Accounting Records* (Ref: Para. 50)

- A99. The practitioner ordinarily obtains evidence that the financial statements agree to the underlying accounting records by tracing the financial statement amounts and balances to the relevant accounting records such as the general ledger, or to a summary record or schedule that reflects the agreement or reconciliation of the financial statement amounts with the underlying accounting records (such as a trial balance).

*Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework* (Ref: Para. 51(a))

- A100. The preparation of the financial statements by management requires the inclusion of an adequate description of the applicable financial reporting framework in the financial statements. That description is important because it advises users of the financial statements of the framework on which the financial statements are based. If the financial statements are special purpose financial statements they may be prepared under a special purpose financial reporting framework that is available only to the engaging party and the practitioner. Description of the special purpose financial reporting framework used is important as the special purpose financial statements may not be appropriate for any use other than the intended use identified for the special purpose financial statements.
- A101. A description that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a particular applicable financial reporting framework is appropriate only if the financial statements comply with all the requirements of that framework that are effective during the period covered by the financial statements.
- A102. A description of the applicable financial reporting framework that contains imprecise qualifying or limiting language (for example, "the financial statements are in substantial compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards") is not an adequate description of that framework as it may mislead users of the financial statements



*Disclosure of the Effect of Material Transactions and Events on the Information Conveyed in the Financial Statements* (Ref: Para. 51(b))

- A103. It is common for financial statements prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework to present an entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows. In such circumstances, the practitioner evaluates whether the financial statements provide adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows

*Written Representations* (Ref: Para. 52–54)

- A104. The practitioner is required to request written representations from management with appropriate responsibilities for the financial statements and knowledge of the matters concerned in the form of a representation letter addressed to the practitioner. Written representations confirming that management has fulfilled its responsibilities described in the agreed terms of the engagement are described in the same manner as described in the agreed terms of the engagement. Written representations may also be needed to complete the practitioner's review evidence with respect to certain items or disclosures reflected in the financial statements where the practitioner considers they are important, to form a conclusion on the financial statements on either a modified or unmodified basis.
- A105. In some cases, management may include in the written representations qualifying language to the effect that representations are made to the best of its knowledge and belief. It is reasonable for the practitioner to accept such wording if the practitioner is satisfied that the representations are being made by those with appropriate responsibilities and knowledge of the matters included in the representations.

**Forming the Practitioner's Conclusion on the Financial Statements** (Ref: Para. 60–74)

- A106. The practitioner's conclusion covers the complete set of financial statements as defined by the applicable financial reporting framework. For example, in the case of many general purpose frameworks, the financial statements include: a statement of financial position, a statement of financial performance, a statement of changes in equity, a cash flow statement, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. In some jurisdictions additional information might also be considered to be an integral part of the financial statements.
- A107. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, in forming the conclusion on the financial statements as a whole the practitioner considers whether anything has come to the practitioner's attention that causes the practitioner to believe the financial statements are not fairly presented, in all material respects, or do not give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate, in accordance with the applicable fair presentation framework.
- A108. There may be cases where the financial statements, although prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework, do not achieve fair presentation. Where

this is the case, it may be possible for management to include additional disclosures in the financial statements beyond those specifically required by the framework or, in extremely rare circumstances, to depart from a requirement in the framework in order to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements.

- A109. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a compliance framework, the practitioner evaluates whether the financial statements prepared in accordance with the applicable compliance financial reporting framework are misleading. It will be extremely rare for the practitioner to consider financial statements prepared in accordance with a compliance framework to be misleading if the practitioner determined at the commencement of the review engagement that the framework is acceptable.

*Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Accounting Practices* (Ref: Para. 61(b))

- A110. In considering the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, the practitioner may become aware of possible bias in management's judgments. The practitioner may conclude that the cumulative effect of a lack of neutrality, together with the effect of apparent uncorrected misstatements, appears to cause the financial statements as a whole to be materially misstated. Indicators of a lack of neutrality that may affect the practitioner's evaluation of whether the financial statements as a whole appear to be materially misstated include the following:

- The selective correction of apparent misstatements brought to management's attention during the review (for example, correcting misstatements with the effect of increasing reported earnings, but not correcting misstatements that have the effect of decreasing reported earnings).
- Possible management bias in the making of accounting estimates.

- A111. Indicators of possible management bias do not necessarily mean there are misstatements for purposes of drawing conclusions on the reasonableness of individual accounting estimates. They may, however, affect the practitioner's consideration of whether the financial statements as a whole are likely to be free from material misstatement.

*Scope Limitations* (Ref: Para. 63)

- A112. Inability to perform a specific review procedure does not constitute a limitation on the scope of the review if the practitioner is able to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence by performing alternative review procedures. If this is not possible, the requirements of paragraphs 72 or 74 apply as appropriate. Limitations imposed by management may have other implications for the review, such as for the practitioner's consideration of risk of material misstatement in the financial statements, and of engagement continuance.

*Management-Imposed Scope Limitations after the Practitioner Has Accepted the Engagement*  
(Ref: Para. 63)

- A113. The practicality of withdrawing from the engagement may depend on the stage of completion of the engagement at the time that management imposes the scope

limitation. If the practitioner has substantially completed the review, the practitioner may decide to complete the review to the extent possible, disclaim a conclusion and explain the scope limitation in the Basis for Disclaimer of Conclusion paragraph prior to withdrawing.

- A114. In certain circumstances, withdrawal from the engagement may not be possible if the practitioner is required by law or regulation to continue the engagement. For example, this may be the case for a practitioner appointed to review the financial statements of a public sector entity. It may also be the case in jurisdictions where the practitioner is appointed to review the financial statements covering a specific period, or appointed for a specific period and is prohibited from withdrawing before the completion of the review of those financial statements or before the end of that period, respectively. The practitioner may also consider it necessary to include an Other Matter paragraph in the practitioner's report drawing attention to such scope limitations.

#### Communication with Management or Those Charged with Governance

- A115. When the practitioner concludes that withdrawal from the engagement is necessary because of a scope limitation, there may be a professional, legal or regulatory requirement for the practitioner to communicate matters relating to the withdrawal from the engagement to regulators or the entity's owners.

#### **Documentation** (Ref: Para. 75–78)

- A116. In documenting the nature, timing and extent of procedures performed as required in this ISRE, the practitioner shall record:
- (a) Who performed the work and the date such work was completed; and
  - (b) Who reviewed the work performed for the purpose of quality control for the engagement, and the date and extent of the review.

#### **The Practitioner's Report** (Ref: Para. 79–83)

- A117. The written report encompasses reports issued in hard copy format and those using an electronic medium.

#### *Elements of the Practitioner's Report* (Ref: Para. 79)

- A118. A title indicating the report is the report of an independent practitioner, for example, "Independent Practitioner's Report," affirms that the practitioner has met all of the relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and, therefore, distinguishes the independent practitioner's report from reports issued by others.
- A119. Law or regulation may specify to whom the practitioner's report is to be addressed in that particular jurisdiction. The practitioner's report is normally addressed to those for whom the report is prepared, often either to the shareholders or to those charged with governance of the entity whose financial statements are being reviewed.

- A120. When the practitioner is aware that the financial statements that have been reviewed will be included in a document that contains other information, such as a financial report, the practitioner may consider, if the form of presentation allows, identifying the page numbers on which the financial statements that have been reviewed are presented. This helps users to identify the financial statements to which the practitioner's report relates.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

- A121. The premise relating to the responsibilities of management, on which a review of financial statements is conducted in accordance with this ISRE, is fundamental to performing the review and reporting on the engagement. The description of management's responsibilities in the practitioner's report includes reference to both

- The responsibility for preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including, where relevant, their fair presentation; and
- The responsibility for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;

as it helps to explain these premises on which the review is conducted for users of the report.

- A122. The practitioner's report need not refer specifically to "management" but instead may use the term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction. In some jurisdictions, the appropriate reference is to those charged with governance of the entity.

- A123. There may be circumstances when it is appropriate for the practitioner to add to the description of management's responsibilities as described in this ISRE to reflect additional responsibilities that are relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in the context of a jurisdiction, or due to the type of entity.

- A124. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation prescribing management's responsibilities may specifically refer to a responsibility for the adequacy of accounting books and records, or accounting system. As books, records and systems are an integral part of internal control, this ISRE does not use these descriptions or make any specific reference to them.

#### Communication of the Nature of a Review of Financial Statements

- A125. The description of the review in the practitioner's report explains the scope and limitations of the review for the benefit of users of the report. This explanation clarifies, for avoidance of doubt, that the review is not an audit, is different to an audit, and that had an audit been performed the practitioner may have uncovered material misstatements that could exist in the financial statements that have been reviewed.

### The Practitioner's Responsibility

- A126. The practitioner's report states that the practitioner's responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial statements based on the review performed, in order to contrast the practitioner's responsibility with management's responsibility for preparation of the financial statements.
- A127. The reference to the standards used by the practitioner for the review conveys to the users of the practitioner's report that the review has been conducted in accordance with established standards.

“Present fairly, in all material respects” or “gives a true and fair view”

- A128. Whether the phrase “present fairly, in all material respects,” or the phrase “give a true and fair view” is used in any particular jurisdiction is determined by the law or regulation governing the review of financial statements in that jurisdiction, or by generally accepted practice in that jurisdiction. Where law or regulation requires the use of different wording, this does not affect the requirement in paragraph 52 of this ISRE for the practitioner to evaluate the fair presentation of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework.

### Description of Information that the Financial Statements Present

- A129. In the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the practitioner's conclusion states that nothing has come to the practitioner's attention that causes the practitioner to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, or do not give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in accordance with the applicable fair presentation framework. For example, in the case of many general purpose frameworks, the financial statements are required to present the financial position of the entity as at the end of a period, and the entity's financial performance and cash flows for that period

### Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework and How it May Affect the Practitioner's Conclusion

- A130. The identification of the applicable financial reporting framework in the practitioner's conclusion is intended to advise users of the practitioner's report of the context in which the practitioner's opinion is expressed; it is not intended to limit the evaluation required in paragraph 29(a). The applicable financial reporting framework is identified in such terms as:
- “... in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards” or
- “... in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Jurisdiction X ...”
- A131. When the applicable financial reporting framework encompasses financial reporting standards and legal or regulatory requirements, the framework is identified in such terms as “... in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of Jurisdiction X Corporations Act.”

### Signature of the Practitioner

- A132. The practitioner's signature is either in the name of the practitioner's firm, the personal name of the practitioner or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction. In addition to the practitioner's signature, in certain jurisdictions, the practitioner may be required to declare in the practitioner's report the practitioner's professional accountancy designation or the fact that the practitioner or firm, as appropriate, has been recognized by the appropriate licensing authority in that jurisdiction.

### *Other Reporting Responsibilities*

- A133. In some jurisdictions, the practitioner may have additional responsibilities to report on other matters that are supplementary to the practitioner's responsibility under this ISRE. For example, the practitioner may be asked to report certain matters if they come to the practitioner's attention during the course of the review of the financial statements. Alternatively, the practitioner may be asked to perform and report on additional specified procedures, or to express a conclusion on specific matters, such as the adequacy of accounting books and records. Standards on reviews of financial statements in the specific jurisdiction may provide guidance on the practitioner's responsibilities with respect to specific additional reporting responsibilities in that jurisdiction.
- A134. In some cases, the relevant law or regulation may require or permit the practitioner to report on these other responsibilities within the practitioner's report on the financial statements. In other cases, the practitioner may be required or permitted to report on them in a separate report.
- A135. These other reporting responsibilities are addressed in a separate section of the practitioner's report, to clearly distinguish them from the practitioner's responsibility under this ISRE to report on the financial statements. Where relevant, this section may contain sub-heading(s) that describe(s) the content of the other reporting responsibility paragraph(s).

### *Date of the Practitioner's Report*

- A136. The date of the practitioner's report informs the user of the practitioner's report that the practitioner has considered the effect of events and transactions of which the practitioner became aware and that occurred up to that date.
- A137. The practitioner's opinion is provided on the financial statements and the financial statements are the responsibility of management. The practitioner is not in a position to conclude that sufficient appropriate review evidence has been obtained until evidence is obtained that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared and management has accepted responsibility for them.
- A138. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation identifies the individuals or bodies (for example, the directors) that are responsible for concluding that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared, and specifies the necessary approval process. In such cases, evidence is obtained of that

approval before dating the report on the financial statements. In other jurisdictions, however, the approval process is not prescribed in law or regulation. In such cases, the procedures the entity follows in preparing and finalizing its financial statements in view of its management and governance structures are considered in order to identify the individuals or body with the authority to conclude that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared. In some cases, law or regulation may identify the point in the financial statement reporting process at which the review is expected to be complete.

- A139. In some jurisdictions, final approval of the financial statements by shareholders is required before the financial statements are issued publicly. In these jurisdictions, final approval by shareholders is not necessary for the practitioner to conclude that sufficient appropriate review evidence has been obtained. The date of approval of the financial statements for purposes of this ISRE is the earlier date on which those with the recognized authority determine that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared and that those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for them.

*Practitioner's Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation*

- A140. The practitioner may be required to comply with legal or regulatory requirements in addition to this ISRE. Where this is the case, the practitioner may be obliged to use a layout or wording in the practitioner's report that differs from that described in this ISRE. Consistency in the practitioner's report, when the review has been conducted in accordance with this ISRE, promotes credibility in the global marketplace by making more readily identifiable those reviews of financial statements that have been conducted in accordance with globally recognized standards. When the differences between the legal or regulatory requirements and this ISRE relate only to the layout and wording of the practitioner's report and, at a minimum, each of the elements identified in this ISRE are included in the practitioner's report, the practitioner's report may refer to this ISRE. Accordingly, in such circumstances the practitioner is considered to have complied with the requirements of this ISRE, even when the layout and wording used in the practitioner's report are specified by legal or regulatory reporting requirements. Where specific requirements in a particular jurisdiction do not conflict with this ISRE, adoption of the layout and wording used in this ISRE assists users of the practitioner's report more readily to recognize the practitioner's report as a report on a review of financial statements conducted in accordance with this ISRE. Circumstances where law or regulation prescribes the layout or wording of the practitioner's report in terms that are significantly different from the requirements of this ISRE are addressed in paragraph.

*Practitioner's Report for Reviews Conducted in Accordance with Both Relevant Standards of a Specific Jurisdiction and this ISRE*

- A141. When, in addition to complying with the requirements of this ISRE, the practitioner also complies with relevant national standards, the report may refer to the review having been performed in accordance with both this ISRE and relevant national standards for

engagements to review financial statements. However a reference to both this ISRE and relevant national standards is not appropriate if there is a conflict between the requirements of this ISRE and those in the relevant national standards that would lead the practitioner to form a different conclusion or not to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph that, in the particular circumstances, would be required by this ISRE. In such a case the practitioner's report refers only to the relevant standards (either this ISRE or the relevant national standards) in accordance with which the practitioner's report has been prepared.

#### Illustrative Reports

- A142. Appendix 2 to this ISRE contains illustrations of practitioners' reports for a review of financial statements incorporating the elements set out in paragraph 79.



## Appendix 1

(Ref: Para. A58)

### Illustration of an Engagement Letter for an Engagement to Review Financial Statements

The following is an illustration of an engagement letter for a review of general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This letter is not authoritative but is intended only to be a guide that may be used in conjunction with the considerations outlined in this ISRE. It will need to be varied according to individual requirements and circumstances. It is drafted to refer to the review of financial statements for a single reporting period and would require adaptation if intended or expected to apply to recurring reviews. It may be appropriate to seek legal advice that any proposed letter is suitable.

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To the appropriate representative of management or those charged with governance of ABC Company:<sup>14</sup>

*[The objective and scope of the review]*

You<sup>15</sup> have requested that we review the financial statements of ABC Company, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this review engagement by means of this letter.

Our review will be conducted with the objective of expressing our conclusion on the financial statements, that is “Based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not fairly presented/do not give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate, in all material respects, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.”

*[The practitioner’s responsibilities]*

We will conduct our review in accordance with the International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2400, *Engagements to Review Financial Statements*. This Standard requires that we comply with relevant ethical requirements, and perform the review to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence, on the basis of our knowledge and understanding of ABC Company and its environment and performing review procedures and any other procedures we

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<sup>14</sup> The addressees and references in the letter would be those that are appropriate in the circumstances of the engagement, including the relevant jurisdiction. It is important to refer to the appropriate persons—see paragraph [insert reference].

<sup>15</sup> Throughout this letter, references to “you,” “we,” “us,” “management,” “those charged with governance” and “practitioner” would be used or amended as appropriate in the circumstances.

deems necessary for the review, to provide a basis for expressing our conclusion on the financial statements as a whole in the required negative form.

A review involves performing primarily analytical procedures and inquiries of management, or the directors, when appropriate, and any other procedures we may consider necessary to address circumstances encountered during the review to be able to form our conclusion on the financial statements to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence concerning the presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, and to be able to form our conclusion on the financial statements in accordance with ISRE 2400. The procedures selected depend on the practitioner's judgment formed with the practitioner's knowledge and understanding of the entity and its environment, and understanding of the applicable financial reporting framework and its application in the entity's industry.

As we are engaged to review the financial statements and a review is not an audit of the financial statements:

- (i) There is a commensurate significant higher risk that any material misstatements that exist in the financial statements reviewed may not be revealed by the review, even though the review is properly performed in accordance with ISRE 2400.
- (ii) In expressing our conclusion from the review of the financial statements our report on the financial statements will state that an audit has not been performed and will expressly disclaim any audit opinion on the financial statements.

*[The responsibilities of management and identification of the applicable financial reporting framework (for purposes of this example it is assumed that the practitioner has not determined that the law or regulation prescribes those responsibilities in appropriate terms; the descriptions in paragraph [insert reference] of this ISRE are therefore used).]*

Our review will be conducted on the basis that [management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance]<sup>16</sup> acknowledge and understand that they have the responsibility:

- (a) For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards;<sup>17</sup>
- (b) For such internal control as [management] determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- (c) To provide us with:
  - (i) Access to all information of which [management] is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
  - (ii) Additional information that we may request from [management] for the purpose of the review; and

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<sup>16</sup> Use terminology as appropriate in the circumstances.

<sup>17</sup> Or, if appropriate, "For the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards."

- (iii) Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain review evidence.

As part of our review, we will request from [management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance], written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the review.

We look forward to full cooperation from your staff during our review.

*[Other relevant information]*

*[Insert other information, such as fee arrangements, billings and other specific terms, as appropriate.]*

*[Reporting]*

*[Insert appropriate reference to the expected form and content of the practitioner's report.]*

The form and content of our report may need to be amended in the light of our findings obtained from the review.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgement of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our review of the financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

XYZ & Co.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of ABC Company by  
(signed)

.....

Name and Title

Date

## Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. A142)

### Illustrations of Practitioner's Reports for a Review of Financial Statements

#### Reports on General Purpose Financial Statements

##### *Illustrative Reports with Unmodified Conclusions*

- Illustration 1: A practitioner's report on financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users (for example, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)).

##### *Illustrative Reports with Modified Conclusions*

- Illustration 2: A practitioner's report containing a qualified conclusion due to an apparent material misstatement of the financial statements. Financial statements prepared in accordance with a compliance framework designed to meet the common information needs of a wide range of users. (Financial statements prepared using a fair presentation framework—the applicable financial reporting framework is not IFRS.)
- Illustration 3: An auditor's report containing a qualified opinion due to the auditor's inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. (Financial statements prepared using a fair presentation framework—IFRS).
- Illustration 4: A practitioner's report containing an adverse conclusion due to material misstatement of the financial statements. (Financial statements prepared using a fair presentation framework—IFRS).
- Illustration 5: A practitioner's report containing a disclaimer of conclusion due to the practitioner's inability to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence about multiple elements of the financial statements—resulting in inability to complete the review. (Financial statements prepared using a fair presentation framework—IFRS)

#### Reports on Special Purpose Financial Statements

- Illustration 6: A practitioner's report on a complete set of financial statements prepared in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of a contract (for purposes of this illustration, a compliance framework).
- Illustration 7: A practitioner's report on a complete set of financial statements prepared in accordance with the tax basis of accounting in Jurisdiction X (for purposes of this illustration, a compliance framework).

### **Illustration 1**

**Circumstances include the following:**

- **Review of a complete set of financial statements.**
- **The financial statements are prepared for a general purpose by management of the entity in accordance with IFRS.**
- **The terms of the review engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in paragraph 29(b) of this ISRE.**
- **In addition to the review of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.**

### **INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REPORT**

[Appropriate Addressee]

#### **Report on the Financial Statements<sup>18</sup>**

The accompanying financial statements of ABC Company comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### *Management's<sup>19</sup> Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards,<sup>20</sup> and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Practitioner's Responsibility*

We have been engaged to review these financial statements. Under the terms of our engagement our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review.

We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2400, *Engagements to Review Financial Statements*. ISRE 2400 requires us to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects

<sup>18</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>19</sup> Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>20</sup> Where management's responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: "Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ..."

in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements consists primarily of making inquiries, mainly of management and others within the entity involved in financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical procedures in relation to the financial statements. These procedures are performed to enable us to conclude, in the form of our conclusion expressed below, whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

The evidence we have obtained in the review is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion on the financial statements expressed below.

The nature and extent of procedures performed in a review is substantially less than that performed in an audit conducted in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

### *Conclusion*

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, (*or give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of ABC Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (*of*) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

### **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

[Form and content of this section of the practitioner's report will vary depending on the nature of the practitioner's other reporting responsibilities.]

[Practitioner's signature]

[Date of the practitioner's report]

[Practitioner's address]

## **Illustration 2**

**Circumstances include the following:**

- **Review of a complete set of financial statements required by law or regulation.**
- **The financial statements are prepared for a general purpose by management of the entity in accordance with the Financial Reporting Framework (XYZ Law) of Jurisdiction X (that is, a financial reporting framework, encompassing law or regulation, designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users, but which is not a fair presentation framework).**
- **The terms of the review engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in paragraph 29(b) of this ISRE.**
- **Based on the review, inventories appear to be misstated. The apparent misstatement is deemed to be material but not pervasive to the financial statements.**
- **In addition to the review of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.**

## INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER’S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

### **Report on the Financial Statements<sup>21</sup>**

The accompanying financial statements of ABC Company comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### *Management’s<sup>22</sup> Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with XYZ Law of Jurisdiction X, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Practitioner’s Responsibility*

We have been engaged to review these financial statements. Under the terms of our engagement our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review.

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<sup>21</sup> The sub-title “Report on the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

<sup>22</sup> Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements ISRE 2400 *Engagements to Review Financial Statements*. ISRE 2400 requires us to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to conclude that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements consists primarily of making inquiries, mainly of management and others within the entity involved in financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical procedures in relation to the financial statements. These procedures are performed to enable us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements are not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Framework (XYZ Law) of Jurisdiction X.

The evidence we have obtained in the review is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified conclusion on the financial statements expressed below.

The nature and extent of procedures performed in a review is substantially less than that performed in an audit conducted in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

#### *Basis for Qualified Conclusion*

The company's inventories are carried in the statement of financial position at [\$ insert relevant amount]. Management has not stated the inventories at the lower of cost and net realizable value but has stated them solely at cost, which constitutes a departure from the requirements of the Financial Reporting Framework (XYZ Law) of Jurisdiction X. The company's records indicate that had management stated the inventories at the lower of cost and net realizable value, an amount of [\$ insert relevant amount] would have been required to write the inventories down to their net realizable value. Accordingly, cost of sales would have been increased by [\$ insert relevant amount], and income tax, net income and shareholders' equity would have been reduced by [\$ insert relevant amounts], respectively.

#### *Qualified Conclusion*

Except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements of ABC Company are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Framework (XYZ Law) of Jurisdiction X.

#### **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

[Form and content of this section of the practitioner's report will vary depending on the nature of the practitioner's other reporting responsibilities.]

[Practitioner's signature]

[Date of the practitioner's report]



[Practitioner's address]

### **Illustration 3**

**Circumstances include the following:**

- **Review of a complete set of general purpose financial statements prepared by management of the entity in accordance with [a financial reporting framework designed to achieve fair presentation other than IFRS].**
- **The terms of the review engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in paragraph 29(b) of this ISRE.**
- **The practitioner was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding an investment in a foreign affiliate. The possible effects of the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence are deemed to be material but not pervasive to the financial statements.**
- **The practitioner does not have other reporting responsibilities required under local law, in addition to the review of the consolidated financial statements.**

### INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

The accompanying financial statements of ABC Company comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### *Management's<sup>23</sup> Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with [insert name of applicable financial reporting framework including a reference to the jurisdiction or country of origin of the financial reporting framework when the financial reporting framework used is not International Financial Reporting Standards],<sup>24</sup> and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Practitioner's Responsibility*

We have been engaged to review these financial statements. Under the terms of our engagement our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review.

We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements

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<sup>23</sup> Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>24</sup> Where management's responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: "Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ..."

ISRE 2400 *Engagements to Review Financial Statements*. ISRE 2400 requires us to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements consists primarily of making inquiries, mainly of management and others within the entity involved in financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical procedures in relation to the financial statements. These procedures are performed to enable us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements are not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with [insert name of applicable financial reporting framework].

The evidence we have obtained in the review is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified conclusion on the financial statements expressed below.

The nature and extent of procedures performed in a review is substantially less than that performed in an audit conducted in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

#### *Basis for Qualified Conclusion*

ABC Company's investment in XYZ Company, a foreign associate acquired during the year and accounted for by the equity method, is carried at (\$ insert relevant information) on the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and ABC's share of XYZ's net income of (\$ insert information) is included in ABC's income for the year then ended. We were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about the carrying amount of ABC's investment in XYZ as at December 31, 20X1 and ABC's share of XYZ's net income for the year because we were denied access to the relevant financial information XYZ. Consequently, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments to these amounts were necessary.

#### *Qualified Conclusion*

Except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, based on our review nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of ABC Company as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then in accordance with [insert name of applicable financial reporting framework, including a reference to the jurisdiction or country of origin of the financial reporting framework when the financial reporting framework used is not International Financial Reporting Standards].

[Practitioner's signature]

[Date of the practitioner's report]

[Practitioner's address]

#### **Illustration 4**

**Circumstances include the following:**

- **Review of consolidated general purpose financial statements prepared by management of the parent in accordance with IFRS.**
- **The terms of the review engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in paragraph 29(b) of this ISRE.**
- **The financial statements are materially misstated due to the non-consolidation of a subsidiary. The material misstatement is deemed to be pervasive to the financial statements. The effects of the misstatement on the financial statements have not been determined because it was not practicable to do so.**
- **The practitioner does not have other reporting responsibilities required under local law, in addition to the review of the consolidated financial statements.**

#### INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

#### **Report on the Financial Statements<sup>25</sup>**

The accompanying financial statements of ABC Company comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### *Management's<sup>26</sup> Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards,<sup>27</sup> and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Practitioner's Responsibility*

We have been engaged to review these financial statements. Under the terms of our engagement our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review.

We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2400, *Engagements to Review Financial Statements*. ISRE 2400 requires us to obtain

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<sup>25</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>26</sup> Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>27</sup> Where management's responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: "Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ..."

sufficient appropriate evidence about whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements consists primarily of making inquiries, mainly of management and others within the entity involved in financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical procedures in relation to the financial statements. These procedures are performed to enable us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements are not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

The evidence we have obtained in the review is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our modified conclusion on the financial statements expressed below.

The nature and extent of procedures performed in a review is substantially less than that performed in an audit conducted in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

#### *Basis for Adverse Conclusion*

As explained in Note X, the company has not consolidated the financial statements of subsidiary XYZ Company it acquired during 20X1 because it has not yet been able to ascertain the fair values of certain of the subsidiary's material assets and liabilities at the acquisition date. This investment is therefore accounted for on a cost basis. Under International Financial Reporting Standards, the subsidiary should have been consolidated because it is controlled by the company. Had XYZ been consolidated, many elements in the accompanying financial statements would have been materially affected. The effects on the consolidated financial statements of the failure to consolidate have not been determined.

#### *Adverse Conclusion*

Our conclusion on these financial statements based on our review is that, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Conclusion paragraph, the consolidated financial statements do not present fairly (or do not give a true and fair view of) the financial position of ABC Company and its subsidiaries as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) their financial performance and their cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

### **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

[Form and content of this section of the practitioner's report will vary depending on the nature of the practitioner's other reporting responsibilities.]

[Practitioner's signature]

[Date of the practitioner's report]

[Practitioner's address]

### **Illustration 5**

**Circumstances include the following:**

- **Review of a complete set of general purpose financial statements prepared by management of the entity in accordance with IFRS.**
- **The terms of the review engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in paragraph 29(b) of this ISRE.**
- **The practitioner was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence about multiple elements of the financial statements. That is, the practitioner was unable to obtain review evidence about the entity’s physical inventory and accounts receivable. The effect of this inability to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence is that the practitioner is unable to complete the review.**

## INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER’S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

The accompanying financial statements of ABC Company comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management’s<sup>28</sup> Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards,<sup>29</sup> and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Practitioner’s Responsibility*

We have been engaged to review these financial statements. Under the terms of our engagement our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. Because of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Conclusion paragraph, however, we are not able to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to provide a basis for expressing a conclusion on the financial statements.

We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2400, *Engagements to Review Financial Statements*. ISRE 2400 requires us to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects

<sup>28</sup> Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>29</sup> Where management’s responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such ...”

in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements consists primarily of making inquiries, mainly of management and others within the entity involved in financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical procedures in relation to the financial statements. These procedures are performed to enable us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements are not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

The nature and extent of procedures performed in a review is substantially less than that performed in an audit conducted in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

*Basis for Disclaimer of Conclusion*

Management did not conduct a count of physical inventory on hand at the end of the year. We were unable to satisfy ourselves by alternative means concerning the inventory quantities held at December 31, 20X1, which is stated in the statement of financial position at December 31, 20X1.

In addition, the introduction of a new computerized accounts receivable system in September 20X1 resulted in numerous errors in accounts receivable and inventory. As of the date of our audit report, management was still in the process of rectifying the system deficiencies and correcting the errors. We were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence by alternative means. As a result of these matters, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments might have been found necessary in respect of recorded or unrecorded inventories and accounts receivable, and the elements making up the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows.

*Disclaimer of Conclusion*

Because of the significance of the matters described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Conclusion paragraph, we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate review evidence to provide a basis for expression of a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements. Accordingly we do not express a conclusion on the financial statements.

[Practitioner's signature]

[Date of the practitioner's report]

[Practitioner's address]

## Reports on Special Purpose Financial Statements

### **Illustration 6**

**Circumstances include the following:**

- **The financial statements have been prepared by management of the entity in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of a contract (a special purpose framework), to comply with the provisions of the contract. Management does not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.**
- **The applicable financial reporting framework is a compliance framework.**
- **The terms of the review engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in paragraph 29(b) of this ISRE.**
- **Distribution and use of the practitioner's report are restricted.**

### INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

The accompanying financial statements of ABC Company comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. The financial statements have been prepared by management of ABC Company based on the financial reporting provisions of Section Z of the contract dated January 1, 20X1 between ABC Company and DEF Company ("the contract").

#### *Management's<sup>30</sup> Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Section Z of the contract, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Practitioner's Responsibility*

We have been engaged to review these financial statements. Under the terms of our engagement our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review.

We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2400, *Engagements to Review Financial Statements*. ISRE 2400 requires us to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires us to comply with relevant

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<sup>30</sup> Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.



ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements consists primarily of making inquiries, mainly of management and others within the entity involved in financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical procedures in relation to the financial statements. These procedures are performed to enable us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Section Z of the contract.

The evidence we have obtained in the review is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion on the financial statements expressed below.

The nature and extent of procedures performed in a review is substantially less than that performed in an audit conducted in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

### *Conclusion*

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Section Z of the contract.

### **Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements, and Restriction on Distribution and Use**

Without modifying our conclusion we draw attention to Note X to the financial statements which describes the basis of preparation of the financial statements including the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements are prepared to assist ABC Company to comply with the financial reporting provisions of the contract referred to above. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for ABC Company and DEF Company and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than ABC Company or DEF Company.

[Practitioner's signature]

[Date of the practitioner's report]

[Practitioner's address]

**Illustration 7**

**Circumstances include the following:**

- **Review of a statement of cash receipts and disbursements (i.e., a single financial statement).**
- **The financial statement has been prepared by management of the entity in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting to respond to a request for cash flow information received from a creditor. The basis of accounting applied to prepare the financial statement has been agreed between the entity and the creditor.**
- **The terms of the review engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in paragraph 29(b) of this ISRE.**
- **Distribution of the practitioner’s report is restricted.**

**INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER’S REPORT**

[Appropriate Addressee]

The accompanying financial statement of ABC Company Limited is the statement of cash receipts and disbursements of ABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X1, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information (together hereinafter referred to as “the financial statement”). The financial statement have been prepared by management of ABC Company using cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note X in the financial statement.

*Management’s<sup>31</sup> Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation of this financial statement in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note X, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statement free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Practitioner’s Responsibility*

We have been engaged to review this financial statement. Under the terms of our engagement our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statement based on our review.

We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements ISRE 2400 *Engagements to Review Financial Statements*. ISRE 2400 requires us to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statement is not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements consists primarily of making inquiries, mainly of management

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<sup>31</sup> Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

and others within the entity involved in financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical procedures in relation to the financial statements. These procedures are performed to enable us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statement is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note X.

The evidence we have obtained in the review is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our review conclusion on the financial statement expressed below.

The nature and extent of procedures performed in a review is substantially less than that performed in an audit conducted in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly we do not express an audit opinion on this financial statement.

### *Conclusion*

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that this financial statement is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note X.

### **Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements and Restriction on Distribution**

Without modifying our conclusion we draw attention to Note X to the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting used to prepare this financial statement. The financial statement is prepared to provide information to XYZ Creditor. As a result, the financial statement may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for ABC Company Limited and should not be distributed to parties other than ABC Company Limited or XYZ Creditor.

[Practitioner's signature]

[Date of the practitioner's report]

[Practitioner's address]