INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING 800
(REVISED AND REDRAFTED)
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS—AUDITS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIAL PURPOSE FRAMEWORKS
(Effective for engagements for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2009)

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Appendix: Illustrations of Auditors’ Reports on Special Purpose Financial Statements

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International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 800 (Revised and Redrafted), “Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks” should be read in conjunction with ISA 200 (Revised and Redrafted), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor, and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing.”
Introduction

Scope of this ISA

1. The International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) in the 100-700 series apply to an audit of financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with a special purpose framework. This ISA deals with special considerations in the application of those ISAs to an audit of financial statements prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework.

2. This ISA is written in the context of a complete set of financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with a special purpose framework. ISA 805 (Revised and Redrafted)\(^1\) deals with special considerations relevant to an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement.

3. This ISA does not override the requirements of the other ISAs; nor does it purport to deal with all special considerations that may be relevant in the circumstances of the engagement.

Effective Date

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

Objective

5. The objective of the auditor, when applying ISAs to an audit of financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with a special purpose framework, is to address appropriately the special considerations that are relevant to:

   (a) The acceptance of the engagement;

   (b) The planning and performance of that engagement; and

   (c) Forming an opinion and reporting on the financial statements.

Definitions

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

   (a) Special purpose financial statements – Financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with a special purpose framework. (Ref: Para. A4)

   (b) Special purpose framework – A financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users. The financial reporting framework may be a fair presentation framework or a compliance framework.\(^2\) (Ref: Para. A1-A4)

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\(^1\) ISA 805 (Revised and Redrafted), “Special Considerations—Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement.”

\(^2\) ISA 200 (Revised and Redrafted), “Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor, and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing,” paragraph x 13(a).
7. Reference to “financial statements” in this ISA means “a complete set of special purpose financial statements,” including the related notes. The related notes ordinarily comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework determine the form and content of the financial statements, and what constitutes a complete set of financial statements.

Requirements

Considerations when Accepting the Engagement

Acceptability of the Financial Reporting Framework

8. [Proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted) requires the auditor to determine the acceptability of the financial reporting framework applied in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements.\(^3\) In an audit of special purpose financial statements, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of: (Ref: Para. A5-A8)

(a) The purpose for which the financial statements are prepared;

(b) The intended users; and

(c) The steps taken by management to determine that the applicable financial reporting framework is appropriate in the circumstances.

Considerations when Planning and Performing the Audit

9. ISA 200 (Revised and Redrafted) requires the auditor to comply with all ISAs relevant to the audit.\(^4\) In planning and performing an audit of special purpose financial statements, the auditor shall determine whether application of the ISAs requires special consideration in the circumstances of the engagement. (Ref: Para. A9-A12)

10. ISA 315 (Redrafted) requires the auditor to obtain an understanding of the entity’s selection and application of accounting policies.\(^5\) In the case of financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of a contract, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of any significant interpretations of the contract that management made in the preparation and presentation of those financial statements. An interpretation is significant when adoption of another reasonable interpretation would have produced a material difference in the information presented in the financial statements.

Forming an Opinion and Reporting Considerations

11. When forming an opinion and reporting on special purpose financial statements, the

\(^3\) [Proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted), “Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements,” paragraph [4(a)].

\(^4\) ISA 200 (Revised and Redrafted), paragraph 18.

auditor shall apply the requirements in ISA 700 (Redrafted).  

Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework

12. ISA 700 (Redrafted) requires the auditor to evaluate whether the financial statements adequately refer to or describe the applicable financial reporting framework. In the case of financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with the provisions of a contract, the auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements adequately describe any significant interpretations of the contract on which the financial statements are based.

13. ISA 700 (Redrafted) deals with the form and content of the auditor’s report. In the case of an auditor’s report on special purpose financial statements:

(a) The introductory paragraph auditor’s report shall also describe the purpose for which the financial statements are prepared and, if necessary, the intended users, or refer to a note in the special purpose financial statements that contains that information; and

(b) If management has a choice of financial reporting frameworks in the preparation and presentation of such financial statements, the explanation of management’s responsibility for the financial statements shall also make reference to its responsibility for determining that the applicable financial reporting framework is acceptable in the circumstances of the engagement.

Alerting Readers that the Financial Statements are Prepared and Presented in Accordance with a Special Purpose Framework

14. The auditor’s report on special purpose financial statements shall include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph alerting users of the auditor’s report that the financial statements are prepared and presented in accordance with a special purpose framework and that, as a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. The auditor shall include this paragraph under the an appropriate heading “Basis of Accounting.”

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Special Purpose Frameworks (Ref: Para. 6)

A1 Examples of special purpose frameworks are:

- A tax basis of accounting for a set of financial statements that accompany an entity’s tax return;

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6 ISA 700 (Redrafted), “Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements.”
7 ISA 700 (Redrafted), paragraph 1415.
8 Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.
• The cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting for cash flow information that an entity may be requested to prepare for creditors;
• The financial reporting provisions established by a regulator to meet the requirements of that regulator; or
• The financial reporting provisions of a contract, such as a bond indenture, a loan agreement, or a project grant.

A2. There may be circumstances where a special purpose framework is based on a financial reporting framework established by an authorized or recognized standards setting organization or by law or regulation, but does not comply with all the requirements of that framework. An example is a contract that requires financial statements to be prepared and presented in accordance with most, but not all, of the Financial Reporting Standards of Jurisdiction X. When this is acceptable in the circumstances of the engagement, it is inappropriate for the description of the applicable financial reporting framework in the special purpose financial statements to imply full compliance with the financial reporting framework established by the authorized or recognized standards setting organization or by law or regulation. In the above example of the contract, the description of the applicable financial reporting framework may refer to the financial reporting provisions of the contract, rather than make any reference to the Financial Reporting Standards of Jurisdiction X.

A3. In the circumstances described in paragraph A2, the special purpose framework may not be a fair presentation framework even if the financial reporting framework on which it is based is a fair presentation framework. This is because the special purpose framework may not comply with all the requirements of the financial reporting framework established by the authorized or recognized standards setting organization or by law or regulation that are necessary to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements.

A4. Financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with a special purpose framework may be the only financial statements an entity prepares. In such circumstances, those financial statements may be used by users other than those for whom the financial reporting framework is designed. Despite the broad distribution of the financial statements in those circumstances, the financial statements are still considered to be special purpose financial statements for purposes of the ISAs. The requirements in paragraphs 13-14 are designed to avoid misunderstandings about the purpose for which the financial statements are prepared.

Considerations when Accepting the Engagement

Acceptability of the Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 8)

A5. In the case of special purpose financial statements, the financial information needs of the intended users are a key factor in determining the acceptability of the financial reporting framework applied in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements.

A6. The applicable financial reporting framework may encompass the financial reporting standards established by an organization that is authorized or recognized to promulgate
standards for special purpose financial statements. In that case, those standards will be
presumed acceptable for that purpose if the organization follows an established and
transparent process involving deliberation and consideration of the views of relevant
stakeholders. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation may prescribe the financial
reporting framework to be used by management in the preparation and presentation
of special purpose financial statements for a certain type of entity. For example, a regulator
may establish financial reporting provisions to meet the requirements of that regulator. In
the absence of indications to the contrary, such a financial reporting framework is
presumed acceptable for special purpose financial statements prepared and presented
by such entity.

A7. Where the financial reporting standards referred to in paragraph A6 are supplemented by
legislative or regulatory requirements, [proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted) requires the
auditor to determine whether any conflicts between the financial reporting standards and
the additional requirements exist, and prescribes actions to be taken by the auditor if such
conflicts exist.9

A8. The applicable financial reporting framework may encompass the financial reporting
provisions of a contract, or sources other than those described in paragraphs A6 and A7.
In that case, the acceptability of the financial reporting framework in the circumstances of
the engagement is determined by considering whether the framework exhibits attributes
normally exhibited by acceptable financial reporting frameworks as described in
Appendix 2 of [proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted). In the case of a special purpose
framework, the relative importance to a particular engagement of each of the attributes
normally exhibited by acceptable financial reporting frameworks is a matter of
professional judgment. For example, for purposes of establishing the value of net assets
of an entity at the date of its sale, the vendor and the purchaser may have agreed that very
prudent estimates of allowances for uncollectible accounts receivable are appropriate for
their needs, even though such financial information is not neutral when compared with
financial information prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework.

Considerations when Planning and Performing the Audit (Ref: Para. 9)

A9. ISA 200 (Revised and Redrafted) requires the auditor to comply with (a) relevant ethical
requirements, including those pertaining to independence, relating to financial statement
audit engagements, and (b) all ISAs relevant to the audit. It also requires the auditor to
comply with each requirement of an ISA unless, in the circumstances of the audit, the
entire ISA is not relevant or the requirement is not relevant because it is conditional and
the condition does not exist. In exceptional circumstances, the auditor may judge it
necessary to depart from a relevant requirement in an ISA by performing alternative audit
procedures to achieve the aim of that requirement.10

9  [Proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted), paragraph [18].
10  ISA 200 (Revised and Redrafted), paragraphs 14, and 18 and 22-23.
A10. Application of some of the requirements of the ISAs in an audit of special purpose financial statements may require special consideration by the auditor. For example, in ISA 320 (Revised and Redrafted), 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. In the case of an audit of special purpose financial statements, however, those judgments are based on a consideration of the financial information needs of the intended users.

A11. In the case of special purpose financial statements, such as those prepared and presented in accordance with the requirements of a contract, management may agree with the intended users on a threshold below which misstatements identified during the audit will not be corrected or otherwise adjusted. Although the existence of such a threshold may satisfy the financial information needs of the intended users, it may differ from materiality that does not relieve the auditor from the requirement to determine materiality in accordance with ISA 320 (Revised and Redrafted) for purposes of planning and performing the audit of the special purpose financial statements.

A12. Communication with those charged with governance in accordance with ISAs is based on the relationship between those charged with governance and the financial statements subject to audit, in particular, whether those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the preparation and presentation of those financial statements. In the case of special purpose financial statements, those charged with governance may not have such a responsibility; for example, when the financial information is prepared solely for management’s use. In such cases, the requirements of ISA 260 (Revised and Redrafted) may not be relevant to the audit of the special purpose financial statements, except when the auditor is also responsible for the audit of the entity’s general purpose financial statements or, for example, has agreed with those charged with governance of the entity to communicate to them relevant matters identified during the audit of the special purpose financial statements.

Forming an Opinion and Reporting Considerations (Ref: Para. 11)

A13. The Appendix to this ISA contains illustrations of auditors’ reports on special purpose financial statements.

Alerting Readers that the Financial Statements are Prepared and Presented in Accordance with a Special Purpose Framework (Ref: Para. 14)

A14. The special purpose financial statements may be used for purposes other than those for which they were intended. For example, a regulator may require certain entities to place the special purpose financial statements on public record. To avoid misunderstandings, the auditor alerts users of the auditor’s report that the financial statements are prepared and presented in accordance with a special purpose framework and, therefore, may not be

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11 ISA 320 (Revised and Redrafted), “Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit,” paragraph 2.
12 ISA 260 (Revised and Redrafted), “Communication with Those Charged with Governance.”
suitable for another purpose.

**Restriction on Distribution or Restriction on Use (Ref: Para. 14)**

A15. In addition to the alert required by paragraph 14, the auditor may consider it appropriate to indicate in the auditor's report that the auditor's report is intended solely for the intended specific users. Depending on the law or regulation of the particular jurisdiction, this may be achieved by restricting the distribution or use of the auditor’s report. In this case these circumstances, the paragraph referred to in paragraph 14 may be expanded to include these other matters, and the heading modified accordingly.
Illustrations of Auditors’ Reports on Special Purpose Financial Statements

- Illustration 1: An auditor’s report on a complete set of financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of a contract (for purposes of this illustration, a compliance framework).

- Illustration 2: An auditor’s report on a complete set of financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with a special purpose framework, but which is not a fair presentation framework (for purposes of this illustration, a compliance framework).

- Illustration 3: An auditor’s report on a complete set of financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with a special purpose framework, which is (for purposes of this illustration, a fair presentation framework).
Illustration 1:

Circumstances include the following:

- The financial statements have been prepared by the management of the entity in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of a contract (i.e., a special purpose framework, but which is not a fair presentation framework) to comply with the provisions of that contract. Management does not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.

- The applicable financial reporting framework is a compliance framework.

- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in [proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted).

- Distribution and use of the auditor’s report are restricted.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have audited the accompanying 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. The financial statements have been prepared by management of to assist ABC Company to comply with 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 Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Section Z of the contract; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment,

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13 Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.
including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements of ABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X1 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Section Z of the contract.

**Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use**

*Without modifying our opinion, we* draw attention to Note X to the financial statements, which explains that the financial statements are prepared *in accordance to assist ABC Company to comply* with the financial reporting provisions of Section Z 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.

[Auditor’s signature]

[Date of the auditor’s report]

[Auditor’s address]
Illustration 2:
Circumstances include the following:

- The financial statements have been prepared by the management of a partnership in accordance with the tax basis of accounting in Jurisdiction X (i.e., a special purpose framework, but which is not a fair presentation framework) to assist the partners in preparing their individual income tax returns. Management does not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a compliance framework.
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in [proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted).
- Distribution of the auditor’s report is restricted.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ABC Partnership, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1 and the income statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. The financial statements have been prepared to assist the partners of ABC Partnership in preparing their individual income tax returns by management using the tax basis of accounting in Jurisdiction X.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the tax basis of accounting in Jurisdiction X; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers

14 Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.
internal control relevant to the partnership’s preparation and presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the partnership’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements of ABC Partnership for the year ended December 31, 20X1 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [describe the applicable income tax law] of Jurisdiction X.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note X to the financial statements, which explains that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the tax basis of accounting in Jurisdiction X to assist the partners of ABC Partnership in preparing their individual income tax returns. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for ABC Partnership and its partners and should not be distributed to parties other than ABC Partnership or its partners.

[Auditor’s signature]
[Date of the auditor’s report]
[Auditor’s address]
Illustration 3:

Circumstances include the following:

- The financial statements have been prepared by the management of the entity in accordance with the financial reporting provisions established by a regulator (i.e., a special purpose framework, which is a fair presentation framework) to meet the requirements of that regulator. Management does not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.

- The applicable financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework.

- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in [proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted).

- Distribution or use of the auditor’s report is not restricted.

- The auditor has also issued an auditor’s report on financial statements prepared by ABC Company for the same period in accordance with a general purpose framework.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have audited the accompanying 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. The financial statements have been prepared by management to assist ABC Company to meet the requirements of Regulator DEF based on the financial reporting provisions of Section Y of Regulation Z.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Section Y of Regulation Z; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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15 Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

16 Depending on the circumstances, this sentence may read: “Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of section Y of Regulation Z of January 1, 20X1.”
Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements 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 ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Section Y of Regulation Z.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note X to the financial statements, which explains that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with Section Y of Regulation Z to assist ABC Company to meet the requirements of Regulator DEF. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

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17 Depending on the circumstances, this sentence may read: “In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and presentation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control.”

18 In circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, this sentence would be worded as follows: “In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.” In the case of footnote 21, this sentence may read: “In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and presentation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.”
Other Matter

ABC Company has prepared a separate set of financial statements for the year ended December 31, 20X1 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards on which we issued a separate auditor’s report to the shareholders of ABC Company dated March 31, 20X2.

[Auditor’s signature]
[Date of the auditor’s report]
[Auditor’s address]