

IAASB CAG REFERENCE PAPER

IAASB CAG Agenda (September 2007)

Agenda Item D.5

Written Representations – Proposed Conforming Amendments to Proposed ISA 700 (Redrafted) – September 2007 IAASB Agenda Item 2-E

Proposed Conforming Amendments to Proposed ISA 700 (Redrafted), “The Independent Auditor’s Report on General Purpose Financial Statements”

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

21. The auditor’s report shall include a section with the heading “Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements.”
 22. In the Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements section, subject to paragraph 23a, the auditor’s report shall state that management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and that this responsibility 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. (Ref: Para. A21- A23)
 - (a) Designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
 - (b) Selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and
 - (c) Making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.
 23. Where the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the statement of management’s responsibility for the financial statements shall refer to “the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements” or “the preparation and presentation of financial statements that give a true and fair view,” as appropriate in the circumstances, instead of “preparation and presentation.”
- 23a. If law or regulation prescribes management’s responsibilities, the auditor’s report shall describe management’s responsibility for the financial statements in the manner it is described in the terms of the audit engagement. (Ref: Para. A22a)

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 22, 23a)

- A21. [Proposed] ISA 200 (Revised and Redrafted) explains the premises, relating to management’s responsibilities, on which an audit is conducted. Management is responsible for preparing and presenting the preparation and presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. For example, in the case of many general purpose frameworks, management is responsible for preparing the preparation and presentation of financial statements that fairly present the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the entity in accordance with those frameworks. ~~To~~

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~~fulfill~~ ~~†This responsibility, management designs and implements includes the design, implementation and maintenance of~~ internal control¹ to prevent or to detect and correct misstatements, whether due to fraud or error, in order to ensure the reliability of the entity's financial reporting. ~~The preparation of the financial statements requires management 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.~~

A22. There may be circumstances when it is appropriate for the auditor to add to the description of management's responsibilities in paragraph 22 to reflect additional responsibilities that are relevant to ~~preparing and presenting the preparation and presentation of~~ the financial statements in the context of the particular jurisdiction or the nature of the entity.

A22a. [Proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted) explains that, in some jurisdictions, law or regulation may provide for management's responsibilities which are similar to those set out in [proposed] ISA 210 (Redrafted); although they may be described differently. For those management's responsibilities that are similar, the auditor may use the wording of the law or regulation to describe them in the terms of the audit engagement.

A23. The term management has been used in this ISA to describe those responsible for ~~preparing and presenting the preparation and presentation of~~ the financial statements. Other terms may be appropriate depending on the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction. For example, in some jurisdictions, the appropriate reference may be to those charged with governance (for example, the directors).

[Note: The illustrative auditors' reports in the Appendix will be amended to indicate that for those reports it is assumed that management's responsibility for the financial statements is not prescribed by law or regulation. The description of Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements will be amended as proposed in paragraph 22.]

¹ 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 (as defined in ISA 315 (Redrafted), "Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatements Through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment"), no specific reference is made to them in paragraph 22 for the description of management's responsibilities.