

Review engagements [CSRE 2400]

CANADIAN STANDARD ON REVIEW ENGAGEMENTS

CSRE 2400

engagements to review historical financial statements

Basis for Conclusions

[CSQM 1, Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements \(May 2022\)](#)

[CSRE 2400, Engagements to Review Historical Financial Statements\(April 2016\)](#)

(Effective for reviews of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 14, 2017) 360

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Introduction

Scope of this CSRE

1. This Canadian Standard on Review Engagements (CSRE) deals with: (Ref: Para. [A1](#))
 - (a) The practitioner's responsibilities when engaged to perform a review of annual or interim historical financial statements, except when the auditor of an entity reviews its interim financial statements in the circumstances described in Section [7060](#); 1 and
 - (b) The form and content of the practitioner's report on the financial statements.
2. This CSRE is to be applied, adapted as necessary in the circumstances, to reviews of other historical financial information. Limited assurance engagements, other than reviews of historical financial information, are performed under [CSAE 3000](#) or [CSAE 3001](#). 2

Relationship with [CSQM 1](#) 3

3. The system of quality management, and policies or procedures are the responsibility of the firm. [CSQM 1](#) applies to firms in respect of a firm's engagements to review financial statements. 4 The provisions of this CSRE regarding quality management at the level of individual review engagements are premised on the basis that the firm is subject to CSQM 1 or requirements that are at least as demanding. (Ref: Para. [A2](#)-A4)

The Engagement to Review Historical Financial Statements (Ref: Para. [A5](#)-A6)

4. 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. The practitioner's conclusion is based on the practitioner obtaining limited assurance. The practitioner's report includes a description of the nature of a review engagement as context for the readers of the report to be able to understand the conclusion.
5. The practitioner performs primarily inquiry and analytical procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence as the basis for a conclusion on the financial statements as a whole, expressed in accordance with the requirements of this CSRE.
6. If the practitioner becomes aware of a matter that causes the practitioner to believe the financial statements may be materially misstated, the practitioner designs and performs additional procedures, as the practitioner considers necessary in the circumstances, to be able to conclude on the financial statements in accordance with this CSRE.

Authority of this CSRE

7. This CSRE contains the objectives of the practitioner in following the CSRE, which provide the context in which the requirements of this CSRE are set, and are intended to assist the practitioner in understanding what needs to be accomplished in a review engagement.
8. The CSRE contains requirements, expressed using "shall," that are designed to enable the practitioner to meet the stated objectives.
9. In addition, this CSRE contains introductory material, definitions, and application and other explanatory material that provide context relevant to a proper understanding of the CSRE.
10. 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 CSRE that assists in the application of the requirements.

Effective Date

11. This CSRE is effective for reviews of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 14, 2017. Earlier application is not permitted.
- 11A. The issuance of [CAS 250, Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements](#), gave rise to a conforming amendment in paragraph [51](#). Paragraph 51 is effective for periods ending on or after December 15, 2018.
- 11B. Revisions to the rules of professional conduct / codes of ethics established by professional accounting bodies resulted in revisions to paragraph [25](#). Paragraph 25 is effective July 15, 2020.
- 11C. The issuance of [CSQM 1, Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements](#), gave rise to conforming amendments in paragraphs [22, 23, 25, 26](#), and [105](#). Paragraphs 22, 23, 25, 26, and 105 are effective for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2022.
- 11D. The issuance of [CAS 240, The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements](#), gave rise to conforming amendments in paragraphs [47 and 69. Paragraphs 47 and 69 are effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2026.](#)

Objectives

12. The practitioner's objectives in a review of financial statements under this CSRE are to:
 - (a) Obtain limited assurance, primarily by performing inquiry and analytical procedures, about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, thereby enabling the practitioner to express a conclusion on whether anything has come to the practitioner's attention 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) Report on the financial statements as a whole and communicate as required by this CSRE.
13. In all cases when limited assurance cannot be obtained and a qualified conclusion in the practitioner's report is insufficient in the circumstances, this CSRE requires that the practitioner either disclaim a conclusion in the report issued for the engagement or, where appropriate, withdraw from the engagement if withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation. (Ref: Para. [A7-A9, A137-A138](#))

Definitions

14. The [Glossary of Terms](#) relating to Canadian Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board in the CPA Canada Handbook – Assurance includes the terms defined in this CSRE as well as descriptions of other terms used in this CSRE, to assist in consistent application and interpretation. For example, the terms "management" and "those charged with governance" used throughout this CSRE are as defined in the Glossary. (Ref: Para. [A10-A11](#))
15. For purposes of this CSRE, the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (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 differ from expected values by a significant amount.
 - (b) Applicable financial reporting framework – The financial reporting framework adopted by management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance in the preparation of the financial statements that is acceptable in view of the nature of the entity and the objective of the financial statements, or that is required by law or regulation.
 - (c) Date the financial statements are issued – The date that the practitioner's report and reviewed financial statements are made available to third parties.
 - (d) Emphasis of Matter paragraph – A paragraph included in the practitioner's review engagement report that refers to a matter appropriately 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.
 - (e) Engagement risk – The risk that the practitioner expresses an inappropriate conclusion when the financial statements are materially misstated.
 - (f) General purpose financial statements – Financial statements prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework.
 - (g) General purpose framework – A financial reporting framework designed to meet the common financial needs of a wide range of users. The financial reporting framework may be a fair presentation framework or a compliance framework.

The term "fair presentation framework" is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework and:

- (i) Acknowledges explicitly or implicitly that, to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements, it may be necessary for management to provide disclosures beyond those specifically required by the framework; or
- (ii) Acknowledges explicitly that it may be necessary for management to depart from a requirement of the framework to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements. Such departures are expected to be necessary only in extremely rare circumstances.

The term "compliance framework" is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework, but does not contain the acknowledgments in (i) or (ii) above.

- (a) Initial review engagement – An engagement in which either:
 - (i) The financial statements for the prior period were not audited or reviewed; or
 - (ii) The financial statements for the prior period were audited or reviewed by a predecessor practitioner.
- (i) Inquiry – Inquiry consists of seeking information of knowledgeable persons from within or outside the entity.
- (j) Limited assurance – The level of assurance obtained where engagement risk is reduced to a level that is acceptable in the circumstances of the engagement, but where that risk is greater than for a reasonable assurance engagement as the basis for expressing a conclusion in accordance with this CSRE. The combination of the nature, timing and extent of evidence gathering procedures is at least sufficient for the practitioner to obtain a meaningful level of assurance. To be meaningful, the level of assurance obtained by the practitioner is likely to enhance the intended users' confidence about the financial statements. (Ref: Para. [A12](#))
- (k) Other Matter paragraph – A paragraph included in the practitioner's review engagement report that refers to a matter other than those presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the practitioner's judgment, is relevant to users' understanding of the review engagement, the practitioner's responsibilities or the practitioner's review engagement report.
- (b) Practitioner – A professional accountant in public practice. The term includes the engagement partner or other members of the engagement team, or, as applicable, the firm. Where this CSRE 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.
- (c) Professional judgment – The application of relevant training, knowledge and experience, within the context provided by assurance, accounting and ethical standards, in making informed decisions about the courses of action that are appropriate in the circumstances of the review engagement.
- (d) Relevant ethical requirements – Ethical requirements to which the engagement team and engagement quality reviewer are subject, which comprise relevant independence and other ethical requirements set out in rules of professional conduct / code of ethics applicable to the practice of public accounting issued by the various professional accounting bodies.
- (e) Special purpose financial statements – Financial statements prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework.
- (f) 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. (Ref: Para. [A13-A15](#))

Requirements

Conduct of a Review Engagement in Accordance with this CSRE

16. The practitioner shall have an understanding of the entire text of this CSRE, including its application and other explanatory material, to understand its objectives and to apply its requirements properly. (Ref: Para. [A16](#))

Complying with Relevant Requirements

17. The practitioner shall comply with each requirement of this CSRE, unless a requirement is not relevant to the review engagement. A requirement is relevant to the review engagement when the circumstances addressed by the requirement exist.
18. The practitioner shall not represent compliance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements in the practitioner's report unless the practitioner has complied with all the requirements of this CSRE relevant to the review engagement.

Ethical Requirements

19. The practitioner shall comply with relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence. (Ref: Para. [A17-A18](#))

Professional Skepticism and Professional Judgment

20. 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. [A19-A22](#))
21. The practitioner shall exercise professional judgment in conducting a review engagement. (Ref: Para. [A23-A27](#))

Engagement Level Quality Management

22. The engagement partner shall have competence in assurance skills and techniques and financial reporting, and capabilities, including having sufficient time, appropriate to the engagement circumstances. (Ref: Para. [A28](#))
23. The engagement partner shall take overall responsibility for: (Ref: Para. [A29-A32](#))
 - (a) Managing and achieving quality on each review engagement to which that partner is assigned and being sufficiently and appropriately involved throughout the engagement;
 - (b) The direction, supervision, planning and performance of the review engagement in compliance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; (Ref: Para. [A33](#))
 - (c) The practitioner's report being appropriate in the circumstances; and
 - (d) The engagement being performed in accordance with the firm's quality management policies or procedures, including the following:
 - (i) Being satisfied that the firm's policies or procedures for the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and review engagements have been followed, and that conclusions reached are appropriate, including considering whether there is information that would lead the engagement partner to conclude that management lacks integrity; (Ref: Para. [A34-A35](#))
 - (ii) Determining that sufficient and appropriate resources to perform the engagement are assigned or made available to the engagement team in a timely manner, taking into account the nature and circumstances of the engagement, the firm's policies or procedures, and any changes that may arise during the engagement;
 - (iii) Being satisfied that the engagement team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities, including having sufficient time, as well as assurance skills and techniques and expertise in financial reporting, to:
 - a. Perform the review engagement in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements; and
 - b. Enable a report that is appropriate in the circumstances to be issued;
 - (iv) Taking responsibility for appropriate engagement documentation being maintained; and
 - (v) When an engagement quality review is required in accordance with [CSQM 1](#) or the firm's policies or procedures, not dating the report until the completion of the engagement quality review. 5

Relevant Considerations after Engagement Acceptance

24. If the engagement partner obtains information that would have caused the firm to decline the engagement had that information been available earlier, the engagement partner shall communicate that information promptly to the firm, so that the firm and the engagement partner can take the necessary action.

Compliance with Relevant Ethical Requirements

25. Throughout the engagement, the engagement partner shall remain alert, through observation and making inquiries as necessary, for evidence of breaches of 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 management or otherwise that indicate that members of the engagement team have breached relevant ethical requirements, the engagement partner, in consultation with others in the firm, shall determine the appropriate action.

Monitoring and Remediation

26. A firm's system of quality management includes establishing a monitoring and remediation process to:
 - (a) Provide the firm with relevant, reliable and timely information about the design, implementation and operation of the system of quality management.
 - (b) Take appropriate actions to respond to identified deficiencies such that deficiencies are remediated by the firm on a timely basis.

The engagement partner shall consider the information from the firm's monitoring and remediation process as communicated by the firm and, if applicable, other network firms and whether the information may affect the review engagement.

Acceptance and Continuance of Client Relationships and Review Engagements

Factors Affecting Acceptance and Continuance of Client Relationships and Review Engagements

27. Unless required by law or regulation, the practitioner shall not accept a review engagement if: (Ref: Para. [A36](#))
 - (a) The practitioner is not satisfied:
 - (i) That there is a rational purpose for the engagement; or (Ref: Para. [A37](#))
 - (ii) That a review engagement would be appropriate in the circumstances; (Ref: Para. [A38](#))
 - (b) The practitioner has reason to believe that relevant ethical requirements, including independence, will not be satisfied;

- (c) The practitioner's preliminary understanding of the engagement circumstances indicates that information needed to perform the review engagement is likely to be unavailable or unreliable; (Ref: Para. [A39](#))
- (d) The practitioner has cause to doubt management's integrity such that it is likely to affect proper performance of the review; or
- (e) Management or those charged with governance impose a limitation on the scope of the practitioner's work in the terms of a proposed review engagement such that the practitioner believes the limitation will result in the practitioner disclaiming a conclusion on the financial statements.

Preconditions for Accepting a Review Engagement

28. Prior to accepting a review engagement, the practitioner shall: (Ref: Para. [A40](#))
 - (a) Determine whether the financial reporting framework applied in the preparation of the financial statements is acceptable including, in the case of special purpose financial statements, obtaining an understanding of the purpose for which the financial statements are prepared and of the intended users; and (Ref: Para. [A41-A47](#))
 - (b) Obtain the agreement of management that it acknowledges and understands its responsibilities: (Ref: Para. [A48-A51](#))
 - (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 evidence.
29. If the practitioner is not satisfied as to any of the matters set out above as preconditions for accepting a review engagement, the practitioner shall discuss the matter with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance. If changes cannot be made to satisfy the practitioner as to those matters, the practitioner shall not accept the proposed engagement unless required by law or regulation to do so. However, an engagement conducted under such circumstances does not comply with this CSRE. Accordingly, the practitioner shall not include any reference within the practitioner's report to the review having been conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements.
30. If it is discovered after the engagement has been accepted that the practitioner is not satisfied as to any of the above preconditions, the practitioner shall discuss the matter with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, and shall determine:
 - (a) Whether the matter can be resolved;
 - (b) Whether it is appropriate to continue with the engagement; and
 - (c) Whether and, if so, how to communicate the matter in the practitioner's report.

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

31. The practitioner's report issued for the review engagement shall refer to Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements only if the report complies with the requirements of paragraph [94](#).
32. 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 CSRE. In those circumstances, the practitioner shall evaluate whether users might misunderstand the assurance obtained from the review of the financial statements and, if so, whether additional explanation in the practitioner's report can mitigate possible misunderstanding. (Ref: Para. [A52](#), [A169](#))
33. 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 CSRE. Accordingly, the practitioner shall not include any reference within the practitioner's report to the review having been conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements. (Ref: Para. [A52](#), [A169](#))

Agreeing the Terms of Engagement

34. The practitioner shall agree the terms of the engagement with management or those charged with governance, as appropriate, prior to performing the engagement.
35. The agreed terms of engagement shall be recorded in an engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement, and shall include: (Ref: Para. [A53-A54](#), [A56](#))

- (a) The intended use and distribution of the financial statements, and any restrictions on use or distribution where applicable;
- (b) Identification of the applicable financial reporting framework;
- (c) The objective and scope of the review engagement;
- (d) The responsibilities of the practitioner;
- (e) The responsibilities of management, including those in paragraph 28(b); (Ref: Para. A48-A51, A55)
- (f) A statement that the engagement is not an audit, and that the practitioner will not express an audit opinion on the financial statements; 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.

Recurring Engagements

36. On recurring review engagements, the practitioner shall evaluate 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 or those charged with governance, as appropriate, of the existing terms of engagement. (Ref: Para. A57)

Acceptance of a Change in the Terms or Nature of the Review Engagement

- 37. 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. A58-A60)
- 38. 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. A61-A62)
- 39. If the terms of engagement are changed during the course of the engagement, the practitioner and management or those charged with governance, as appropriate, shall agree on and record the new terms of the engagement in an engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement.

Communication with Management and Those Charged with Governance

40. The practitioner shall communicate with management or those charged with governance, as appropriate, on a timely basis during the course of the review engagement, all matters concerning the review engagement that, in the practitioner's professional judgment, are of sufficient importance to merit the attention of management or those charged with governance, as appropriate. (Ref: Para. A63-A69)

Performing the Engagement

Materiality in a Review of Financial Statements

- 41. The practitioner shall determine materiality for the financial statements as a whole, and apply this materiality in designing the procedures and in evaluating the results obtained from those procedures. (Ref: Para. A70-A81)
- 42. The practitioner shall revise materiality for the financial statements as a whole in the event of becoming aware of information during the review that would have caused the practitioner to have determined a different amount initially. (Ref: Para. A82)

The Practitioner's Understanding

- 43. The practitioner shall obtain an understanding of the entity and its environment, and the applicable financial reporting framework, to identify areas in the financial statements where material misstatements are likely to arise and thereby provide a basis for designing procedures to address those areas. (Ref: Para. A83-A85)
- 44. The practitioner's understanding shall include the following: (Ref: Para. A86-A88, A97, A100)
 - (a) Relevant industry, regulatory, and other external factors including the applicable financial reporting framework;
 - (b) The nature of the entity, including:
 - (i) Its operations;
 - (ii) Its ownership and governance structure;
 - (iii) The types of investments that the entity is making and plans to make;
 - (iv) The way that the entity is structured and how it is financed; and
 - (v) The entity's objectives and strategies;
 - (c) The entity's accounting systems and accounting records; and
 - (d) The entity's selection and application of accounting policies.

Identifying Areas in the Financial Statements Where Material Misstatements Are Likely to Arise

45. Based on the practitioner's understanding, the practitioner shall identify areas in the financial statements where material misstatements are likely to arise.

Designing and Performing Procedures

46. In obtaining sufficient appropriate evidence as the basis for a conclusion on the financial statements as a whole, the practitioner shall design and perform inquiry and analytical procedures: (Ref: Para. [A89](#)-[A93](#), [A97](#), [A100](#))
- (a) To address all material items in the financial statements, including disclosures; and
 - (b) To focus on addressing areas in the financial statements where material misstatements are likely to arise.
47. The practitioner's inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, shall include the following: (Ref: Para. [A94](#)-[A98](#))
- (a) How management makes the significant accounting estimates required under the applicable financial reporting framework;
 - (b) The identification of related parties and related party transactions, including the purpose of those transactions;
 - (c) Whether there are 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 previous engagements; and
 - (vi) Effects or possible implications for the entity of transactions or relationships with related parties;
 - (d) The existence of any fraud or suspected fraud, including allegations of fraud, and identified or suspected 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; [Former paragraph [CSRE 2400.47\(d\)](#) retained in Archived Pronouncements.]
 - (e) 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;
 - (f) The basis for management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern; (Ref: Para. [A99](#))
 - (g) Whether there are events or conditions that appear to cast doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern;
 - (h) Material commitments, contractual obligations or contingencies that have affected or may affect the entity's financial statements, including disclosures; and
 - (i) Material non-monetary transactions or transactions for no consideration in the financial reporting period under consideration.

48. In designing analytical procedures, the practitioner shall consider whether the data from the entity's accounting system and accounting records are adequate for the purpose of performing the analytical procedures. (Ref: Para. [A100](#)-[A102](#))

Procedures to Address Specific Circumstances

Related parties

49. During the review, the practitioner shall remain alert for arrangements or information that may indicate the existence of related party relationships or transactions that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the practitioner.
50. If the practitioner identifies significant transactions outside the entity's normal course of business in the course of performing the review, the practitioner shall inquire of management about:
- (a) The nature of those transactions;
 - (b) Whether related parties could be involved; and
 - (c) The business rationale (or lack thereof) of those transactions.

Fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations

51. When there is an indication that fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations, or suspected fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations, has occurred in the entity, the practitioner shall:
- (a) Communicate that matter, unless prohibited by law or regulation, with the appropriate level of senior management or those charged with governance, as appropriate; (Ref: Para. [A103](#))
 - (b) Request management's assessment of the effect(s), if any, on the financial statements;
 - (c) Consider the effect, if any, of management's assessment of the effects of identified or suspected fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations communicated to the practitioner on the practitioner's conclusion on the financial statements and on the practitioner's report; and
 - (d) Determine whether law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements: (Ref: Para. [A104](#)-[A108](#))
 - (i) Require the practitioner to report to an appropriate authority outside the entity.
 - (ii) Establish responsibilities under which reporting to an appropriate authority outside the entity may be appropriate in the circumstances.

Going concern

52. A review of financial statements includes consideration of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. In considering management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the practitioner shall cover 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 where a longer period is specified.
53. If, during the performance of the review, the practitioner becomes aware of events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the practitioner's procedures to determine whether a material uncertainty exists shall include: (Ref: Para. [A109](#))
- (a) Inquiries of management about:
 - (i) Whether management has identified any material uncertainty;
 - (ii) Plans for future actions affecting the entity's ability to continue as a going concern;
 - (iii) The feasibility of those plans; and
 - (iv) Whether management believes the outcome of those plans will improve the situation regarding the entity's ability to continue as a going concern;
 - (b) Consideration of management's responses in light of all relevant information of which the practitioner is aware as a result of the review; and
 - (c) Evaluation of whether management's responses provide an appropriate basis to:
 - (i) Support the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis; and
 - (ii) Conclude whether the financial statements are materially misstated, or are otherwise misleading, as a result of inadequate disclosure with respect to a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Use of work performed by others

54. 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 assurance. If the practitioner uses work performed by another practitioner or an expert in the course of performing the review, the practitioner shall take appropriate steps to be satisfied that the work performed is adequate for the practitioner's purposes. (Ref: Para. [A90](#))

Initial review engagements — opening balances

55. When performing an initial review engagement, the practitioner shall obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about whether the opening balances contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements. (Ref: Para. [A110](#))

Reconciling the Financial Statements to the Underlying Accounting Records

56. The practitioner shall obtain evidence that the financial statements agree with, or reconcile to, the entity's underlying accounting records. (Ref: Para. [A111](#))

Performing Additional Procedures When the Practitioner Becomes Aware that the Financial Statements May Be Materially Misstated

57. If the practitioner becomes aware of a matter(s) that causes the practitioner to believe the financial statements may be materially misstated, the practitioner shall design and perform additional procedures sufficient to enable the practitioner to: (Ref: Para. [A112-A116](#))
- (a) Conclude that the matter(s) is not likely to cause the financial statements as a whole to be materially misstated; or
 - (b) Determine that the matter(s) causes the financial statements as a whole to be materially misstated.

Accumulation of Identified Misstatements

58. The practitioner shall accumulate misstatements identified during the review, other than those that are clearly trivial. (Ref: Para. [A117](#))

Communication and Correction of Misstatements

59. The practitioner shall communicate with the appropriate level of management on a timely basis, all misstatements accumulated during the review. The practitioner shall request management to correct those misstatements. (Ref: Para. [A118](#))

Subsequent Events

Events Occurring between the Date of the Financial Statements and the Date of the Practitioner's Report

60. If the practitioner becomes aware of 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, the practitioner shall request management to correct those misstatements.

Facts that Become Known to the Practitioner After the Date of the Practitioner's Report but Before the Date the Financial Statements Are Issued

61. The practitioner has no obligation 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 the report, the practitioner shall:
 - (a) Discuss the matter with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance;
 - (b) Determine whether the financial statements need amendment; and, if so,
 - (c) Inquire how management intends to address the matter in the financial statements.
62. If management amends the financial statements after the date of the practitioner's report but before the financial statements are issued, the practitioner shall either:
 - (a) Amend the practitioner's report to include an additional date restricted to that amendment that thereby indicates that the practitioner's procedures on subsequent events are solely restricted to the amendment of the financial statements described in the relevant note to the financial statements; or
 - (b) Extend the procedures on subsequent events to the date of the new practitioner's report and provide a new practitioner's report on the amended financial statements.
63. 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 and those charged with governance 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.

Facts that Become Known to the Practitioner After the Financial Statements Have Been Issued (Ref: Para. [A119](#))

64. If, after the date the financial statements have been 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 the practitioner's report, the practitioner shall:
 - (a) Discuss the matter with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance;
 - (b) Determine whether the financial statements need amendment; and, if so,
 - (c) Inquire how management intends to address the matter in the financial statements.
65. If management amends the financial statements subsequent to the date the financial statements are issued, the practitioner shall:
 - (a) Amend the practitioner's report to include an additional date restricted to that amendment that thereby indicates that the practitioner's procedures on subsequent events are solely restricted to the amendment of the financial statements described in the relevant note to the financial statements; or
 - (b) Extend the procedures on subsequent events to the date of the new practitioner's report and provide a new practitioner's report on the amended financial statements.
66. If, after the financial statements have been issued, management amends the financial statements and the practitioner provides a new or amended practitioner's report on the amended financial statements, the practitioner shall include in the new or amended practitioner's report an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or Other Matter paragraph referring to a note to the financial statements that more extensively discusses the reason for the amendment of the previously issued financial statements and to the earlier report provided by the practitioner.
67. If management does not amend the financial statements in circumstances where the practitioner believes they need to be amended, the practitioner shall take appropriate action to seek to prevent reliance on the practitioner's report.

Written Representations

68. 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. [A120-A123](#))
 - (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 subparagraphs (a)-(b), the relevant matters covered by such statements need not be included in the written representation.
69. The practitioner shall request management's written representations that management has disclosed to the practitioner: (Ref: Para. [A121](#))
 - (a) The identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which management is aware;

- (b) Its knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud known to management that may have affected the entity; [Former paragraph [CSRE 2400.69\(b\) retained in Archived Pronouncements](#).]
 - (c) Known actual or possible non-compliance with laws and regulations for which the effects of non-compliance affect the entity's financial statements;
 - (d) All information relevant to use of the going concern assumption in the financial statements;
 - (e) That all events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the applicable financial reporting framework requires adjustment or disclosure, have been adjusted or disclosed;
 - (f) Material commitments, contractual obligations or contingencies that have affected or may affect the entity's financial statements, including disclosures; and
 - (g) Material non-monetary transactions or transactions for no consideration undertaken by the entity in the financial reporting period under consideration.
70. The practitioner shall request a written representation of management about whether they believe the effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A summary of such items shall be included in or attached to the written representation.
71. If management does not provide one or more of the requested written representations, the practitioner shall: (Ref: Para. [A120](#))
- (a) Discuss the matter with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance;
 - (b) Re-evaluate the integrity of management, and evaluate the effect that this may have on the reliability of representations (oral or written) and evidence in general; and
 - (c) Take appropriate actions, including determining the possible effect on the conclusion in the practitioner's report in accordance with this CSRE.
72. The practitioner shall disclaim a conclusion on the financial statements, or withdraw from the engagement if withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation, as appropriate, if:
- (a) The practitioner concludes that there is sufficient doubt about the integrity of management such that the written representations are not reliable; or
 - (b) Management does not provide the representations required by paragraph [68](#).

Date of and Period(s) Covered by Written Representations

73. 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.

Evaluating Evidence Obtained from the Procedures Performed

74. The practitioner shall evaluate whether sufficient appropriate evidence has been obtained from the procedures performed and, if not, the practitioner shall perform other procedures judged by the practitioner to be necessary in the circumstances to be able to form a conclusion on the financial statements. (Ref: Para. [A124](#))
75. If the practitioner is not able to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to form an unmodified conclusion, the practitioner shall discuss with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, the effects such limitations have on the scope of the review. (Ref: Para. [A125](#)-[A126](#))

Forming the Practitioner's Conclusion on the Financial Statements

Consideration of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework in Relation to the Financial Statements

76. The practitioner shall form a conclusion on whether anything has come to the practitioner's attention that causes the practitioner to believe that the financial statements are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. 6
77. To form the conclusion required by paragraph [76](#), the practitioner shall determine whether limited assurance has been obtained that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement. In making this determination, the practitioner shall evaluate:
- (a) The evidence obtained from the procedures performed;
 - (b) The effect of uncorrected misstatements identified during the review, and the effect of uncorrected misstatements in the prior period, on the financial statements as a whole; (Ref: Para. [A127](#))
 - (c) The qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, including indicators of possible bias in management's judgments; (Ref: Para. [A128](#)-[A129](#))
 - (d) Whether, in the context of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework and the results of procedures performed:
 - (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 effects of material transactions and events on the information conveyed in the financial statements; and
(Ref: Para. [A130-A132](#))
- (e) Whether the financial statements adequately refer to or describe the applicable financial reporting framework.
(Ref: Para. [A133-A134](#))

78. If the financial statements are prepared using a fair presentation framework, the practitioner's consideration shall also include:
- (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, appear to represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation or gives a true and fair view, as appropriate, in the context of the financial statements as a whole.

Form of the Conclusion

79. The practitioner's conclusion on the financial statements, whether unmodified or modified, shall be expressed in the appropriate form in the context of the financial reporting framework applied in the financial statements.

Unmodified Conclusion

80. The practitioner shall express an unmodified conclusion in the practitioner's report on the financial statements as a whole when the practitioner has obtained limited assurance to be able to conclude that nothing has come to the practitioner's attention that causes the practitioner to believe that the financial statements are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
81. When the practitioner expresses an unmodified conclusion, the practitioner shall, unless otherwise required by law or regulation, use one of the following phrases, as appropriate: (Ref: Para. [A135-A136](#))
- (a) "Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects (or do not give a true and fair view), ... in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework," (for financial statements prepared using a fair presentation framework); or
 - (b) "Based on our review, nothing 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 applicable financial reporting framework," (for financial statements prepared using a compliance framework).

Modified Conclusion

82. The practitioner shall express a modified conclusion in the practitioner's report on the financial statements as a whole when:
- (a) The practitioner determines, based on the procedures performed and the evidence obtained, that the financial statements are materially misstated; or
 - (b) The practitioner is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence in relation to one or more items in the financial statements that are material in relation to the financial statements as a whole.
83. If financial statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework do not achieve fair presentation, the practitioner shall discuss the matter with management and, depending on the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework and how the matter is resolved, shall determine whether it is necessary to modify the conclusion in the practitioner's report. (Ref: Para. [A131](#))
84. 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) Provide a description of the matter giving rise to the modification, under an appropriate heading (for example, "Basis for Qualified Conclusion," "Basis for Adverse Conclusion" or "Basis for Disclaimer of Conclusion," as appropriate), in a separate paragraph in the practitioner's report immediately before the conclusion paragraph (referred to as the basis for conclusion paragraph).

Financial statements are materially misstated

85. If the practitioner determines that the financial statements are materially misstated, the practitioner shall express:
- (a) A qualified conclusion, when the practitioner concludes that the effects of the matter(s) giving rise to the modification are material but not pervasive to the financial statements; or
 - (b) An adverse conclusion, when the effects of the matter(s) giving rise to the modification are both material and pervasive to the financial statements.

86. When the practitioner expresses a qualified conclusion on the financial statements because of a material misstatement, the practitioner shall, unless otherwise required by law or regulation, use one of the following phrases, as appropriate:
- (a) "Based on our review, except for the effects of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects (or do not give a true and fair view), ... in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework," (for financial statements prepared using a fair presentation framework); or
 - (b) "Based on our review, except for the effects of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, nothing 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 applicable financial reporting framework," (for financial statements prepared using a compliance framework).
87. When the practitioner expresses an adverse conclusion on the financial statements, the practitioner shall, unless otherwise required by law or regulation, use one of the following phrases, as appropriate:
- (a) "Based on our review, due to the significance of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Adverse Conclusion paragraph, the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects (or do not give a true and fair view), ... in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework," (for financial statements prepared using a fair presentation framework); or
 - (b) "Based on our review, due to the significance of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Adverse Conclusion paragraph, the financial statements are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework," (for financial statements prepared using a compliance framework).
88. In the basis for conclusion paragraph, in relation to material misstatements that give rise to either a qualified conclusion or an adverse conclusion, the practitioner shall:
- (a) 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 case the practitioner shall so state;
 - (b) Explain how disclosures are misstated if the material misstatement relates to narrative disclosures; or
 - (c) Describe the nature of omitted information if the material misstatement relates to the non-disclosure of information required to be disclosed. Unless prohibited by law or regulation, the practitioner shall include the omitted disclosures where practicable to do so.

Inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence

89. If the practitioner is unable to form a conclusion on the financial statements due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence, the practitioner shall:
- (a) Express a qualified conclusion if the practitioner concludes that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be material but not pervasive; or
 - (b) Disclaim a conclusion if the practitioner concludes that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be both material and pervasive.
90. The practitioner shall withdraw from the engagement if the following conditions are present: (Ref: Para. A137-A138)
- (a) Due to a limitation on the scope of the review imposed by management after the practitioner has accepted the engagement, the practitioner is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to form a conclusion on the financial statements;
 - (b) The practitioner has determined that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements are material and pervasive; and
 - (c) Withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation.
91. When the practitioner expresses a qualified conclusion on the financial statements due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence, the practitioner shall, unless otherwise required by law or regulation, use one of the following phrases, as appropriate:
- (a) "Based on our review, except for the possible effects of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects (or do not give a true and fair view), ... in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework," (for financial statements prepared using a fair presentation framework); or
 - (b) "Based on our review, except for the possible effects of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, nothing 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 applicable financial reporting framework," (for financial statements prepared using a compliance framework).
92. When disclaiming a conclusion on the financial statements the practitioner shall state in the conclusion paragraph that:

- (a) Due to the significance of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Conclusion paragraph, the practitioner is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to form a conclusion on the financial statements; and
- (b) Accordingly, the practitioner does not express a conclusion on the financial statements.
93. In the basis for conclusion paragraph, in relation to either the qualified conclusion due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence or when the practitioner disclaims a conclusion, the practitioner shall include the reason(s) for the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence.

The Practitioner's Report

94. The practitioner's report for the review engagement shall be in writing, and shall contain the following elements: (Ref: Para. [A140](#)-[A143](#), [A169](#), [A171](#))
- (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;
 - (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: (Ref: Para. [A144](#)-[A147](#))
- (i) Their preparation in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework including, where relevant, their fair presentation; and
 - (ii) 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;
- (e) If the financial statements are special purpose financial statements:
- (i) A description of the purpose for which the financial statements are prepared and, if necessary, the intended users, or reference to a note in the special purpose financial statements that contains that information; and
 - (ii) If management has a choice of financial reporting frameworks in the preparation of such financial statements, a reference within the explanation of management's responsibility for the financial statements to management's responsibility for determining that the applicable financial reporting framework is acceptable in the circumstances;
- (f) A description of the practitioner's responsibility to express a conclusion on the financial statements including reference to Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and, where relevant, applicable law or regulation; (Ref: Para. [A148](#)-[A149](#), [A170](#))
- (g) A description of a review of financial statements and its limitations, and the following statements: (Ref: Para. [A150](#))
- (i) A review engagement in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement;
 - (ii) The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained; and
 - (iii) The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, the practitioner does not express an audit opinion on the financial statements;
- (h) A paragraph under the heading "Conclusion" that contains:
- (i) The practitioner's conclusion on the financial statements as a whole in accordance with paragraphs [79](#)-[93](#), as appropriate; and
 - (ii) A reference to the applicable financial reporting framework used to prepare the financial statements, including identification of the jurisdiction of origin of the financial reporting framework that is not International Financial Reporting Standards or the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, or International Public Sector Accounting Standards issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board; (Ref: Para. [A151](#)-[A152](#))
- (i) When the practitioner's conclusion on the financial statements is modified:
- (i) A paragraph under the appropriate heading that contains the practitioner's modified conclusion in accordance with paragraphs [79](#) and [82](#)-[93](#), as appropriate;

- (ii) A paragraph, under an appropriate heading, that provides a description of the matter(s) giving rise to the modification; and (Ref: Para. [A153](#))
- (iii) If applicable, a reference to a modified conclusion in the prior period's practitioner's report when the matter that gave rise to the modification in the prior period is unresolved in the current period; (Ref: Para. [A154-A156](#))
- (j) A reference to the practitioner's obligation under Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements to comply with relevant ethical requirements;
- (k) The practitioner's signature; and (Ref: Para. [A157](#))
- (l) The date of the practitioner's report; (Ref: Para. [A165](#)-[A168](#))
- (m) The location in the jurisdiction where the practitioner practices.

Emphasis of Matter and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Practitioner's Report

- 95. 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 evidence to conclude that the matter is not likely to be materially misstated as presented in the financial statements. Such paragraph shall refer only to information presented or disclosed in the financial statements.
- 96. When the practitioner includes an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the practitioner's report, the practitioner shall include it immediately after the paragraph that contains the practitioner's conclusion on the financial statements under the heading "Emphasis of Matter," or other appropriate heading.
- 97. 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.

Alerting Readers that the Financial Statements Are Prepared in Accordance with a Special Purpose Framework

- 98. The practitioner's report on special purpose financial statements shall include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph alerting users of the practitioner's report that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework and that, as a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. (Ref: Para. [A158](#)-[A159](#))

Alerting Readers that a Material Uncertainty Exists Relating to Going Concern

- 99. If adequate disclosure is made in the financial statements about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the practitioner shall express an unmodified conclusion and include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the practitioner's report to: (Ref: Para. [A160](#))
 - (a) Highlight the existence of a material uncertainty relating to the event or condition that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern; and
 - (b) Draw attention to the note in the financial statements that discloses the matter.

Alerting Readers that the Prior Period Financial Statements Were Reviewed or Audited by a Predecessor Practitioner

- 100. If the financial statements of the prior period were subject to a review engagement or an audit engagement by a predecessor practitioner, the practitioner shall state in an Other Matter paragraph in the practitioner's report: (Ref: Para. [A161](#))
 - (a) That the financial statements of the prior period were subject to a review engagement or an audit engagement by the predecessor practitioner;
 - (b) The type of conclusion expressed by the predecessor practitioner and, if the conclusion was modified, the reasons therefor; and
 - (c) The date of the predecessor practitioner's report.

Alerting Readers that the Prior Period Financial Statements Were Not Reviewed or Audited

- 101. If the financial statements of the prior period were not subject to a review engagement or an audit engagement, the practitioner shall so state in an Other Matter paragraph in the practitioner's report.

Other Reporting Responsibilities

- 102. 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 CSRE 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 headed "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements," or otherwise, as appropriate to the content of the section, following the section of the report headed "Report on the Financial Statements." (Ref: Para. [A162](#)-[A164](#))

Date of the Practitioner's Report

103. The practitioner shall date the report no earlier than the date on which the practitioner has obtained sufficient appropriate evidence as the basis for the practitioner's conclusion on the financial statements, including being satisfied that: (Ref: Para. [A165](#)-[A168](#))
- (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.

Documentation

104. The preparation of documentation for the review provides evidence that the review was performed in accordance with this CSRE, and legal and regulatory requirements where relevant, and a sufficient and appropriate record of the basis for the practitioner's report. The practitioner shall document the following aspects of the engagement in a timely manner, sufficient to enable an experienced practitioner, having no previous connection with the engagement, to understand: (Ref: Para. [A172](#))
- (a) The nature, timing and extent of the procedures performed to comply with this CSRE and applicable legal and regulatory requirements;
 - (b) Results obtained from the procedures, and the practitioner's conclusions formed on the basis of those results; and
 - (c) Significant matters arising during the engagement, the practitioner's conclusions reached thereon, and significant professional judgments made in reaching those conclusions.
105. In documenting the nature, timing and extent of procedures performed as required in this CSRE, 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 management for the engagement, and the date and extent of the review.
106. 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.
107. 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.

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Scope of this CSRE (Ref: Para. [1](#))

- A1. In performing a review of financial statements, the practitioner may be required to comply with legal or regulatory requirements, which may differ from the requirements established in this CSRE. While the practitioner may find aspects of this CSRE helpful in these circumstances, it is the responsibility of the practitioner to ensure compliance with all relevant legal, regulatory and professional obligations.

Relationship with CSQMs (Ref: Para. [3](#))

- A2. [CSQM 1](#) deals with the firm's responsibilities to design, implement and operate a system of quality management for assurance engagements, including review engagements. [7](#) CSQM 1 also deals with the firm's responsibility to establish policies or procedures addressing engagements that are required to be subject to engagement quality reviews. [8](#) [CSQM 2](#) deals with the appointment and eligibility of the engagement quality reviewer, and the performance and documentation of the engagement quality review. [9](#) A system of quality management addresses the following eight components: [10](#)
- (a) The firm's risk assessment process;
 - (b) Governance and leadership;
 - (c) Relevant ethical requirements;
 - (d) Acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements;
 - (e) Engagement performance;
 - (f) Resources;
 - (g) Information and communication; and
 - (h) The firm's monitoring and remediation process.

Firms or requirements may use different terminology or frameworks to describe the components of the system of quality management.

- A3. Under [CSQM 1](#), the objective of the firm is to design, implement and operate a system of quality management for assurance engagements, including reviews of financial statements, that provides the firm with reasonable assurance that:

- (a) The firm and its personnel fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and conduct engagements in accordance with such standards and requirements; and
 - (b) Engagement reports issued by the firm or engagement partners are appropriate in the circumstances. 11
- A4. Requirements that deal with the firm's responsibilities to design, implement and operate a system of quality management are at least as demanding as [CSQM 1](#) when they address the requirements of CSQM 1, and impose obligations on the firm to achieve the objective of CSQM 1.

The Engagement to Review Historical Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 4-6, [12](#))

- A5. Reviews of financial statements may be performed for a wide range of entities that vary by type or size, or by the level of complexity in their financial reporting. In some jurisdictions, the review of financial statements of certain types of entity may also be the subject of local laws or regulations and related reporting requirements.
- A6. Reviews may be performed in a variety of circumstances. For example, they may be required for entities that are exempt from requirements specified in law or regulation for mandatory audit. Reviews may 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.

Objectives (Ref: Para. [13](#))

- A7. This CSRE requires the practitioner to disclaim a conclusion on the financial statements if:
- (a) The practitioner issues a report, or is required to issue a report for the engagement; and
 - (b) The practitioner is unable to form a conclusion on the financial statements due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence, and the practitioner concludes that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be both material and pervasive.
- A8. The situation of being unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence in a review engagement (referred to as a scope limitation) may arise from:
- (a) Circumstances beyond the control of the entity;
 - (b) Circumstances relating to the nature or timing of the practitioner's work; or
 - (c) Limitations imposed by management or those charged with governance of the entity.
- A9. This CSRE sets out requirements and guidance for the practitioner when the practitioner encounters a scope limitation, either prior to accepting a review engagement, or during the engagement.

[Former paragraph [2400.A10](#) retained in Archived Pronouncements.]

Definitions (Ref: Para. [14](#))

Use of the Terms "Management" and "Those Charged with Governance"

- A10. The respective responsibilities of management and those charged with governance will differ between jurisdictions, and between entities of various types. These differences affect the way the practitioner applies the requirements of this CSRE in relation to management or those charged with governance. Accordingly, the phrase "management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance" used in various places throughout this CSRE is intended to alert the practitioner to the fact that different entity environments may have different management and governance structures and arrangements.
- A11. 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; and
 - 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. In larger entities, management is often responsible for execution of the business or activities of the entity and reporting thereon, while those charged with governance oversee management. In some jurisdictions, the responsibility for preparation of financial statements for an entity is the legal responsibility of those charged with governance, and in some other jurisdictions it is a management responsibility.

Limited Assurance — Use of the Term "Sufficient Appropriate Evidence" (Ref: Para. [15\(j\)](#))

- A12. Sufficient appropriate evidence is required to obtain limited assurance to support the practitioner's conclusion. Evidence is cumulative in nature and is primarily obtained from the procedures performed during the course of the review. Evidence may also include information obtained from other sources such as previous engagements or a firm's quality management procedures for client acceptance and continuance.

Special Purpose Framework (Ref: Para. [15\(p\)](#))

- A13. Examples of special purpose frameworks are:

- The financial reporting provisions of a contract, such as a bond indenture, a loan agreement, or a project grant;
- A tax basis of accounting for a set of financial statements that accompany an entity's tax return;
- The cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting for cash flow information that an entity may be requested to prepare for creditors; or
- The financial reporting provisions established by a regulator to meet the requirements of that regulator.

- A14. There may be circumstances where a special purpose framework is based on a financial reporting framework established by an authorized or recognized standard-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 in accordance with most, but not all, accounting standards for private enterprises (issued by the Canadian Accounting Standards Board). 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 Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises. In the above example of a 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 Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises.
- A15. In the circumstances described in paragraph [A14](#), 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 Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises that are necessary to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements.

Conduct of a Review Engagement in Accordance with this CSRE (Ref: Para. [16](#))

- A16. This CSRE 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 CSRE, a review conducted only in accordance with laws and regulations will not automatically comply with this CSRE.

Ethical Requirements (Ref: Para. [19](#))

- A17. Relevant independence and other ethical requirements establish the fundamental principles of professional ethics relevant to the practitioner when conducting a review of financial statements and provide a conceptual framework for applying those principles. The fundamental principles with which the practitioner is required to comply by the relevant independence and other ethical requirements are:
- (a) Integrity;
 - (b) Objectivity;
 - (c) Professional competence and due care;
 - (d) Confidentiality; and
 - (e) Professional behaviour.
- A18. In the case of an engagement to review financial statements, the relevant independence and other ethical requirements require that the practitioner be independent of the entity whose financial statements are reviewed. The relevant independence and other ethical requirements describe independence as comprising both independence of mind and independence in appearance. The practitioner's independence safeguards the practitioner's ability to form a conclusion without being affected by influences that might otherwise compromise that 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. [20](#))

- A19. Professional skepticism is necessary for the critical assessment of evidence in a review. This includes questioning inconsistencies and investigating contradictory evidence, and questioning 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 light of the engagement circumstances.
- A20. Professional skepticism includes being alert to, for example:
- Evidence that is inconsistent with other evidence obtained.
 - Information that calls 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.
- A21. Maintaining professional skepticism throughout the review is necessary if the practitioner is 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.
- A22. 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 the review.

Professional Judgment (Ref: Para. 21)

- A23. Professional judgment is essential to the proper conduct of a review engagement. This is because interpretation of relevant ethical requirements and the requirements of this CSRE, and the need for informed decisions throughout the performance of a review engagement, require the application of relevant knowledge and experience to the facts and circumstances of the engagement. Professional judgment is necessary, in particular:
- Regarding decisions about materiality, and the nature, timing and extent of procedures used to meet the requirements of this CSRE, and to gather evidence.
 - When evaluating whether the evidence obtained from the procedures performed reduces the engagement risk to a level that is acceptable in the engagement circumstances.
 - When considering management's judgments in applying the entity's applicable financial reporting framework.
 - When forming the conclusion on the financial statements based on the evidence obtained, including considering the reasonableness of the estimates made by management in preparing the financial statements.
- A24. The distinguishing feature of the professional judgment expected of the practitioner is that it is exercised by a practitioner whose training, knowledge and experience, including in the use of assurance skills and techniques, have assisted in developing the necessary competencies to achieve reasonable judgments. Consultation on difficult or contentious matters during the course of the engagement, 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.
- A25. The exercise of professional judgment in individual engagements is based on the facts and circumstances that are known by the practitioner throughout the engagement, including:
- Knowledge acquired from engagements carried out with respect to the entity's financial statements in prior periods, where applicable.
 - The practitioner's understanding of the entity and its environment, including its accounting system, and of the application of the applicable financial reporting framework in the entity's industry.
 - The extent to which the preparation and presentation of the financial statements require the exercise of management judgment.
- A26. Professional judgment can be evaluated based on whether the judgment reached reflects a competent application of assurance and accounting principles, and is appropriate in light of, and consistent with, the facts and circumstances that were known to the practitioner up to the date of the practitioner's report.
- A27. Professional judgment needs to be exercised throughout the engagement. It also needs to be appropriately documented in accordance with the requirements of this CSRE. Professional judgment is not to be used as the justification for decisions that are not otherwise supported by the facts and circumstances of the engagement, or the evidence obtained.

Engagement Level Quality Management (Ref: Para. 22-23)

- A28. Assurance skills and techniques include:
- Applying professional skepticism and professional judgment to planning and performing an assurance engagement, including obtaining and evaluating evidence;
 - Understanding information systems and the role and limitations of internal control;
 - Linking the consideration of materiality and engagement risks to the nature, timing and extent of procedures for the review;
 - Applying procedures as appropriate to the review engagement, which may include other types of procedures in addition to inquiry and analytical procedures (such as inspection, re-calculation, re-performance, observation and confirmation);
 - Systematic documentation practices; and
 - Application of skills and practices relevant for writing reports for assurance engagements.
- A29. Within the context of the firm's system of quality management, engagement teams have a responsibility to implement the firm's policies or procedures applicable to the engagement, and communicate to the firm information arising from the review engagement that is required to be communicated by the firm's policies or procedures to support the firm's system of quality management.
- A30. The actions of the engagement partner and appropriate messages to the other members of the engagement team, in the context of the engagement partner taking overall responsibility for managing and achieving quality on each review engagement, emphasize the fact that quality is essential in performing a review engagement, and the importance to the quality of the review engagement of:
- (a) Performing work that complies with professional standards and regulatory and legal requirements.
 - (b) Complying with the firm's quality management policies or procedures as applicable.

- (c) Issuing a report for the engagement that is appropriate in the circumstances.
- (d) The engagement team's ability to raise concerns without fear of reprisals.

A31. Ordinarily, the engagement team may depend on the firm's system of quality management unless:

- The engagement team's understanding or practical experience indicates that the firm's policies or procedures will not effectively address the nature and circumstances of the engagement; or
- Information provided by the firm or other parties about the effectiveness of such policies or procedures suggests otherwise.

For example, the engagement team may depend on the firm's system of quality management in relation to:

- Competence and capabilities of personnel through their recruitment and formal training.
- Independence through the accumulation and communication of relevant independence information.
- Maintenance of client relationships through the firm's policies or procedures for acceptance and continuance of client relationships and review engagements.
- Adherence to regulatory and legal requirements through the firm's monitoring and remediation process.

In considering deficiencies 12 identified in the firm's system of quality management that may affect the review engagement, the engagement partner may consider remedial actions undertaken by the firm to address those deficiencies.

A32. A deficiency in the firm's system of quality management does not necessarily indicate that a review engagement was not performed in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, or that the practitioner's report was not appropriate.

Engagement Resources (Ref: Para. 23(b))

A33. When considering the appropriate competence and capabilities expected of the engagement team as a whole, the engagement partner may take into consideration such matters as the team's:

- Understanding of, and practical experience with, review engagements of a similar nature and complexity through appropriate training and participation.
- Understanding of professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.
- Technical expertise, including expertise with relevant information technology and specialized areas of accounting or assurance.
- Knowledge of relevant industries in which the client operates.
- Ability to apply professional judgment.
- Understanding of the firm's quality management policies or procedures.

Acceptance and Continuance of Client Relationships and Review Engagements (Ref: Para. 23(d)(i))

A34. [CSQM 1](#) 13 requires the firm to establish quality objectives that address the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and review engagements. Information that assists the engagement partner in determining whether the firm's policies or procedures for the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and review engagements have been followed, and that conclusions reached are appropriate may include information concerning:

- The integrity of the principal owners, key management and those charged with governance; and
- Significant matters that have arisen during the current or a previous engagement, and their implications for continuing the relationship.

A35. 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 is not appropriate under this CSRE to accept the engagement, unless required by law or regulation, as doing so may lead to the practitioner being associated with the entity's financial statements in an inappropriate manner.

Acceptance and Continuance of Client Relationships and Review Engagements (Ref: Para. 27)

A36. The practitioner's consideration of acceptance and continuance of client relationships and review engagements, and relevant ethical requirements, including independence, occurs throughout the engagement, as conditions and changes in circumstances occur. Performing initial procedures on acceptance and continuance of client relationships and review engagements and evaluation of relevant ethical requirements (including independence) at the beginning of an engagement informs the practitioner's decisions and actions prior to the performance of other significant activities for the engagement.

Factors Affecting Acceptance and Continuance of Client Relationships and Review Engagements (Ref: Para. 27)

Rational Purpose (Ref: Para. 27(a)(i))

A37. It may be unlikely that there is a rational purpose for the engagement if, for example:

- (a) There is a significant limitation on the scope of the practitioner's work;
- (b) The practitioner suspects the engaging party intends to associate the practitioner's name with the financial statements in an inappropriate manner; or

- (c) The engagement is intended to meet compliance requirements of relevant law or regulation and such law or regulation requires the financial statements to be audited.

Review Engagement Is Not Appropriate (Ref: Para. [27\(a\)\(ii\)](#))

- A38. When the practitioner's preliminary understanding of the engagement circumstances indicates that accepting a review engagement would not be appropriate, the practitioner may consider recommending that another type of engagement be undertaken. Depending on the circumstances, the practitioner may, for example, believe that performance of an audit engagement would be more appropriate than a review. In other cases, if the engagement circumstances preclude performance of an assurance engagement, the practitioner may recommend a compilation engagement, or other accounting services engagement, as appropriate.

Information Needed to Perform the Review Engagement (Ref: Para. [27\(c\)](#))

- A39. An example of where the practitioner may have cause to doubt that the information needed to perform the review will be available or reliable is where the accounting records necessary for purposes of performing analytical procedures are suspected to be substantially inaccurate or incomplete. This consideration is not directed at the need that sometimes arises in the course of a review engagement to assist management by recommending adjusting entries required to finalize the financial statements prepared by management.

Preconditions for Accepting a Review Engagement (Ref: Para. [28](#))

- A40. This CSRE also requires the practitioner to ascertain certain matters, upon which it is necessary for the practitioner and the entity's management to agree, and which are within the control of the entity, prior to the practitioner accepting the engagement.

The Applicable Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. [28\(a\)](#))

- A41. For purposes of this CSRE, the applicable financial reporting framework provides the criteria the practitioner uses to review the financial statements including, where relevant, the fair presentation of the financial statements. Some financial reporting frameworks are fair presentation frameworks, while 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.

Acceptability of the applicable financial reporting framework

- A42. 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.

- A43. The practitioner's determination of the acceptability of the financial reporting framework applied in the financial statements is made in the context of the practitioner's understanding of who the intended users of the financial statements are. The intended users are the person, persons or group of persons for whom the practitioner prepares the report. The practitioner may not be able to identify all those who will read the assurance report, particularly where there is a large number of people who have access to it.

- A44. In many cases, in the absence of any indications to the contrary, the practitioner may presume that the applicable financial reporting framework is acceptable (for example, a financial reporting framework that is prescribed by law or regulation in a jurisdiction to be used in the preparation of general purpose financial statements for certain types of entities).

- A45. 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).
- 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).
- Whether the applicable financial reporting framework is prescribed in relevant law or regulation.

- A46. 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 is required under this CSRE to decline the engagement.

- A47. 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 under this CSRE to agree the new terms of the review engagement with management to reflect the change in the applicable financial reporting framework.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. [28\(b\), 35\(e\)](#))

- A48. 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 CSRE does not impose responsibilities on management or those charged with governance, nor does it override laws and regulations that govern their respective responsibilities. However, a review in accordance with this CSRE is conducted on the premise that management and, where appropriate, those

charged with governance, have acknowledged certain responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of the review. The review of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities.

- A49. As part of its responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements, management is required to exercise judgment in making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances, and to select and apply appropriate accounting policies. These judgments are made in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- A50. Because of the significance of the preconditions for undertaking a review of financial statements, the practitioner is required under this CSRE to obtain the agreement of management that it understands its responsibilities before accepting a review engagement. The practitioner may obtain management's agreement either orally or in writing. However, management's agreement is subsequently recorded within the written terms of the engagement.
- A51. If management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, do not or will not acknowledge their 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, where appropriate, those charged with governance the importance of these matters and the implications for the engagement.

Additional Considerations When the Wording of the Practitioner's Report Is Prescribed by Law or Regulation (Ref: Para. 32-33)

- A52. This CSRE requires the practitioner to not represent compliance with this CSRE unless the practitioner has complied with all the requirements of this CSRE that are relevant to the 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 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 layout or wording required by this CSRE.

Under this CSRE, a review conducted in these situations does not comply with this CSRE and the practitioner cannot represent compliance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements in the report issued for the engagement. Notwithstanding that the practitioner is not permitted to represent compliance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, the practitioner is, however, encouraged to apply this CSRE, including the reporting requirements, to the extent practicable. When appropriate to avoid misunderstanding, the practitioner may consider including a statement in the report that the review is not conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements.

Agreeing the Terms of Engagement

Engagement Letter or Other Form of Written Agreement (Ref: Para. 35)

- A53. It is in the interests of both management and those charged with governance, 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.

Form and content of the engagement letter

- A54. The form and content of the engagement letter may vary for each engagement. In addition to including the matters required by this CSRE, an engagement letter may make reference to, for example:
- Arrangements concerning the involvement of other practitioners and experts in the review engagement.
 - Arrangements to be made with the predecessor practitioner, if any, in the case of an initial engagement.
 - The fact that 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.

[Former paragraph [2400.A56](#) retained in Archived Pronouncements.]

Responsibilities of management prescribed by law or regulation (Ref: Para. 35(e))

- A55. 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 and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, required under this CSRE that they acknowledge and understand their responsibilities set out in this CSRE. This written agreement may use the wording of the law or regulation if the law or regulation establishes responsibilities for management that are equivalent in effect to those described in this CSRE.

Example of an Engagement Letter (Ref: Para. [35](#))

A56. [Appendix 1](#) contains an example of a review engagement letter.

Recurring Engagements (Ref: Para. [36](#))

A57. The practitioner may decide not to send a new engagement letter or other written agreement each period. However, the following factors may indicate that it is appropriate to revise the terms of the review engagement or to remind management or those charged with governance, as appropriate, of the existing terms of the engagement:

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

Acceptance of a Change in the Terms or Nature of the Review Engagement (Ref: Para. [37-38](#))

A58. 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 engagement as originally requested.
- A restriction on the scope of the review engagement, whether imposed by management or caused by other circumstances.

A59. 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 to the terms of the review engagement.

A60. 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 practitioner is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence for a material item in the financial statements, and management asks for the engagement to be changed to a related services engagement to avoid the expression of a modified conclusion by the practitioner.

A61. Before agreeing to change a review engagement to another type of engagement or related service, a practitioner who was engaged to perform a review in accordance with this CSRE may need to assess, in addition to the matters referred to in this CSRE, any legal or contractual implications of the change.

A62. If the practitioner concludes that there is reasonable justification to change the review engagement to another type of engagement 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 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.

Communication with Management and Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. [40](#))

A63. In a review engagement, the practitioner's communications with management and those charged with governance take the form of:

- (a) Inquiries the practitioner makes in the course of performing the procedures for the review; and
- (b) Other communications, in the context of having effective two-way communication to understand matters arising and to develop a constructive working relationship for the engagement.

A64. The appropriate timing for communications will vary with the circumstances of the engagement. Relevant factors include the significance and nature of the matter, and any action expected to be taken by management or those charged with governance. For example, it may be appropriate to communicate a significant difficulty encountered during the review as soon as practicable if management or those charged with governance are able to assist the practitioner to overcome the difficulty.

A65. Law or regulation may restrict the practitioner's communication of certain matters with those charged with governance. For example, law or regulation 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.

Communicating Matters Concerning the Review

- A66. Matters to be communicated to management or those charged with governance, as appropriate, under this CSRE may include:
- The practitioner's responsibilities in the review engagement, as 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.
 - Significant findings from the performance of procedures, including situations where the practitioner considered performance of additional procedures necessary under this CSRE. 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.
 - Matters arising that may lead to modification of the practitioner's conclusion.
 - Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the review; for example, unavailability of expected information; unexpected inability to obtain evidence that the practitioner considers necessary for the review; 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 or to the practitioner's withdrawal from the engagement in certain circumstances.

- A67. In some entities, different persons are responsible for the management and the governance of an entity. In these circumstances, management may have the responsibility to communicate matters of governance interest to those charged with governance. 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 to those charged with governance. However, communication of these matters by management may affect the form or timing of the practitioner's communication with those charged with governance.

Communication with Third Parties

- A68. 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 jurisdictions 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.
- A69. Unless required by law or regulation to provide a third party with a copy of the practitioner's written communications with those charged with governance, the practitioner may need the prior consent of management or those charged with governance before doing so.

Performing the Engagement

Materiality in a Review of Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 41)

- A70. The practitioner's consideration of materiality is made in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework. Some financial reporting frameworks 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. The possible effect of misstatements on specific individual users, whose needs may vary widely, is not considered.
- A71. If present in the applicable financial reporting framework, a discussion of the concept of materiality provides a frame of reference for the practitioner in determining materiality for the review. If not present, the above considerations provide the practitioner with a frame of reference.
- A72. The practitioner's determination of materiality is a matter of professional judgment, and is affected by the practitioner's perception of the needs of the intended users of the financial statements. In this context, it is reasonable for the practitioner to assume that users:
- 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;
 - Understand that financial statements are prepared, presented and reviewed to levels of materiality;

- Recognize the uncertainties inherent in the measurement of amounts based on the use of estimates, judgment and the consideration of future events; and
- Make reasonable economic decisions on the basis of the information in the financial statements.

Further, unless the review engagement is undertaken for financial statements that are intended to meet the particular needs of specific users, the possible effect of misstatements on specific users, whose information needs may vary widely, is not ordinarily considered.

- A73. The practitioner's judgment about what is material in relation to the financial statements as a whole is the same regardless of the level of assurance obtained by a practitioner as the basis for expressing the conclusion on the financial statements.

Use of Benchmarks in Determining Materiality for the Financial Statements as a Whole

- A74. A percentage is often applied to a chosen benchmark as a starting point in determining materiality for the financial statements as a whole. Factors that may affect the identification of an appropriate benchmark include the following:
- The elements of the financial statements (for example, assets, liabilities, equity, revenue, expenses);
 - Whether there are items on which the attention of the users of the particular entity's financial statements tends to be focused (for example, for the purpose of evaluating financial performance users may tend to focus on profit, revenue or net assets);
 - The nature of the entity, where the entity is in its life cycle, and the industry and economic environment in which the entity operates;
 - The entity's ownership structure and the way it is financed (for example, if an entity is financed solely by debt rather than equity, users may put more emphasis on assets, and claims on them, than on the entity's earnings); and
 - The relative volatility of the benchmark.
- A75. Examples of benchmarks that may be appropriate, depending on the circumstances of the entity, include categories of reported income such as profit before tax, total revenue, gross profit and total expenses, total equity or net asset value. Profit before tax from continuing operations is often used for profit-oriented entities. When profit before tax from continuing operations is volatile, other benchmarks may be more appropriate, such as gross profit or total revenues.
- A76. When an entity's profit before tax from continuing operations is consistently nominal, as might be the case for an owner-managed business where the owner takes much of the profit before tax in the form of remuneration, a benchmark such as profit before remuneration and tax may be more relevant.
- A77. Materiality relates to the financial statements on which the practitioner is reporting. Where the financial statements are prepared for a financial reporting period of more or less than twelve months (such as may be the case for a new entity, a change in the financial reporting period, or interim financial statements), materiality relates to the financial statements prepared for that financial reporting period.
- A78. Determining a percentage to be applied to a chosen benchmark involves the exercise of professional judgment. There is a relationship between the percentage and the chosen benchmark, such that a percentage applied to profit before tax from continuing operations will normally be higher than a percentage applied to total revenue.
- A79. The materiality determined does not necessarily establish an amount below which uncorrected misstatements, individually or in the aggregate, will always be evaluated as immaterial. The circumstances related to some misstatements may cause the practitioner to evaluate them as material even if they are below materiality. Although it is not practicable to design procedures to detect misstatements that could be material solely because of their nature, the practitioner considers not only the size but also the nature of uncorrected misstatements, and the particular circumstances of their occurrence, when evaluating their effect on the financial statements.
- Use of Benchmarks in Determining Materiality for a Review of Interim Financial Statements
- A80. Determining materiality always requires significant professional judgment. Such determination may be more difficult for a review of interim financial statements than for a review of annual financial statements because of the different contexts in which users may be reading interim financial statements. For example, users may read interim financial statements in the context of the entity's annual financial performance and, therefore, the benchmarks the practitioner may decide to use for determining materiality may be similar to those for annual financial statements. Alternatively, users may be concerned about the different types of potential misstatements in the context of a particular circumstance (for example, an acquisition of an entity or a financing arrangement) for which it has requested the interim review engagement. Also, some users may be concerned about amounts appearing in the interim financial statements without focusing on how they relate to possible annual results. Therefore, in these types of circumstances it may not be appropriate for the practitioner to be using benchmarks similar to those for annual financial statements.
- A81. The percentage applied to a chosen benchmark in a review of interim financial statements involves the exercise of professional judgment about the size of misstatement that will be considered material in the interim financial statements. There may be circumstances in which misstatements would be considered material for the interim period but would not be expected to be material for the annual period. Accordingly, the materiality for a review of interim

financial statements of an entity may be lower than the materiality for the review of annual financial statements of that entity.

Revising Materiality (Ref: Para. [42](#))

- A82. The practitioner's determination of materiality for the financial statements as a whole may need to be revised during the engagement as a result of:
- (a) A change in the circumstances that occurred during the review (for example, a decision to dispose of a major part of the entity's business).
 - (b) New information, or a change in the practitioner's understanding of the entity and its environment as a result of performing procedures for the review in accordance with this CSRE (for example, if during the review it appears as though actual financial results are likely to be substantially different from the anticipated period-end financial results that were used initially to determine materiality for the financial statements as a whole).

The Practitioner's Understanding (Ref: Para. [43-44](#))

- A83. The practitioner uses professional judgment to determine the extent of the understanding of the entity and its environment required to perform the review of the entity's financial statements in accordance with this CSRE. The practitioner's primary consideration is whether the understanding obtained is sufficient to meet the practitioner's objectives for the engagement. The breadth and depth of the overall understanding that the practitioner obtains is less than that possessed by management.
- A84. Obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment is a continual dynamic process of gathering, updating and analyzing information throughout the review engagement. The practitioner's understanding is obtained and applied on an iterative basis throughout performance of the engagement, and is updated as changes in conditions and circumstances occur. Initial procedures for engagement acceptance and continuance at the time of commencement of a review engagement are based on the practitioner's preliminary understanding of the entity and of the engagement circumstances. In a continuing client relationship, the practitioner's understanding includes knowledge obtained from prior engagements performed by the practitioner in relation to the entity's financial statements and other financial information.
- A85. The understanding establishes a frame of reference within which the practitioner plans and performs the review engagement, and exercises professional judgment throughout the engagement. Specifically, the understanding needs to be sufficient for the practitioner to be able to identify areas in the financial statements where material misstatements are likely to arise, to inform the practitioner's approach to designing and performing procedures to address those areas.
- A86. In obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, and of the applicable financial reporting framework, the practitioner may also consider:
- Whether the entity is a component of a group of entities, or an associated entity of another entity.
 - The complexity of the financial reporting framework.
 - 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. Smaller entities often have fewer employees, which may influence how management exercises oversight. For example, segregation of duties may not be practicable. However, in a small owner-managed entity, the owner-manager may be able to exercise more effective oversight than in a larger entity by having first-hand knowledge of the entity's activities and being closely involved in operations by, for example, directly authorizing individual transactions. This oversight may compensate for the generally more limited opportunities for segregation of duties by, for example, placing management in a position to identify variances from expectations and inaccuracies in reported financial information.
 - 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 level of development and complexity of the entity's financial accounting and reporting systems and related controls through which the entity's accounting records and related information are maintained.
 - The entity's procedures for recording, classifying and summarizing transactions, accumulating information for inclusion in the financial statements and related disclosures.
 - The types of matters that required accounting adjustments in the entity's financial statements in prior periods.
- A87. The practitioner does not have a responsibility to evaluate the design of controls, to determine whether they have been implemented, or to evaluate their operating effectiveness.

A88. Interim financial statements may contain significant accounting estimates that may be less precise than those determined for annual financial statements. For example, the time in an entity's business cycle at which estimates are made may significantly affect the estimates of inventory obsolescence and income taxes relative to those made at the usual period end. Accordingly, the practitioner's understanding of the significant estimates made by management at an interim date may be relevant to the identification of areas in the financial statements where material misstatements are likely to arise.

Designing and Performing Procedures (Ref: Para. 46, 54)

- A89. The planned nature, timing and extent of the procedures the practitioner considers are needed to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence as the basis for a conclusion on the financial statements as a whole are influenced by:
- (a) The requirements of this CSRE; and
 - (b) Requirements established under applicable law or regulation, including additional reporting requirements contained in applicable laws or regulations.
- A90. When the practitioner is engaged to review the financial statements of a group of entities, the planned nature, timing and extent of the procedures for the review are directed at achieving the practitioner's objectives for the review engagement stated in this CSRE, but in the context of the group financial statements.
- A91. The requirements of this CSRE relating to designing and performing inquiry and analytical procedures, and procedures addressing specific circumstances, are designed to enable the practitioner to achieve the objectives specified in this CSRE. The circumstances of review engagements vary widely and, accordingly, there may be circumstances where the practitioner may consider it effective or efficient to design and perform other procedures. For example, if in the course of obtaining an understanding of the entity, the practitioner becomes aware of a significant contract the practitioner may choose to read the contract.
- A92. The fact that the practitioner may deem it necessary to perform other procedures does not alter the practitioner's objective of obtaining limited assurance in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Significant or Unusual Transactions

- A93. The practitioner may consider reviewing the accounting records with a view to identifying significant or unusual transactions that may require specific attention in the review.

Inquiry (Ref: Para. 44-47)

- A94. In a review, inquiry includes seeking information of management and other persons within the entity, as the practitioner considers appropriate in the engagement circumstances. The practitioner may also extend inquiries to obtain non-financial data if appropriate. Evaluating the responses provided by management is integral to the inquiry process.
- A95. Depending on the engagement circumstances, inquiries may also include 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.
 - Communications the entity has received, or expects to receive or obtain, from regulatory agencies.
 - Matters arising in the course of applying other 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 procedures, and the practitioner's knowledge and understanding of the entity and the industry in which it operates.
- A96. Evidence obtained through inquiry is often the principal source of evidence about management intent. However, information available to support management's intent may be limited. 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. Application of professional skepticism in evaluating responses provided by management is important to enable the practitioner to evaluate whether there are any matter(s) that would cause the practitioner to believe the financial statements may be materially misstated.
- A97. Performing inquiry procedures assists the practitioner also in obtaining or updating the practitioner's understanding of the entity and its environment, to be able to identify areas in the financial statements where material misstatements are likely to arise.
- A98. The practitioner may have additional responsibilities under law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements regarding an entity's non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud or suspected fraud, which may differ from or go beyond this CSRE, such as:
- (a) Responding to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, including requirements in relation to specific communications with management and those charged with governance and considering whether further action is needed;
 - (b) Communicating identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to an auditor, for example a group engagement partner; 14 and
 - (c) Documentation requirements regarding identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Complying with any additional responsibilities may provide further information that is relevant to the practitioner's work in accordance with this CSRE (e.g., regarding the integrity of management or, where appropriate, those charged with governance). [Former paragraph [CSRE 2400.A98 retained in Archived Pronouncements](#).]

Inquiry about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern (Ref: Para. [47\(f\)](#))

A99. Often in smaller entities, management may not have prepared an assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, but instead may rely on knowledge of the business and anticipated future prospects. In these circumstances, it may be appropriate to discuss the medium- and long-term prospects and financing of the entity with management, including consideration of whether management's contentions are not inconsistent with the practitioner's understanding of the entity.

Analytical Procedures (Ref: Para. [44](#)-[46](#), [48](#))

A100. In a review of financial statements, performing analytical procedures assists the practitioner in:

- Obtaining or updating the practitioner's understanding of the entity and its environment, including to be able to identify areas in the financial statements where material misstatements are likely to arise.
- Identifying inconsistencies or variances from expected trends, values or norms in the financial statements such as the level of congruence of the financial statements with key data, including key performance indicators.
- Providing corroborative evidence in relation to other inquiry or analytical procedures already performed.
- Serving as additional procedures when the practitioner becomes aware of matter(s) that cause the practitioner to believe that the financial statements may be materially misstated. An example of such an additional procedure is a comparative analysis of monthly revenue and cost figures across profit centres, branches or other components of the entity, to provide evidence about financial information contained in line items or disclosures contained in the financial statements.

A101. Various methods may be used to perform analytical procedures. These methods range from performing simple comparisons to performing complex analysis using statistical techniques. For example, the practitioner may apply analytical procedures 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 often uses to develop expectations, depending on the engagement circumstances, include:

- Financial information for comparable prior period(s), taking known changes into account.
- Information about expected operating and financial results, such as 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 entity operates, such as gross margin information, or 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 non-financial information, such as payroll costs to number of employees.

A102. The practitioner's consideration of whether data to be used for analytical procedures are satisfactory for the intended purpose(s) of those procedures is based on the practitioner's understanding of the entity and its environment, and is influenced by the nature and source of the data, and by the circumstances in which the data are obtained. The following considerations may be relevant:

- Source of the information available. For example, information may be more reliable when it is obtained from independent sources outside the entity;
- Comparability of the information available. For example, broad industry data may need to be supplemented or be adjusted to be comparable to data of an entity that produces and sells specialized products;
- 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
- The knowledge and expertise involved in the preparation of the information, and related controls that are designed to ensure its completeness, accuracy and validity. Such controls may include, for example, controls over the preparation, review and maintenance of budgetary information.

Procedures to Address Specific Circumstances

Fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations (Ref: Para. [51\(a\)](#) and [\(d\)](#))

Communication with management and those charged with governance

A103. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation may restrict the practitioner's communication of certain matters with management or those charged with governance. Law or regulation may specifically prohibit a communication, or other

action, that might prejudice an investigation by an appropriate authority into an actual, or suspected, illegal act, including alerting the entity, for example, when the practitioner is required to report identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to an appropriate authority pursuant to anti-money laundering legislation. In these circumstances the issues considered by the practitioner may be complex and the practitioner may consider it appropriate to obtain legal advice.

Reporting of identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to an appropriate authority outside the entity

- A104. Reporting identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to an appropriate authority outside the entity may be required or appropriate in the circumstances because:
- Law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements require the practitioner to report;
 - The practitioner has determined reporting is an appropriate action to respond to identified or suspected non-compliance in accordance with relevant ethical requirements (see paragraph [A105](#)); or
 - Law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements provide the practitioner with the right to do so (see paragraph [A106](#)).
- A105. In some cases, the relevant ethical requirements may require the practitioner to report or to consider whether reporting identified or suspected fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations to an appropriate authority outside the entity is an appropriate action in the circumstances. For example, the IESBA Code requires the practitioner to take steps to respond to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, and consider whether further action is needed, which may include reporting to an appropriate authority outside the entity.¹⁵ The IESBA Code explains that such reporting would not be considered a breach of the duty of confidentiality under the IESBA Code.¹⁶
- A106. Even if law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements do not include requirements that address reporting identified or suspected non-compliance, they may provide the practitioner with the right to report identified or suspected fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations to an appropriate authority outside the entity.
- A107. In other circumstances, the reporting of identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to an appropriate authority outside the entity may be precluded by the practitioner's duty of confidentiality under law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements.
- A108. The determination required by paragraph [51\(d\)](#) may involve complex considerations and professional judgments. Accordingly, the practitioner may consider consulting internally (e.g., within the firm or a network firm) or on a confidential basis with a regulator or a professional body (unless doing so is prohibited by law or regulation or would breach the duty of confidentiality). The practitioner may also consider obtaining legal advice to understand the practitioner's options and the professional or legal implications of taking any particular course of action.

Events or conditions that may cast doubt regarding use of the going concern assumption in the financial statements (Ref: Para. [52-53](#))

- A109. The list of factors below gives examples of events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt about the going concern assumption. The list is not all-inclusive, and the existence of one or more of the items does not always signify that material 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).
 - Labour 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.

Initial review engagements — opening balances (Ref: Para. [55](#))

- A110. When performing an initial review engagement, the opening balances may contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements. In obtaining sufficient appropriate evidence about whether the opening balances contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements, the practitioner may consider:
- Determining whether the prior period's closing balances have been correctly brought forward to the current period or, when appropriate, have been restated.
 - Determining whether the opening balances reflect the consistent application of appropriate accounting policies.
 - Evaluating whether procedures performed in the current period provide evidence relevant to the opening balances.
 - Performing procedures to obtain evidence regarding the opening balances.

Reconciling the Financial Statements to the Underlying Accounting Records (Ref: Para. [56](#))

- A111. The practitioner ordinarily obtains evidence that the financial statements agree with, or reconcile 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).

Performing Additional Procedures When the Practitioner Becomes Aware that the Financial Statements May Be Materially Misstated (Ref: Para. [57](#))

- A112. Additional procedures are required under this CSRE if the practitioner becomes aware of a matter that causes the practitioner to believe the financial statements may be materially misstated.
- A113. The practitioner's response in undertaking additional procedures with respect to an item the practitioner has cause to believe may be materially misstated in the financial statements will vary, depending on the circumstances, and is a matter for the practitioner's professional judgment.
- A114. The practitioner's judgment about the nature, timing and extent of additional procedures that are needed to obtain evidence to either conclude that a material misstatement is not likely, or determine that a material misstatement exists, is guided by:
- Information obtained from the practitioner's evaluation of the results of the procedures already performed;
 - The practitioner's updated understanding of the entity and its environment obtained throughout the course of the engagement; and
 - The practitioner's view on the persuasiveness of evidence needed to address the matter that causes the practitioner to believe that the financial statements may be materially misstated.
- A115. Additional procedures focus on obtaining sufficient appropriate evidence to enable the practitioner to form a conclusion on matters that the practitioner believes may cause the financial statements to be materially misstated. The procedures may be:
- Additional inquiry or analytical procedures, for example, being performed in greater detail or being focused on the affected items (i.e. amounts or disclosures concerning the affected accounts or transactions as reflected in the financial statements); or
 - Other types of procedures (for example, substantive test of details or external confirmations).
- A116. The following example illustrates the practitioner's evaluation of the need to perform additional procedures, and the practitioner's response when the practitioner believes additional procedures are necessary.
- In the course of performing the inquiry and analytical procedures for the review, the practitioner's analysis of accounts receivable shows a material amount of past due accounts receivable, for which there is no allowance for bad or doubtful debts.
 - This causes the practitioner to believe that the accounts receivable balance in the financial statements may be materially misstated. The practitioner then inquires of management whether there are uncollectible accounts receivable that would need to be shown as being impaired.

- Depending on management's response, the practitioner's evaluation of the response may:
 - (a) Enable the practitioner to conclude that the accounts receivable balance is not likely to be materially misstated. In that case, no further procedures are required.
 - (b) Enable the practitioner to determine that the matter causes the financial statements to be materially misstated. No further procedures are required, and the practitioner would form the conclusion that the financial statements as a whole are materially misstated.
 - (c) Lead the practitioner to continue to believe that the accounts receivable balance is likely to be materially misstated, while not providing sufficient appropriate evidence for the practitioner to determine that they are in fact misstated. In that case, the practitioner is required to perform additional procedures (for example, requesting from management an analysis of amounts received for those accounts after the balance sheet date to identify uncollectible accounts receivable). The evaluation of the results of the additional procedures may enable the practitioner to get to (a) or (b) above. If not, the practitioner is required to:
 - (i) Continue performing additional procedures until the practitioner reaches either (a) or (b) above; or
 - (ii) If the practitioner is not able to either conclude that the matter is not likely to cause the financial statements as a whole to be materially misstated, or to determine that the matter does cause the financial statements as a whole to be materially misstated, then a scope limitation exists and the practitioner is not able to form an unmodified conclusion on the financial statements.

Accumulation of Identified Misstatements (Ref: Para. 58)

A117. The practitioner may designate an amount below which misstatements would be clearly trivial and would not need to be accumulated because the practitioner expects that the accumulation of such amounts clearly would not have a material effect on the financial statements. "Clearly trivial" is not another expression for "not material." Matters that are clearly trivial will be of a wholly different (smaller) order of magnitude than materiality determined in accordance with this CSRE, and will be matters that are clearly inconsequential, whether taken individually or in the aggregate, and whether judged by any criteria of size, nature or circumstances. When there is any uncertainty about whether one or more items are clearly trivial, the matter is considered not to be clearly trivial.

Communication and Correction of Misstatements (Ref: Para. 59)

A118. Timely communication of misstatements to the appropriate level of management is important as it enables management to evaluate whether the items are misstatements, inform the practitioner if it disagrees, and take action as necessary. Ordinarily, the appropriate level of management is the one that has responsibility and authority to evaluate the misstatements and to take the necessary action. The correction by management of all misstatements enables management to maintain accurate accounting books and records and reduces the risks of material misstatement of future financial statements because of the cumulative effect of immaterial uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods.

Facts that Become Known to the Practitioner after the Date of the Practitioner's Report (Ref: Para. 64-67)

A119. If management amends the financial statements subsequent to the date the financial statements are issued, the practitioner may advise management to inform users in receipt of the previously issued financial statements together with the practitioner's report that the financial statements have been amended and provide them with the amended financial statements together with the practitioner's report.

Written Representations (Ref: Para. 68-72)

- A120. Written representations are an important source of evidence in a review engagement. If management modifies or does not provide the requested written representations, it may alert the practitioner to the possibility that one or more significant issues may exist. Further, a request for written, rather than oral, representations in many cases may prompt management to consider such matters more rigorously, thereby enhancing the quality of the representations.
- A121. In addition to the written representations required under this CSRE, the practitioner may consider it necessary to request other written representations about the financial statements. These may be needed to complete the practitioner's evidence with respect to certain items or disclosures reflected in the financial statements where the practitioner considers such representations to be important in forming a conclusion on the financial statements on either a modified or unmodified basis.
- A122. In some cases, management may include in the written representations qualifying language to the effect that representations are made to the best of management's 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.
- A123. [Appendix 2](#) contains an example of a representation letter.

Evaluating Evidence Obtained from the Procedures Performed (Ref: Para. 74-75)

- A124. In some cases, the practitioner may not have obtained the evidence expected through performing of inquiry and analytical procedures and procedures addressing specific circumstances. In these cases, the practitioner considers that

the evidence obtained from the procedures performed is not sufficient and appropriate to form a conclusion on the financial statements. The practitioner may:

- Extend the work performed; or
- Perform other procedures judged by the practitioner to be necessary in the circumstances.

Where neither of these is practicable, the practitioner will not be able to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence. In such cases, the practitioner is required by this CSRE to determine the effect on the practitioner's report, or the practitioner will not be able to complete the engagement (for example, if a member of management is unavailable at the time of the review to respond to the practitioner's inquiries on significant matters). This situation may arise even though the practitioner has not become aware of a matter(s) that causes the practitioner to believe the financial statements may be materially misstated, as addressed in paragraph [57](#).

Scope Limitations

- A125. Inability to perform a specific procedure does not constitute a limitation on the scope of the review if the practitioner is able to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence by performing other procedures.
- A126. Limitations on the scope of the review imposed by management may have other implications for the review, such as for the practitioner's consideration of areas in the financial statements where material misstatements are likely to arise and engagement continuance.

Forming the Practitioner's Conclusion on the Financial Statements

Evaluating the Effect of Uncorrected Misstatements (Ref: Para. [77\(b\)](#))

- A127. In evaluating the effect of uncorrected misstatements on the financial statements as a whole, the practitioner may consider:
- (a) The appropriateness of offsetting an individual misstatement with other misstatements. For example, if revenue has been materially overstated, the financial statements as a whole will be materially misstated, even if the effect of the misstatement on earnings is completely offset by an equivalent overstatement of expenses.
 - (b) The effect of the misstatement on the financial statements, including qualitative factors that may cause the practitioner to evaluate them as material even if they are lower than materiality for the financial statements as a whole. For example:
 - The effect of the misstatement on compliance with regulatory requirements, debt covenants or other contractual requirements where failure to comply may lead to a material contingent liability, a material loss of assets or a material loss of revenue;
 - A misstatement that has the effect of increasing management compensation (for example, by ensuring that the requirements for the award of bonuses or other incentives are satisfied); or
 - A misstatement that relates to an inadequate or improper description of an accounting policy, which could be material if it is probable that users will be misled by such description.
 - (c) The effect of immaterial uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the current period's financial statements.

Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Accounting Practices (Ref: Para. [77\(c\)](#))

- A128. 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, causes 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 may 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.
- A129. Indicators of possible management bias do not necessarily mean there are misstatements for purposes of drawing conclusions on the reasonableness of individual accounting estimates. However, they may affect the practitioner's consideration of whether the financial statements as a whole may be materially misstated.

Disclosure of Effects of Material Transactions and Events on Information Conveyed in the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. [77\(d\)\(vi\)](#), [78](#), [83](#))

- A130. The practitioner is required under this CSRE to evaluate 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.
- A131. In the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework, management may need to include additional disclosures in the financial statements beyond those specifically required by the applicable financial reporting framework or, in extremely rare circumstances, to depart from a requirement in the framework, in order to achieve the fair presentation of the financial statements.

Considerations When a Compliance Framework Is Used

- A132. It will be extremely rare for the practitioner to consider financial statements prepared in accordance with a compliance framework to be misleading if, in accordance with this CSRE, the practitioner has determined at the time of engagement acceptance that the framework is acceptable.

Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. [77\(e\)](#))

- A133. The description of the applicable financial reporting framework in the financial statements 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.
- A134. 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.

Form of the Conclusion (Ref: Para. [81](#))

Description of the Information the Financial Statements Present

- A135. 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 ...) in accordance with [the applicable fair presentation framework]. In the case of many general purpose frameworks, for example, the financial statements are required to fairly present (or give a true and fair view of) 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.

"Present fairly, in all material respects" or "give a true and fair view"

- A136. 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 this CSRE for the practitioner to evaluate the fair presentation of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework.

Inability to Form a Conclusion Due to a Management-Imposed Limitation on the Scope of the Review after Engagement Acceptance (Ref: Para. [13, 90](#))

- A137. 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 paragraph in the report that describes the basis for disclaiming a conclusion.
- A138. 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 to explain why it is not possible for the practitioner to withdraw from the engagement.

Communication with Regulators or the Entity's Owners

- A139. 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.

The Practitioner's Report (Ref: Para. [94-103](#))

- A140. The written report encompasses reports issued in hard copy format and those using an electronic medium.

Elements of the Practitioner's Report (Ref: Para. [94](#))

- A141. A title indicating the report is the report of an independent practitioner (for example, "Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement 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.
- A142. 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.
- A143. 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 (Ref: Para. [94\(d\)](#))

- A144. The requirement of this CSRE that the practitioner must obtain management's agreement that it acknowledges and understands its responsibilities, both in relation to the preparation of the financial statements and in relation to the review engagement, is fundamental to performing the review and reporting on the engagement. The description of management's responsibilities in the practitioner's report provides context for readers of the practitioner's report about management's responsibilities, as they relate to the review engagement performed.
- A145. 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.
- A146. There may be circumstances when it is appropriate for the practitioner to add to the description of management's responsibilities as described in this CSRE 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.
- A147. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation prescribing management's responsibilities may specifically refer to a responsibility for the adequacy of the accounting books and records, or accounting system. As books, records and systems are an integral part of internal control, this CSRE does not use these descriptions or make any specific reference to them.

The Practitioner's Responsibility (Ref: Para. [94\(f\)](#))

- A148. 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.

Reference to standards (Ref: Para. [94\(f\)](#))

- A149. The reference to Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements 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.

Communication of the Nature of a Review of Financial Statements (Ref: Para. [94\(g\)](#))

- A150. The description of the nature of a review engagement in the practitioner's report explains the scope and limitations of the engagement undertaken for the benefit of the readers of the report. This explanation clarifies, for avoidance of doubt, that the review is not an audit and that accordingly, the practitioner does not express an audit opinion on the financial statements.

Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework and How it May Affect the Practitioner's Conclusion (Ref: Para. [94\(h\)\(ii\)](#))

- A151. 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 that conclusion is expressed. It is not intended to limit the evaluation required in paragraph [28\(a\)](#). 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 ..."
- A152. 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."

Basis for Modification Paragraph When the Conclusion Is Modified (Ref: Para. [94\(i\)\(ii\)](#))

- A153. An adverse conclusion or a disclaimer of conclusion relating to a specific matter described in the basis for modification paragraph does not justify the omission of a description of other identified matters that would have otherwise required a modification of the practitioner's conclusion. In such cases, the disclosure of such other matters of which the practitioner is aware may be relevant to users of the financial statements.

Modification in the Practitioner's Report on the Prior Period Unresolved (Ref: Para. [94\(i\)\(iii\)](#))

- A154. If the practitioner's report on the prior period included a modified conclusion and the matter that gave rise to the modification is unresolved, the practitioner is required to modify the conclusion on the current period's financial statements and include a reference to the modified conclusion in the prior period's practitioner's report. This reference in the practitioner's report may:
- (a) refer to both the current period's figures and the corresponding figures in the description of the matter giving rise to the modification when the effects or possible effects of the matter on the current period's figures are material; or
 - (b) when applicable, explain that the practitioner's conclusion has been modified because of the effects or possible effects of the unresolved matter on the comparability of the current period's figures and corresponding figures.
- A155. When the practitioner's report on the prior period included a modified conclusion and the matter that gave rise to the modified conclusion is resolved and properly accounted for or disclosed in the financial statements for the current

period in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, the practitioner's conclusion on the current period need not refer to the previous modification.

- A156. [Illustrations 5](#) and [8](#) in Appendix 3 contain examples of the practitioner's report when the practitioner's report on the prior period included a modified conclusion and the matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved.

Signature of the Practitioner (Ref: Para. [94\(k\)](#))

- A157. The practitioner's signature is either in the name of the practitioner's firm, the personal name of the individual 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 make a declaration in the practitioner's report about professional designations or recognition by the appropriate licensing authority in that jurisdiction.

Alerting Readers that the Financial Statements Are Prepared in Accordance with a Special Purpose Framework (Ref: Para. [98](#))

- A158. 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. For avoidance of misunderstanding, it is important that the practitioner alert users of the practitioner's report that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework and, therefore, may not be suitable for another purpose.

Restriction on Distribution or Use

- A159. In addition to the alert to the reader of the practitioner's report that is required by this CSRE when the financial statements are prepared using a special purpose framework, the practitioner may consider it appropriate to indicate that the practitioner's report is intended solely for the specific users. Depending on the law or regulation of the particular jurisdiction, this may be achieved by restricting the distribution or use of the practitioner's report. In these circumstances, the paragraph containing the alert about the use of a special purpose framework may be expanded to include these other matters, and the heading modified accordingly.

Reporting When Disclosure of Material Uncertainty Is Adequate (Ref: Para. [99](#))

- A160. The following is an illustration of an Emphasis of Matter paragraph when the practitioner is satisfied as to the adequacy of the note disclosure in the financial statements about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern:

Emphasis of Matter

Without qualifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note X in the financial statements, which indicates that the Company incurred a net loss of ZZZ during the year ended December 31, 20X1 and, as of that date, the Company's current liabilities exceeded its total assets by YYY. These conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note X, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Prior Period Financial Statements Are Subject to a Review Engagement by a Predecessor Practitioner (Ref: Para. [100](#))

- A161. [Illustration 2](#) of Appendix 3 contains an example of the practitioner's report when the prior period financial statements were reviewed by a predecessor practitioner.

Other Reporting Responsibilities (Ref: Para. [102](#))

- A162. In some jurisdictions, the practitioner may have additional responsibilities to report on other matters that are supplementary to the practitioner's responsibility under this CSRE. 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 engagements to review financial statements in the specific jurisdiction may provide guidance on the practitioner's responsibilities with respect to specific additional reporting responsibilities in that jurisdiction.
- A163. 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.
- A164. 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 CSRE to report on the financial statements. Where relevant, this section may contain subheading(s) that describe(s) the content of the other reporting responsibility paragraph(s). In some jurisdictions, the additional reporting responsibilities may be addressed in a report that is separate from the practitioner's report provided for the review of the financial statements.

Date of the Practitioner's Report (Ref: Para. [94\(l\), \[103\]\(#\)](#))

- A165. 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.
- A166. The practitioner's conclusion 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 evidence has been obtained until the practitioner is satisfied that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared and management has accepted responsibility for them.

- A167. 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.
- A168. 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 on the financial statements. The date of approval of the financial statements for purposes of this CSRE 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 (Ref: Para. 32-33, 94)

- A169. Consistency in the practitioner's report, when the review has been conducted in accordance with this CSRE, 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. The practitioner's report may refer to Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements when the differences between the legal or regulatory requirements and this CSRE relate only to the layout or wording of the practitioner's report and, at a minimum, the report complies with the requirements of paragraph 94. Accordingly, in such circumstances, the practitioner is considered to have complied with the requirements of this CSRE, 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 CSRE, adoption of the layout and wording used in this CSRE assists users of the practitioner's report to more readily recognize the practitioner's report as a report on a review of financial statements conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements. 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 CSRE are addressed in the requirements of this CSRE concerning acceptance of review engagements and continuance of client relationships.

Practitioner's Report for Reviews Conducted in Accordance with Both Relevant Standards of a Specific Jurisdiction and this CSRE (Ref: Para. 94(f))

- A170. When, in addition to complying with the requirements of this CSRE, the practitioner also complies with relevant national standards, the report may refer to the review having been performed in accordance with both this CSRE and relevant national standards for engagements to review financial statements. However, a reference to both Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and relevant national standards is not appropriate if there is a conflict between the requirements of this CSRE 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 CSRE. In such a case, the practitioner's report refers only to the relevant standards (either Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements or the relevant national standards) in accordance with which the practitioner's report has been prepared.

Illustrations of Review Engagement Reports (Ref: Para. 94)

- A171. [Appendix 3](#) contains illustrations of practitioners' reports for a review of financial statements incorporating the reporting requirements of this CSRE.

Documentation

Timeliness of Engagement Documentation (Ref: Para. 104)

- A172. [CSQM 1](#) requires the firm to establish a quality objective that engagement documentation is assembled on a timely basis after the date of the engagement report.

Appendix 1
(Ref: Para. [A56](#))

Example of a Review Engagement Letter

The following is an example of an engagement letter for a review of general purpose financial statements (prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises), which illustrates the relevant requirements and guidance contained in this CSRE. 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 CSRE. 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 on the content to the engagement letter.

To the appropriate representative of management or those charged with governance of ABC Company: 1

[*The objective and scope of the review*]

You [] have requested that we review the general purpose financial statements of ABC Company, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the statements of income, retained earnings and cash flows 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. Our conclusion, if unmodified, will be in the form "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, the financial position of ABC Company as at [date] and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises."

[*The practitioner's responsibilities*]

We will conduct our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. We will perform procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluate the evidence obtained. We will also perform additional procedures if we become aware of matters that cause us to believe the financial statements as a whole may be materially misstated. These procedures are performed to enable us to express our conclusion on the financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements. The procedures selected will depend on what we consider necessary applying our professional judgment, based on our understanding of ABC Company and its environment, and our understanding of Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises and its application in the industry context.

A review is not an audit of the financial statements, therefore:

- (a) There is a commensurate higher risk than there would be in an audit, 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 Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements.
- (b) In expressing our conclusion from the review of the financial statements, our report on the financial statements 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 28(b) are therefore used.)*]

Our review will be conducted on the basis that [management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance] 3 acknowledge and understand that they have the responsibility:

- (a) For preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises;
- (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 and fair presentation 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
 - (iii) Unrestricted access to persons within ABC Company from whom we determine it necessary to obtain evidence.

As part of our review, we will request from [management or those charged with governance, as appropriate], 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 light of our findings obtained from the review.

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

XYZ & Co., Chartered Professional Accountants

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of ABC Company by

(signed)

.....

Name and Title

Date

Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. A123)

Example of a Representation Letter

The following is an example of a representation letter for a review of general purpose financial statements (prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises), which illustrates the relevant requirements and guidance contained in this CSRE. 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 CSRE. It will need to be varied according to individual requirements and circumstances. It is assumed in this example that there are no exceptions to the requested written representation. If there are exceptions, the representations would need to be modified to reflect the exceptions.

[Entity Letterhead]

[Addressee – Practitioner]

[Date]

This representation letter is provided in connection with your review of the financial statements of ABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X1 for the purposes of you expressing a conclusion that, based on your review, nothing has come to your attention that causes you to believe that the financial statements of ABC Company do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ABC Company as at December 31, 20X1, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following representations made to you during your review.

1 Financial Statements

- We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the engagement letter dated [insert date], for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises.
- The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to this representation letter.

Information Provided

- We have provided you with:
 - access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the review; and
 - unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain evidence.
- All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you:
 - the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware;
 - knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud known to us that may have affected the entity;
 - known actual or possible non-compliance with laws and regulations for which the effects of non-compliance affect the financial statements of ABC Company;
 - all information relevant to use of the going concern assumption in the financial statements;
 - all events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements that may require adjustment or disclosure;
 - material commitments, contractual obligations or contingencies that have affected or may affect the entity's financial statements, including disclosures; and
 - material non-monetary transactions or transactions for no consideration undertaken by the entity in the financial reporting period under consideration.

[Former paragraph retained in Archived Pronouncements.]

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of ABC Company by

(signed)

.....

Name and Title

Date

Appendix 3

(Ref: Para. [A156](#), [A161](#) and [A171](#))

Illustrations of Practitioners' Review Engagement Reports

Review Engagement Reports on General Purpose Financial Statements

Illustrations of Review Engagement 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, Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises).

Illustrations of Review Engagement 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 compliance framework — Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises)
- [Illustration 3](#): A practitioner's report containing a qualified conclusion due to the practitioner's inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence. (Financial statements prepared using a fair presentation framework — Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises)
- [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 — Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises)
- [Illustration 5](#): A practitioner's report containing a disclaimer of conclusion due to the practitioner's inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about multiple elements of the financial statements — resulting in inability to complete the review. (Financial statements prepared using a fair presentation framework — IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB))

Review Engagement Reports on Special Purpose Financial Statements

- [Illustration 6](#): A practitioner's report on 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 single financial statement prepared in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting (for purposes of this illustration, a fair presentation framework).

Illustration of Review Engagement Reports with Unresolved Qualification in a Prior Year Arising from a Scope Limitation

- [Illustration 8](#): A practitioner's report containing unresolved qualification in a prior year arising from a scope limitation. The practitioner for the current year was also the practitioner for the prior year.

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 Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises.
- **The terms of the review engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in paragraph 28(b).**

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of ABC Company that comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the statements of income, retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's 1 Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises, 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

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. 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 the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ABC Company as at December 31, 20X1, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises.

[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 28(b).
- **Based on the review, inventories are misstated. The misstatement is material but not pervasive to the financial statements.**
- **The financial statements for the prior year were reviewed by a predecessor practitioner.**
- **In addition to the review of the financial statements, the practitioner has other reporting responsibilities under local law.**

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Financial Statements 2

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of ABC Company that comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the statements of income, retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation 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

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. 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 xxx. 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 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 xxx would have been required to write the inventories down to their net realizable value. Accordingly, cost of sales would have been increased by xxx, and income tax, net income and shareholders' equity would have been reduced by xxx, xxx and xxx, respectively.

Qualified Conclusion

Based on our review, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, 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 XYZ Law of Jurisdiction X.

Other Matter

The financial statements of ABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X0 were reviewed by another practitioner who expressed a qualified conclusion on those financial statements on March 31, 20X1 for the reasons described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph.

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 Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises.**
- The terms of the review engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in paragraph 28(b).
- **The practitioner was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence regarding an investment in a foreign affiliate. The possible effects of the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence are deemed to be material but not pervasive to the financial statements.**

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of ABC Company that comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the statements of income, retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's 4 Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises, 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

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. 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 affiliate acquired during the year and accounted for by the equity method, is carried at xxx on the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and ABC's share of XYZ's net income of xxx is included in ABC's income for the year then ended. We were unable to obtain access to the

relevant financial information of XYZ concerning 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. Consequently, we were unable to perform the procedures we considered necessary.

Qualified Conclusion

Based on our review, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ABC Company as at December 31, 20X1 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises.

[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 Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises.**
- The terms of the review engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in paragraph 28(b).
- **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.**

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have reviewed the accompanying consolidated financial statements of ABC Company that comprise the consolidated balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the consolidated statements of income, retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on these consolidated financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these consolidated 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 Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises, 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

Based on our review, due to the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Conclusion paragraph, the consolidated financial statements do not present fairly the financial position of ABC Company and its subsidiaries as at December 31, 20X1, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises.

[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 Accounting Standards as issued by the IASB.**
- The terms of the review engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in paragraph 28(b).
- The practitioner was unable to form a conclusion on the financial statements due to inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about multiple elements of the financial statements, and the practitioner believes the effect is material and pervasive to the financial statements. Specifically, the practitioner was unable to obtain evidence about the entity's physical inventory and accounts receivable.
- **The practitioner's report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified conclusion and the matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved. The effects or possible effects of the matter on the current period's figures are immaterial but require a modification to the practitioner's conclusion because of the effect or possible effect of the unresolved matter on the comparability of the current period's figures and the corresponding figures.**

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We were engaged to review the accompanying financial statements of ABC Company that comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the statements of income, retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended, and material accounting policy information and other explanatory information. * [Former paragraph retained in Archived Pronouncements.]

Management's 6 Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, 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

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 were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence as a basis for expressing a conclusion on the financial statements.

Basis for Disclaimer of Conclusion

Management did not conduct a count of physical inventory on hand at the end of 20X0. We were unable to perform the procedures we considered necessary concerning the inventory quantities held at December 31, 20X0, which are stated at xxx in the statement of financial position at December 31, 20X0. Since opening inventories affect the determination of the results of operations, we were unable to determine whether adjustments might have been found necessary to the results of operations and opening retained earnings for 20X0. Our conclusion on the financial statements as at and for the year ended December 31, 20X0 was modified accordingly. Our conclusion on the current period's financial statements is also modified because of the possible effect of this matter on the comparability of the current period's figures and the corresponding figures.

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 report, management was still in the process of rectifying the system deficiencies and correcting the errors. 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

Due to the significance of the matters described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Conclusion paragraph, we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to form a conclusion on the 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]

Illustration 6:

Circumstances include the following:

- Review of a complete set of special purpose financial statements prepared by management of the entity in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of a contract (that is, 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 28(b).
- **Distribution or use of the practitioner's report is restricted.**

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of ABC Company that comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the statements of income, retained earnings and cash flows 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 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

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. 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 Accounting, 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 accounting. 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.**
- 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 applicable financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users.

- The terms of the review engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statement in paragraph 28(b).
- Distribution or use of the practitioner's report is not restricted.

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have reviewed the accompanying 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 "the financial statement"). The financial statement has been prepared by management of ABC Company using the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note X.

Management's 8 Responsibility for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation 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 that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statement based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. 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 the financial statement does not present fairly, in all material respects, the cash receipts and disbursements of ABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X1 in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note X.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note X to the financial statement, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statement is prepared to provide information to XYZ Creditor. As a result, the financial statement may not be suitable for another purpose.

[Practitioner's signature]

[Date of the practitioner's report]

[Practitioner's address]

Illustration 8:

Circumstances include the following:

- Review of a complete set of general purpose financial statements prepared by management of the entity in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.
- The practitioner for the current year was also the practitioner for the prior year.
- The practitioner's report on the prior year, as previously issued, included a qualified conclusion arising from a scope limitation.
- The matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved.
- The possible effects of the matter on the current year's figures are material and require a modification to the practitioner's conclusion regarding the current year figures.

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of ABC Organization that comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the statements of income, retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's 9 Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations 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

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for Qualified Conclusion

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, ABC Organization derives revenue from fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to us obtaining evidence we considered necessary for the purpose of the review. Accordingly, the evidence obtained of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of ABC Organization. Therefore, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments might have been found necessary with respect to fundraising revenue, excess of revenue over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended December 31, 20X1 and 20X0, current assets as at December 31, 20X1 and 20X0, and net assets as at January 1 and December 31 for both the 20X1 and 20X0 year ends. Our conclusion on the financial statements as at and for the year ended December 31, 20X0 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

Qualified Conclusion

Based on our review, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ABC Organization as at December 31, 20X1, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

[Practitioner's signature]

[Date of the practitioner's report]

[Practitioner's address]

Footnotes

360. † See explanation of effective date in paragraphs [11](#) and [11A](#).

1. AUDITOR REVIEW OF INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Section [7060](#)

2. Canadian Standard on Assurance Engagements ([CSAE 3000](#), *Attestation Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information*, or [CSAE 3001](#), *Direct Engagements*)

3. Canadian Standard on Quality Management ([CSQM 1](#), *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*)

4. CSQM 1, paragraph [5](#)

5. [CSQM 2](#), *Engagement Quality Reviews*

6. Paragraphs [86](#) and [91](#) deal with the phrases used to express this conclusion in the case of a fair presentation framework and a compliance framework respectively.

7. CSQM 1, paragraph [1](#)

8. CSQM 1, paragraph [2\(a\)](#)

9. CSQM 1, paragraph [2\(b\)](#)

10. CSQM 1, paragraph [6](#)

11. CSQM 1, paragraph [14](#)

12. CSQM 1, paragraph [C16\(a\)](#)
13. CSQM 1, paragraph [30](#)
14. See, for example, paragraphs R360.31-360.35 A1 of the IESBA Code.
15. See, for example, paragraphs R360.36-360.36 A3 of the IESBA Code.
16. See, for example, paragraphs R114.1, 114.1 A1 and R360.37 of the IESBA Code.
1. 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 [34](#).
2. 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.
3. Use terminology as appropriate in the circumstances.
 1. In some cases, management may include in the written representations this qualifying language — see paragraph [A116](#).
 1. Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework.
 2. The subtitle "Report on the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second subtitle "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.
 3. Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework.
 4. Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework.
 5. Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework.
- *. This wording applies to reviews of financial statements prepared in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards, including the amendments to IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* which are effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2023.
6. Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework.
7. Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework.
8. Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework.
9. Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework.

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