

CANADIAN AUDITING STANDARDS

CAS 300

planning an audit of financial statements

SUPPLEMENT

This supplement sets out the previous wording of paragraphs that have been amended as a consequence of approving [CAS 240, The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements](#).

- A5. The involvement of the engagement partner and other key members of the engagement team in planning the audit draws on their experience and insight, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the planning process. 11

SUPPLEMENT

This supplement sets out the previous wording of paragraphs that have been amended as a consequence of approving [CAS 600, Special Considerations – Audits of Group Financial Statements \(Including the Work of Component Auditors\)](#).

- A9. The process of establishing the overall audit strategy, subject to the completion of the auditor's risk assessment procedures, may include such matters as:

- The nature of resources (human, technological or intellectual) to be deployed for specific audit areas. For example, the deployment of experienced team members for high risk areas or the assignment of experts to address complex matters;
- The amount of resources to be allocated to specific audit areas. For example, the number of team members assigned to attend the physical inventory count at multiple locations, the extent of review of other auditors' work in the case of group audits, or the audit budget in hours to allocate to high risk areas;
- When these resources are to be deployed, such as whether at an interim audit stage or at key cut-off dates; and
- How such resources are directed, supervised or used. For example, when team briefing and debriefing meetings are expected to be held, how engagement partner and manager reviews are expected to take place (for example, on-site or off-site).

Appendix

(Ref: Para. [7-8](#) and [A9-A13](#))

Considerations in Establishing the Overall Audit Strategy

This appendix provides examples of matters the auditor may consider in managing quality at the engagement level. Many of these matters will influence the auditor's overall audit strategy and detailed audit plan. The examples provided cover a broad range of matters applicable to many engagements. While some of the matters referred to below may be required by other CAs, not all matters are relevant to every audit engagement and the list is not necessarily complete.

Characteristics of the Engagement

- The financial reporting framework on which the financial information to be audited has been prepared, including any need for reconciliations to another financial reporting framework.
- Industry-specific reporting requirements such as reports mandated by industry regulators.
- The expected audit coverage, including the number and locations of components to be included.
- The nature of the control relationships between a parent and its components that determine how the group is to be consolidated.
- The extent to which components are audited by other auditors.
- The nature of the business segments to be audited, including the need for specialized knowledge.
- The reporting currency to be used, including any need for currency translation for the financial information audited.
- The need for a statutory audit of standalone financial statements in addition to an audit for consolidation purposes.
- Whether the entity has an internal audit function and if so, whether, in which areas and to what extent, the work of the function can be used, or internal auditors can be used to provide direct assistance, for purposes of the audit.
- The entity's use of service organizations and how the auditor may obtain evidence concerning the design or operation of controls performed by them.
- The expected use of audit evidence obtained in previous audits, for example, audit evidence related to risk assessment procedures and tests of controls.
- The effect of information technology on the audit procedures, including the availability of data and the expected use of computer-assisted audit techniques.

- The coordination of the expected coverage and timing of the audit work with any reviews of interim financial information and the effect on the audit of the information obtained during such reviews.
- The availability of client personnel and data.

Reporting Objectives, Timing of the Audit, and Nature of Communications

- The entity's timetable for reporting, such as at interim and final stages.
- The organization of meetings with management and those charged with governance to discuss the nature, timing and extent of the audit work.
- The discussion with management and those charged with governance regarding the expected type and timing of reports to be issued and other communications, both written and oral, including the auditor's report, management letters and communications to those charged with governance.
- The discussion with management regarding the expected communications on the status of audit work throughout the engagement.
- Communication with auditors of components regarding the expected types and timing of reports to be issued and other communications in connection with the audit of components.
- The expected nature and timing of communications among engagement team members, including the nature and timing of team meetings and timing of the review of work performed.
- Whether there are any other expected communications with third parties, including any statutory or contractual reporting responsibilities arising from the audit.

Significant Factors, Preliminary Engagement Activities, and Knowledge Gained on Other Engagements

- The determination of materiality in accordance with [CAS 320](#) 1 and, where applicable:
 - The determination of materiality for components and communication thereof to component auditors in accordance with [CAS 600](#). 2
 - The preliminary identification of significant components and material classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures.
- Preliminary identification of areas where there may be a higher risk of material misstatement.
- The impact of the assessed risk of material misstatement at the overall financial statement level on direction, supervision and review.
- The manner in which the auditor emphasizes to engagement team members the need to maintain a questioning mind and to exercise professional skepticism in gathering and evaluating audit evidence.
- Results of previous audits that involved evaluating the operating effectiveness of internal control, including the nature of identified deficiencies and action taken to address them.
- The discussion of matters that may affect the audit with firm personnel responsible for performing other services to the entity.
- Evidence of management's commitment to the design, implementation and maintenance of sound internal control, including evidence of appropriate documentation of such internal control.
- Changes within the applicable financial reporting framework, such as changes in accounting standards, which may involve significant new or revised disclosures.
- Volume of transactions, which may determine whether it is more efficient for the auditor to rely on internal control.
- Importance attached to internal control throughout the entity to the successful operation of the business.
- The process(es) management uses to identify and prepare the disclosures required by the applicable financial reporting framework, including disclosures containing information that is obtained from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers.
- Significant business developments affecting the entity, including changes in information technology and business processes, changes in key management, and acquisitions, mergers and divestments.
- Significant industry developments such as changes in industry regulations and new reporting requirements.
- Other significant relevant developments, such as changes in the legal environment affecting the entity.

Nature, Timing and Extent of Resources

- The human, technological and intellectual resources assigned or made available to the engagement (e.g., assignment of the engagement team and the assignment of audit work to the team members, including the assignment of appropriately experienced team members to areas where there may be higher risks of material misstatement).
 - Engagement budgeting, including considering the appropriate amount of time to set aside for areas where there may be higher risks of material misstatement.
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CANADIAN AUDITING STANDARDS

CAS 315

identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement

SUPPLEMENT

This supplement sets out the previous wording of paragraphs that have been amended as a consequence of approving [CAS 600, Special Considerations – Audits of Group Financial Statements \(Including the Work of Component Auditors\)](#).

- A45. When an engagement is carried out by a large engagement team, such as for an audit of group financial statements, it is not always necessary or practical for the discussion to include all members in a single discussion (for example, in a multi-location audit), nor is it necessary for all the members of the engagement team to be informed of all the decisions reached in the discussion. The engagement partner may discuss matters with key members of the engagement team including, if considered appropriate, those with specific skills or knowledge, and those responsible for the audits of components, while delegating discussion with others, taking into account the extent of communication considered necessary throughout the engagement team. A communications plan, agreed by the engagement partner, may be useful.
- A218. The determination of significant risks allows for the auditor to focus more attention on those risks that are on the upper end of the spectrum of inherent risk, through the performance of certain required responses, including:
- Controls that address significant risks are required to be identified in accordance with paragraph [26\(a\)\(i\)](#), with a requirement to evaluate whether the control has been designed effectively and implemented in accordance with paragraph [26\(d\)](#).
 - [CAS 330](#) requires controls that address significant risks to be tested in the current period (when the auditor intends to rely on the operating effectiveness of such controls) and substantive procedures to be planned and performed that are specifically responsive to the identified significant risk. [52](#)
 - [CAS 330](#) requires the auditor to obtain more persuasive audit evidence the higher the auditor's assessment of risk. [53](#)
 - [CAS 260](#) requires communicating with those charged with governance about the significant risks identified by the auditor. [54](#)
 - [CAS 701](#) requires the auditor to take into account significant risks when determining those matters that required significant auditor attention, which are matters that may be key audit matters. [55](#)
 - Timely review of audit documentation by the engagement partner at the appropriate stages during the audit allows significant matters, including significant risks, to be resolved on a timely basis to the engagement partner's satisfaction on or before the date of the auditor's report. [56](#)
 - [CAS 600](#) requires more involvement by the group engagement partner if the significant risk relates to a component in a group audit and for the group engagement team to direct the work required at the component by the component auditor. [57](#)
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Footnotes

11. CAS 315, paragraphs 17 and 18, establish requirements and provide guidance on the engagement team's discussion of the susceptibility of the entity to material misstatements of the financial statements. CAS 240, *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements*, paragraph 16, provides guidance on the emphasis given during this discussion to the susceptibility of the entity's financial statements to material misstatement due to fraud.

1. [CAS 320, Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit](#)
2. CAS 600, *Special Considerations – Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*, paragraphs [21](#)-[23](#) and [40\(c\)](#)
52. CAS 330, paragraphs [15](#) and [21](#)
53. CAS 330, paragraph [7\(b\)](#)
54. CAS 260, paragraph [15](#)
55. CAS 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*, paragraph [9](#)
56. CAS 220, paragraphs [32](#) and [A91](#)
57. CAS 600, paragraphs [30](#) and [31](#)

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