



Chapter 2, “Examination Engagements,” of *Attestation Standards: Clarification and Recodification*
May 12, 2015 Draft Marked from the January 12, 2015 Draft

Agenda Item 3B

Chapter 2—*Examination Engagements*

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>Introduction</p> <p>2.1 This chapter of Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAEs or attestation standards) contains performance and reporting establishes the requirements and application guidance for all examination engagements. The requirements and application guidance in this chapter supplement the requirements and guidance in chapter 1, “Concepts Common to All Attestation Engagements.”</p> <p>Effective Date</p> <p>2.2 This chapter is effective for examination reports dated on or after <u>May 1, 2017</u>December 15, 2016.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <p>2.3 In conducting an examination engagement, the objectives of the practitioner are to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. obtain reasonable assurance about whether the subject matter as measured or evaluated against the criteria is free from material misstatement; (Ref: par. 1.24b[ii]) b. express an opinion in a written report about whether <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the subject matter is in accordanceconformity with [or based on] the criteria, or ii. whether the assertion is fairly stated, in all material respects; and c. communicate further as required by relevant chapters of the attestation standards. 	
<p>Definitions</p> <p>2.4 For purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the meanings attributed as follows:</p>	

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p><i>a.</i> Appropriateness of evidence. The measure of the quality of evidence, that is, its relevancy and reliability in providing support for the practitioner’s opinion.</p> <p><i>b.</i> Modified opinion. A qualified opinion, an adverse opinion, or a disclaimer of opinion</p> <p><i>c.</i> Risk of material misstatement. The risk that the subject matter is materially misstated or that the assertion is not presented fairly in all material respects.</p> <p><i>d.</i> Sufficiency of evidence. The measure of the quantity of evidence. The quantity of the evidence needed is affected by the risks of material misstatement and also by the quality of such evidence.</p>	
<p>Requirements Conduct of an Examination Engagement</p> <p>2.5 In performing an examination engagement, the practitioner should comply with this chapter, chapter 1, and any subject-matter specific chapters of the attestation standards that are relevant to the engagement. A subject-matter specific chapter is relevant to the engagement when it is in effect and the circumstances addressed by the chapter exist. (Ref: par. 2.A1)</p>	<p>Conduct of an Examination Engagement 2.A1 For example, if a practitioner were examining prospective financial information, chapter 1, chapter 2, “Examination Engagements,” and chapter 5, “Prospective Financial Information Forecasts and Projections,” would be relevant. (Ref: par. 2.5)</p>
<p style="color: green;">The section “Agreeing on the Terms of the Engagement” was moved to follow “Preconditions for an Examination Engagement”</p>	
<p>Preconditions for an Examination Engagement</p> <p>2.6 2.9 Chapter 1 indicates that a practitioner must be independent when performing an attestation engagement in accordance with the attestation standards unless the practitioner is required by law or regulation to accept the engagement and report on the subject matter or assertion.¹ When <u>the practitioner is not independent but is required by law or regulation to accept the engagement and report on the subject matter or assertion</u>, that is the case the practitioner should disclaim an opinion and should specifically state that the practitioner is not</p>	

¹ Paragraph 1.2423 of chapter 1, “Concepts Common to All Attestation Engagements.”

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>independent. The practitioner is neither required to provide, nor precluded from providing, the reasons for the lack of independence; however, if the practitioner chooses to provide the reasons for the lack of independence, the practitioner should include all the reasons therefor.</p>	
<p>Agreeing on the Terms of the Engagement 2.7 2.6 The practitioner should agree upon the terms of the engagement with the engaging party. The agreed-upon terms of the engagement should be specified in sufficient detail in an engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement. (Ref: par.2.A2)</p>	<p>Agreeing on the Terms of the Engagement 2.A2 2.A2 It is in the interests of both the engaging party and the practitioner to document the agreed-upon terms of the engagement before the commencement of the engagement to help avoid misunderstandings. The form and content of the engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement will vary with the engagement circumstances. (Ref: par. 2.7.2.6Error! Reference source not found.)</p>
<p>2.8 2.7 The agreed-upon terms of the engagement should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The objective and scope of the engagement b. The responsibilities of the practitioner (Ref: par. 2.A3) c. A statement that the engagement will be conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants d. The responsibilities of the responsible party and the responsibilities of the engaging party, if different 	<p>2.A3 2.A3 A practitioner may further describe the responsibilities of the practitioner by adding the following items to the engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A statement that an examination is designed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the subject matter as measured or evaluated against the criteria is free from material misstatement b. A statement that the objective of an examination is the expression of an opinion in a written report about whether the subject matter is in <u>accordance</u>conformity with (or based on) the criteria or whether the assertion is fairly stated, in all material respects <p>(Ref: par. 2.7.2.8b)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. A statement about the inherent limitations of an examination engagement (Ref: par.2.A4) f. Identification of the criteria for the measurement, evaluation, or disclosure of the subject matter g. An acknowledgement that the engaging party agrees to provide the practitioner with a representation letter at the conclusion of the engagement 	<p>2.A4 2.A4 If relevant, a statement about the inherent limitations of an examination engagement may indicate that “because of the inherent limitations of an examination engagement together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk exists that some material misstatements may not be detected, even though the examination is properly planned and performed in accordance with the attestation standards.” (Ref: par. 2.7.2.8e)</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>2.9 2.8 Although an engagement may recur, each engagement is considered a separate engagement. The practitioner should assess whether circumstances require <u>revision to</u> the terms of a preceding engagement to be revised. If the practitioner concludes that the terms of the preceding engagement need not be revised for the current engagement, the practitioner should remind the engaging party of the terms of the engagement, and the reminder should be documented.</p>	
<p>RequestingObtaining a Written Assertion</p> <p>2.10 A practitioner may report on a written assertion about the subject matter or may report directly on the subject matter. In either case, the practitioner should request from the responsible party a written assertion about the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter against the applicable criteria, except when the practitioner is required by law or regulation to report on the subject matter or assertion and the responsible party is unable or unwilling to provide a written assertion. <u>The responsible party's refusal to provide a written assertion represents a limitation on the scope of the examination engagement.</u> (Ref: par. 2.A52.A5–2.A7)</p>	<p>RequestingObtaining a Written Assertion</p> <p><u>2.A5</u> The language of the responsible party's written assertion in paragraph 2.10 <u>may need to be tailored to reflect the nature of the subject matter and criteria for the engagement. Examples of language that meet the requirements in paragraph 2.10 include the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The entity maintained effective internal control over the subject matter based on the criteria.</u> • <u>The subject matter is presented in accordance with the criteria.</u> • <u>The subject matter achieved the objectives (when the objectives are the criteria).</u> <p><u>(Ref: par. 2.10)</u></p> <p>2.A5<u>2.A6</u> 2.A5 Situations may arise in which the current responsible party was not present during some or all of the period referred to in the practitioner's report. Such persons may contend that they are not in a position to provide a written assertion that covers the entire period because they were not in place during some or all of the period. This fact, however, does not diminish such persons' responsibilities for the subject matter as a whole. Accordingly, the requirement for the practitioner to request<u>obtain</u> a written assertion from the responsible party that covers the entire relevant period(s) still applies. (Ref: par. 2.10)</p> <p>2.A6<u>2.A7</u> 2.A6 Paragraph 2.452.50a <u>requires the practitioner to request a written representation from the responsible party that is the same as the responsible party's assertion.</u> requires that the responsible party provide the practitioner with written representations, which include the assertion. <u>If the</u></p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<p>responsible party provides the practitioner with the written representation in paragraph 2.50a. Written representations that include the assertion are sufficient to fulfill this requirement. the practitioner need not request Aa separate written assertion is necessary only when called for by the engagement circumstances. (Ref: par. 2.10)</p>
<p>Planning and Performing the Engagement 2.11 The practitioner should establish an overall engagement strategy that sets the scope, timing, and direction of the engagement and guides the development of the engagement plan. (Ref: par. 2.A7-2.A102.A8–2.A11)</p>	<p>Planning and Performing the Engagement 2.A7<u>2.A8</u> 2.A7 Planning involves the engagement partner and other key members of the engagement team and may involve the practitioner’s specialists in developing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an overall strategy for the scope, timing, and conduct of the engagement and • an engagement plan, consisting of a detailed approach for the nature, timing, and extent of procedures to be performed. <p>Adequate planning helps the practitioner to devote appropriate attention to important areas of the engagement, identify potential problems on a timely basis, and properly organize and manage the engagement in <u>order for it to be performed in</u> an effective and efficient manner. Adequate planning also assists the practitioner in properly assigning work to engagement team members, and facilitates the direction, supervision, and review of their work. Further, it assists, when applicable, the coordination of work performed by other practitioners and practitioner’s specialists. The nature and extent of planning activities will vary with the engagement circumstances, for example, the complexity of the assessment or evaluation of the subject matter and the practitioner’s previous experience with it. Examples of relevant matters that may be considered include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The characteristics of the engagement that define its scope, including the terms of the engagement, the characteristics of the underlying subject matter, and the applicable criteria • The expected timing and the nature of the communications required • The results of preliminary engagement activities, such as client acceptance, and, when applicable, whether knowledge gained on other engagements performed by the engagement partner for the appropriate party(ies) is relevant

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The engagement process, including, possible sources of evidence, and choices among alternative measurement or evaluation methods • The practitioner’s understanding of the appropriate party(ies) and its (their) environment, including the risks that the subject matter may be materially misstated • Identification of intended users and their information needs and consideration of materiality and the components of attestation risk • The risk of fraud relevant to the engagement • The effect of using the internal audit function on the engagement <p>(Ref: par. 2.11)</p> <p>2.A82.A9 2.A8 The practitioner may decide to discuss elements of planning with the appropriate party(ies) to facilitate the conduct and management of the engagement (for example, to coordinate some of the planned procedures with the work of the responsible party’s personnel). Although these discussions often occur, the overall engagement strategy and the engagement plan remain the practitioner’s responsibility. When discussing matters included in the overall engagement strategy or engagement plan, care is needed in order not to compromise the effectiveness of the engagement. For example, discussing the nature and timing of detailed procedures with the responsible party may compromise the effectiveness of the engagement by making the procedures too predictable. (Ref: par. 2.11)</p> <p>2.A92.A10 2.A9 Planning is not a discrete phase, but rather a cumulative and iterative process throughout the engagement. As a result of unexpected events, changes in conditions, or evidence obtained, the practitioner may need to revise the overall strategy and engagement plan and, thereby, the resulting nature, timing, and extent of planned procedures. (Ref: par. 2.11)</p> <p>2.A102.A11 2.A10 In smaller or less complex engagements, the entire engagement may be conducted by a very small engagement team, possibly involving the engagement partner (who may be a sole practitioner) working without any other engagement team members. With a smaller team, coordination of, and communication among, team members is easier.</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	Establishing the overall engagement strategy in such cases need not be a complex or time-consuming exercise; it varies according to the size of the entity, complexity of the engagement, and size of the engagement team. (Ref: par. 2.11)
<p>2.12 In establishing the overall engagement strategy, the practitioner should</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. identify the characteristics of the engagement that define its scope and ascertain the reporting objectives of the engagement in order to plan the timing of the engagement and the nature of the communications required; b. consider the factors that, in the practitioner’s professional judgment, are significant in directing the engagement team’s efforts; c. consider the results of preliminary engagement activities, such as client acceptance, and, when applicable, whether knowledge gained on other engagements performed by the engagement partner for the entity is relevant; and d. ascertain the nature, timing, and extent of resources necessary to perform the engagement. 	
<p>2.13 The practitioner should develop a plan that includes a description of the following items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The nature, timing, and extent of planned risk assessment procedures b. The nature, timing, and extent of planned further procedures c. Other planned procedures that are required to be carried out so that the engagement complies with the attestation standards 	
<p>Risk Assessment Procedures</p> <p>2.14 The practitioner should obtain an understanding of the subject matter and other engagement circumstances sufficient to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. enable the practitioner to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement in the subject matter; and b. provide a basis for designing and performing procedures to respond to the assessed risks and to obtain reasonable assurance to support the practitioner’s opinion. <p>(Ref: par. 2.A11 <u>2.A12</u>–2.A13)</p>	<p>Risk Assessment Procedures</p> <p>2.A11<u>2.A12</u> 2.A11 Obtaining an understanding of the subject matter and other engagement circumstances provides the practitioner with a frame of reference for exercising professional judgment throughout the engagement, for example, when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considering the characteristics of the subject matter; • assessing the suitability of criteria; • considering the factors that, in the practitioner’s professional judgment, are significant in directing the engagement team’s efforts, including situations in which special consideration may be necessary (for example, when there is a need for specialized skills or the work of a specialist); • establishing and evaluating the continued appropriateness of

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>2.15 In obtaining an understanding of the subject matter under paragraph 2.14, the practitioner should obtain an understanding of internal control over the preparation of the subject matter relevant to the engagement. This includes evaluating the design of those controls relevant to the subject matter and determining whether they have been implemented by performing procedures in addition to inquiry of the personnel responsible for the subject matter.</p>	<p>quantitative materiality levels (when appropriate) and considering qualitative materiality factors;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing expectations when performing analytical procedures; • designing and performing procedures; and • evaluating evidence, including the reasonableness of the written representations received by the practitioner. <p>(Ref: par. 2.14)</p> <p>2.A122.A132.A12In assessing inherent risk, the practitioner may consider factors relevant to examination engagements, such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The complexity of the subject matter or assertion • The length of time during which the entity has had experience with the subject matter or assertion • Prior experience with the entity's assessment of the subject matter or assertion <p>(Ref: par. 2.14)</p>
<p>Materiality in Planning and Performing the Engagement</p> <p>2.16 When establishing the overall engagement strategy, the practitioner should consider materiality for the subject matter. (Ref: par. 2.A13 2.A192.A14–2.A20)</p>	<p>Materiality in Planning and Performing the Engagement</p> <p>2.A132.A14 2.A13 Materiality is considered in the context of qualitative factors and, when applicable, quantitative factors. The relative importance of qualitative factors and quantitative factors when considering materiality in a particular engagement is a matter for the practitioner’s professional judgment. (Ref: par. 2.16)</p> <p>2.A142.A15 2.A14Professional judgments about materiality are made in light of surrounding circumstances, but they are not affected by the level of assurance; that is, for the same intended users, materiality for an examination engagement is the same as it is for a review engagement because materiality is based on the information needs of intended users and not the level of assurance. (Ref: par. 2.16)</p> <p>2.A152.A16 2.A15In general, misstatements, including omissions, are</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<p>considered to be material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence relevant decisions of intended users that are made based on the subject matter. The practitioner’s consideration of materiality is a matter of professional judgment and is affected by the practitioner’s perception of the common information needs of intended users as a group. In this context, it is reasonable for the practitioner to assume that intended users</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. have a reasonable knowledge of the subject matter and a willingness to study the subject matter with reasonable diligence. b. understand that the subject matter is measured or evaluated and examined to appropriate levels of materiality and have an understanding of any materiality concepts included in the applicable criteria. c. understand any inherent uncertainties involved in measuring or evaluating the subject matter. d. make reasonable decisions on the basis of the subject matter taken as a whole. <p>Unless the engagement has been designed to meet the particular information needs of specific users, the possible effect of misstatements on specific users, whose information needs may vary widely, is not ordinarily considered.</p> <p>(Ref: par. 2.16)</p> <p>2.A16<u>2.A17</u> 2.A16 Qualitative factors may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interaction between, and relative importance of, various aspects of the subject matter, such as numerous performance indicators • The wording chosen with respect to subject matter that is expressed in narrative form; (for example, the wording chosen does not omit or distort the information) • The characteristics of the presentation adopted for the subject matter when the applicable criteria allow for variations in that presentation • The nature of a misstatement, for example, the nature of observed

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<p>deviations in the operation of a control when the responsible party asserts that the control is effective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether a misstatement affects compliance with laws or regulations • In the case of periodic reporting on a subject matter, the effect of an adjustment that affects past or current information about the subject matter or is likely to affect future information about the subject matter • Whether a misstatement is the result of an intentional act or is unintentional • Whether a misstatement is significant with regard to the practitioner’s understanding of known previous communications to users, for example, in relation to the expected outcome of the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter • Whether a misstatement relates to the relationship between the responsible party and if different, the engaging party or its relationship with other parties (<p>Ref: par. 2.16)</p> <p>2.A17<u>2.A18</u> 2.A17 Quantitative factors relate to the magnitude of misstatements relative to reported amounts for those aspects of the subject matter, if any, that are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expressed numerically; or • otherwise related to numerical values (for example, the number of observed deviations in the operation of a control when the examination involves the effectiveness of the control). <p>(Ref: par. 2.16)</p> <p>2.A18<u>2.A19</u> 2.A18 When quantitative factors are applicable, planning the engagement solely to detect individually material misstatements overlooks the fact that the aggregate of individually immaterial misstatements may cause the subject matter to be materially misstated. Applying materiality to elements</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<p>of the subject matter ordinarily is not a simple mechanical calculation but involves the exercise of professional judgment. It is affected by the practitioner's understanding of the subject matter and the responsible party, updated during the performance of the risk assessment procedures, and consideration of the nature and extent of misstatements identified in previous attestation engagements. (Ref: par. 2.16)</p> <p>2.A192.A20 2.A19 The criteria may discuss the concept of materiality in the context of the preparation and presentation of the subject matter and thereby provide a frame of reference for the practitioner in considering materiality for the engagement. Although criteria may discuss materiality in different terms, the concept of materiality generally includes the matters discussed in paragraphs 2.A14–2.A192.A13 2.A18. If the applicable criteria do not include a discussion of the concept of materiality, these paragraphs provide the practitioner with a frame of reference. (Ref: par. 2.16)</p>
<p>2.17 The practitioner should reconsider materiality for the subject matter in the event of becoming aware of information during the engagement that would have caused the practitioner to have initially determined a different materiality.</p>	
<p>Identifying Risks of Material Misstatement 2.18 The practitioner should identify and assess risks of material misstatement as the basis for designing and performing further procedures whose nature, timing, and extent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. are responsive to assessed risks of material misstatement and b. allow the practitioner to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the subject matter is, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable criteria. <p>(Ref: par. 2.A20 2.A21 2.A21–2.A22)</p>	<p>Identifying Risks of Material Misstatement 2.A202.A21 2.A20 Most of the practitioner's work in forming an opinion consists of obtaining and evaluating evidence. Procedures to obtain evidence can include inspection, observation, confirmation, recalculation, reperformance, and analytical procedures, often in some combination, in addition to inquiry. (Ref: par. 2.18)</p> <p>2.A212.A22 2.A21 In some cases, a subject-matter specific chapter may include requirements that affect the nature, timing, and extent of procedures. For example, a subject-matter specific chapter may describe the nature or extent of particular procedures to be performed or the level of assurance expected to be obtained in a particular type of engagement. Even in such cases, determining the exact nature, timing, and extent of procedures is a matter of professional judgment and will vary from one engagement to the next. (Ref: par. 2.18)</p>
<p>Responding to Assessed Risks and Obtaining Evidence</p>	<p>Responding to Assessed Risks and Obtaining Evidence 2.A222.A23 2.A22 Overall responses to address the assessed risks of</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>2.19 To obtain reasonable assurance the practitioner should obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to reduce attestation risk to an acceptably low level and thereby enable the practitioner to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the practitioner’s opinion.</p> <p>2.20 The practitioner should design and implement overall responses to address the assessed risks of material misstatement for the subject matter or assertion. (Ref: par. 2.A22 2.A23 2.A23–2.A24)</p>	<p>material misstatement of the subject matter or assertion may include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emphasizing to the engagement team the need to maintain professional skepticism; • assigning more experienced staff or those with specialized skills or using specialists; • providing more supervision; • incorporating additional elements of unpredictability in the selection of further procedures to be performed; and • making changes to the nature, timing, or extent of procedures (for example, performing procedures at period-end instead of at an interim date or modifying the nature of procedures to obtain more persuasive evidence). <p>(Ref: par. 2.20)</p> <p>2.A23 2.A24 2.23 The assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the subject matter or assertion is affected by the practitioner’s understanding of the control environment. An effective control environment may allow the practitioner to have more confidence in internal control and the reliability of evidence generated internally within the entity and, thus, for example, may allow the practitioner to conduct some procedures at an interim date rather than at the period-end. Deficiencies in the control environment, however, have the opposite effect, for example, the practitioner may respond to an ineffective control environment by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducting more procedures as of the period-end rather than at an interim date, • obtaining more extensive evidence from procedures other than tests of controls, and • increasing the number of locations to be included in the examination scope. <p>(Ref: par. 2.20)</p>
Further Procedures	

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>2.21 The practitioner should design and perform further procedures whose nature, timing, and extent are based on, and responsive to, the assessed risks of material misstatement.</p> <p>2.22 In designing and performing the further procedures in accordance with paragraph 2.21, the practitioner should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. consider the reasons for the assessment given to the risk of material misstatement, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the likelihood of material misstatement due to the particular characteristics of the subject matter and ii. whether the practitioner intends to rely on the operating effectiveness of controls in determining the nature, timing, and extent of other procedures; and b. obtain more persuasive evidence the higher the practitioner's assessment of risk <p>2.23 When designing and performing procedures, the practitioner should consider the relevance and reliability of the information to be used as evidence. If</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. evidence obtained from one source is inconsistent with that obtained from another, b. the practitioner has doubts about the reliability of information to be used as evidence, or c. responses to inquiries of the responsible party or others are inconsistent or otherwise unsatisfactory (for example, vague or implausible), <p>the practitioner should determine what modifications or additions to procedures are necessary to resolve the matter and should consider the effect of the matter, if any, on other aspects of the engagement.</p>	
<p>Tests of Controls</p> <p>2.24 The practitioner should design and perform tests of controls to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about the operating effectiveness of relevant controls if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the practitioner intends to rely on the operating effectiveness of controls in determining the nature, timing, and extent of other procedures; b. procedures other than tests of controls cannot alone provide sufficient 	

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>appropriate evidence; or</p> <p>c. the subject matter is internal control.</p> <p>2.25 If the practitioner designed and performed tests of controls to rely on their operating effectiveness and identified deviations in those controls, the practitioner should make specific inquiries and perform other procedures as necessary to understand these matters and their potential consequences. The practitioner also should determine whether</p> <p>a. the tests of controls that have been performed provide an appropriate basis for reliance on the controls,</p> <p>b. additional tests of controls are necessary, or</p> <p>c. the potential risks of misstatement need to be addressed using other procedures.</p>	
<p>Procedures Other Than Tests of Controls</p> <p>2.26 Irrespective of the assessed risks of material misstatement, the practitioner should design and perform tests of details or analytical procedures related to the subject matter, except when the subject matter is internal control.</p>	
<p>Analytical Procedures Performed in Response to Assessed Risks</p> <p>2.27 When designing and performing analytical procedures in response to assessed risks, the practitioner should</p> <p>a. determine the suitability of particular analytical procedures for the subject matter, taking into account the assessed risks of material misstatement and any related tests of details;</p> <p>b. evaluate the reliability of data from which the practitioner’s expectation is developed, taking into account the source, comparability, nature, and relevance of information available, and controls over their preparation; and</p> <p>c. develop an expectation that which is sufficiently precise to identify possible material misstatements (taking into account whether substantive analytical procedures are to be performed alone or in combination with tests of details).</p> <p>(Ref: par. 2.A24 2.A25 2.A25–2.A26)</p>	<p>Analytical Procedures Performed in Response to Assessed Risks</p> <p>2.A24 2.A25 2.A24 An understanding of the purposes of analytical procedures and the limitations of those procedures is important. Accordingly, the identification of the relationships and types of data used, as well as conclusions reached when recorded amounts are compared to expectations, requires professional judgment by the practitioner. (Ref: par. 2.27)</p> <p>2.A25 2.A26 2.A25 Analytical procedures involve comparisons of expectations developed by the practitioner to recorded amounts or ratios developed from recorded amounts. The practitioner develops such expectations by identifying and using plausible relationships that are reasonably expected to exist based on the practitioner’s understanding of the subject matter; the practices used by the responsible party to measure, recognize, and record the subject matter; and, if applicable, the industry in which the entity operates. (Ref: par. 2.27)</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>2.28 If analytical procedures identify fluctuations or relationships that are inconsistent with other relevant information or that differ significantly from expected valuesquantities or ratios, the practitioner should investigate such differences by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. inquiring of the responsible party and obtaining additional evidence relevant to its responses and b. performing other procedures as necessary in the circumstances. 	
<p>Procedures Regarding Estimates</p> <p>2.29 Based on the assessed risks of material misstatement, the practitioner should evaluate whether</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the responsible party has appropriately applied the requirements of the applicable criteria relevant to any estimated amounts and b. the methods for making estimates are appropriate and have been applied consistently and whether changes, if any, in reported estimates or in the method for making them from the prior period, if applicable, are appropriate in the circumstances. <p>2.30 When responding to an assessed risk of material misstatement related to an estimate, the practitioner should undertake one or more of the following, taking into account the nature of the estimates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Determine whether events occurring up to the date of the practitioner’s report provide evidence regarding the estimate. b. Test how the responsible party made the estimate and the data on which it is based. In doing so, the practitioner should evaluate whether the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. method of measurement used is appropriate in the circumstances, ii. assumptions used by the responsible party are reasonable, and iii. data on which the estimate isare based areis sufficiently reliable for the practitioner’s purposes. c. Test the operating effectiveness of the controls over how the responsible party made the estimate, together with other appropriate further procedures. d. Develop a point estimate or a range to evaluate the responsible party’s estimate. For this purpose if the practitioner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. uses assumptions or methods that differ from those of the responsible party, the practitioner should obtain an understanding of the 	

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>responsible party's assumptions or methods sufficient to establish that the practitioner's point estimate or range takes into account relevant variables and to evaluate any significant differences from the responsible party's point estimate.</p> <p>ii. concludes that it is appropriate to use a range, the practitioner should narrow the range, based on evidence available, until all outcomes within the range are considered reasonable.</p>	
<p>Sampling</p> <p>2.31 If sampling is used, the practitioner should, when designing the sample, consider the purpose of the procedure and the characteristics of the population from which the sample will be drawn. Sampling involves</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. determining a sample size sufficient to reduce sampling risk to an acceptably low level. b. selecting items for the sample in such a way that the practitioner can reasonably expect the sample to be representative of the relevant population and likely to provide the practitioner with a reasonable basis for conclusions about the population. c. treating as a deviation from the prescribed control in the case of tests of controls, or a misstatement in the case of tests of details, a selected item to which the practitioner is unable to apply the designed procedures or suitable alternative procedures. d. investigating the nature and cause of deviations or misstatements identified and evaluating their possible effect on the purpose of the procedure and on other areas of the engagement. e. evaluating the results of the sample, including <u>sampling risk and</u> projecting misstatements found in the sample to the population, and f. evaluating whether the use of sampling has provided an appropriate basis for conclusions about the population that has been tested. <p>(Ref: par. 2.A262.A27)</p>	<p>Sampling</p> <p>2.A26<u>2.A27</u> 2.A26The AICPA Audit Guide <i>Audit Sampling</i> provides guidance that may be useful to a practitioner who has decided to use sampling in performing attestation procedures. (Ref: par. 2.31)</p>
<p>Fraud, Laws, and Regulations</p> <p>2.32 The practitioner should.</p>	<p>Fraud, Laws, and Regulations</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider whether risk assessment procedures and other procedures related to understanding the subject matter indicate risk of material misstatement due to fraud or noncompliance with laws or regulations. • make inquiries of appropriate parties to determine whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud or noncompliance affecting the subject matter • evaluate whether there are unusual or unexpected relationships within the subject matter, or between the subject matter and other related information that indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud or noncompliance • evaluate whether other information obtained indicates risk of material misstatement due to fraud or noncompliance. 	
<p>2.33 The practitioner should respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud and noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations affecting the subject matter that is identified during the engagement. (Ref: par. 2.A27-2.A282.A28–2.A29)</p>	<p>2.A27<u>2.A28</u> 2.A27In responding to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the engagement, it may be appropriate for the practitioner to, unless prohibited by law, regulation, or ethics standards,; <u>for the practitioner to</u>, for example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss the matter with the appropriate party or part(ies). • request that the responsible party consult with an appropriately qualified third party, such as the entity’s legal counsel or a regulator. • consider the implications of the matter in relation to other aspects of the engagement, including the practitioner’s risk assessment and the reliability of written representations from the responsible party. • obtain legal advice about the consequences of different courses of action. • communicate with third parties (for example, a regulator) • withdraw from the engagement. <p>(Ref: par. 2.33)</p> <p>2.A28<u>2.A29</u> 2.A28The actions noted in the preceding paragraph also may</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<p>be appropriate in responding to noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations identified during the engagement. It may be appropriate to describe the matter in a separate paragraph in the practitioner's report, unless the practitioner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is precluded by the responsible party from obtaining sufficient appropriate evidence to evaluate whether noncompliance that may be material to the subject matter has, or is likely to have, occurred, in which case paragraphs 2.602.67-(a) and 2.712.76 apply, or b. concludes that the noncompliance materially misstates the subject matter, in which case paragraph 2.602.67b applies. <p>(Ref: par. 2.33)</p>
<p>Revision of Risk Assessment 2.34 The practitioner's assessment of the risks of material misstatement may change during the course of the engagement as additional evidence is obtained. In circumstances in which the practitioner obtains evidence from performing further procedures, or if new information is obtained, either of which is inconsistent with the evidence on which the practitioner originally based the assessment, the practitioner should revise the assessment and modify the planned procedures accordingly. (Ref: par. 2.A29 <u>2.A30</u>2.A30–2.A31)</p>	<p>Revision of Risk Assessment 2.A29<u>2.A30</u> 2.A29Information may come to the practitioner's attention that differs significantly from that on which the determination of planned procedures was based. As the practitioner performs planned procedures, the evidence obtained may cause the practitioner to perform additional procedures. Such procedures may include asking the responsible party to examine the matter identified by the practitioner and to make adjustments to the subject matter if appropriate. (Ref: par. 2.34)</p> <p>2.A30<u>2.A31</u> 2.A30The practitioner may become aware of a matter(s) that causes the practitioner to believe the subject matter may be materially misstated when, for example, performing analytical procedures if the practitioner identifies a fluctuation or relationship that is inconsistent with other relevant information or that differs significantly from expectations. (Ref: par. 2.34)</p>
<p>Evaluating the Reliability of Information Produced by the Entity 2.35 When using information produced by the entity, the practitioner should evaluate whether the information is sufficiently reliable for the practitioner's purposes, including, as necessary, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Obtaining evidence about the accuracy and completeness of the information b. Evaluating whether the information is sufficiently precise and detailed for the practitioner's purposes 	<p>Evaluating the Reliability of Information Produced by the Entity 2.A31<u>2.A32</u> 2.A31Reliable information is sufficiently accurate and complete. (Ref: par. 2.35)</p> <p>2.A32<u>2.A33</u> 2.A32Obtaining evidence about the accuracy and completeness of information produced by the entity may be accomplished concurrently with the actual procedure applied to the information when obtaining such evidence is an integral part of the procedure itself. In other</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
(Ref: par. 2.A31-2.A32 2.A32-2.A33)	situations, the practitioner may have obtained evidence of the accuracy and completeness of such information by testing controls over the preparation and maintenance of the information. In some situations, however, the practitioner may determine that additional procedures are needed. (Ref: par. 2.35)
<p>Using the Work of a Practitioner’s Specialist</p> <p>2.36—The nature, timing, and extent of the practitioner’s procedures with the requirements in par. 2.37 will vary depending on the circumstances. In determining the nature, timing, and extent of those procedures, the practitioner should consider matters including the following: (See chapter 1.²):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —The significance of that specialist’s work in the context of the engagement (See also paragraphs 2.A33-2.A34.) a.—The nature of the matter to which that specialist’s work relates a.—The risks of material misstatement in the matter to which that specialist’s work relates a.—The practitioner’s knowledge of and experience with previous work performed by that specialist <p>Whether that specialist is subject to the practitioner’s firm’s quality control policies and procedures (See also paragraph 2.A35.)</p> <p>Old paragraph 2.36 is now new paragraph 2.38</p> <p>2.372.36 2.37 When the practitioner expects to use the work of a practitioner’s specialist, the practitioner should do the following: (Ref: par. 2.A34-2.A42)</p>	<p>Using the Work of a Practitioner’s Specialist</p> <p>Integrating the Work of a Practitioner’s Specialist 2.A332.A34 2.A33 Examination engagements may be performed on a wide range of subject matters that require specialized skills and knowledge beyond those possessed by the practitioner and for which the work of a practitioner’s specialist is used. In some situations, the practitioner’s specialist will be consulted to provide advice on an individual matter, but the greater the significance of the work of the practitioner’s specialist in the context of the engagement, the more likely it is that the specialist will work as part of a multidisciplinary team comprising subject matter specialists and other attestation personnel. The more that specialist’s work is integrated in nature,</p>

²Paragraph 1.31 of chapter 1.

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<p>timing, and extent with the overall work effort, the more important is effective two-way communication between the practitioner's specialist and other attestation personnel. Effective two-way communication facilitates the proper integration of the specialist's work with the work of others on the engagement. (Ref: par. 2.372.36)</p> <p>2.A34<u>2.A34</u> As noted in chapter 1, <u>When</u> the work of a practitioner's specialist is to be used, it may be appropriate to perform some of the procedures required by paragraph 2.36 at the engagement acceptance or continuance stage. ³This is particularly so when the work of the practitioner's specialist is to be used in the early stages of the engagement, for example, during initial planning and risk assessment. (Ref: par. 2.372.36)</p> <p><i>The Practitioner's Firm's Quality Control Policies and Procedures.</i></p> <p>2.A35<u>2.A35</u> 2.A36<u>2.A36</u> Engagement teams are entitled to rely on their own firm's system of quality control, unless information provided by the firm or other parties suggests otherwise. The extent of that reliance will vary with the circumstances and may affect the nature, timing, and extent of the practitioner's procedures with respect to matters, such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competence and capabilities, through recruitment and training programs • The practitioner's evaluation of the objectivity of the practitioner's internal specialist (The practitioner's internal specialists are subject to relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence.) • The practitioner's evaluation of the adequacy of the practitioner's internal specialist's work (For example, the firm's training programs may provide the practitioner's internal specialists with an appropriate understanding of the interrelationship of their expertise with the evidence gathering process. Reliance on such training and other firm processes, such as protocols for scoping the work of the practitioner's internal specialists, may affect the nature, timing, and extent of the

³~~Paragraph 1.A61 of chapter 1.~~

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<p>practitioner's procedures to evaluate the adequacy of the practitioner's specialist's work.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adherence to regulatory and legal requirements, through monitoring processes • Agreement with the practitioner's specialist <p>Such reliance does not reduce the practitioner's responsibility to meet the requirements of this chapter.</p> <p>(Ref: par. 2.372.36)</p>
<p>a. Evaluate whether the practitioner's specialist has the necessary competence, capabilities, and objectivity for the practitioner's purposes. In the case of a practitioner's external specialist, the evaluation of objectivity should include inquiry regarding interests and relationships that may create a threat to the objectivity of the practitioner's specialist. (Ref: par. 2.A36-2.A392.A37–2.A40)</p>	<p><i>The Competence, Capabilities, and Objectivity of a Practitioner's Specialist</i> 2.A36<u>2.A37</u> 2.A36 Information regarding the competence, capabilities, and objectivity of a practitioner's specialist may come from a variety of sources, such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal experience with previous work of that specialist • Discussions with that specialist • Discussions with other practitioners or others who are familiar with that specialist's work • Knowledge of that specialist's qualifications, membership of a professional body or industry association, license to practice, or other forms of external recognition • Published papers or books written by that specialist • The firm's quality control policies and procedures <p>(Ref: par. 2.372.36a)</p> <p>2.A37<u>2.A38</u> 2.A37 Although a practitioner's specialists do not require the same proficiency as the practitioner in performing all aspects of an examination engagement, a practitioner's specialist whose work is used may need a sufficient understanding of relevant chapters of the attestation standards to enable that specialist to relate the work assigned to them to the engagement objective. (Ref: par. 2.372.36a)</p> <p>2.A38<u>2.A39</u> 2.A38 The evaluation of the significance of threats to objectivity and of whether there is a need for safeguards may depend upon the role of the practitioner's specialist and the significance of the specialist's work</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<p>in the context of the engagement. There may be some circumstances in which safeguards cannot reduce threats to an acceptable level, for example, if in an examination engagement a practitioner's specialist is an individual who has played a significant role in measuring, evaluating, or disclosing the subject matter. (Ref: par. 2.372.36a)</p> <p>2.A392.A40 2.A39 When evaluating the objectivity of a practitioner's external specialist, it may be relevant to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inquire of the appropriate party(ies) about any known interests or relationships that the appropriate party(ies) has with the practitioner's external specialist that may affect that specialist's objectivity. • discuss with that specialist any applicable safeguards, including any professional requirements that apply to that specialist, and evaluate whether the safeguards are adequate to reduce threats to an acceptable level. Interests and relationships that it may be relevant to discuss with the practitioner's specialist include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — financial interests. — business and personal relationships. — provision of other services by the specialist, including by the organization in the case of an external specialist that is an organization. <p>In some cases, it may also be appropriate for the practitioner to obtain a written representation from the practitioner's external specialist about any interests or relationships with the appropriate party(ies) of which that specialist is aware.</p> <p>(Ref: par. 2.372.36a)</p>
<p>b. Obtain a sufficient understanding of the field of expertise of a practitioner's specialist to enable the practitioner to</p> <p>i. determineagree with the practitioner's specialist on the nature, scope, and objectives of that specialist's work for the practitioner's purposes and</p> <p>ii. evaluate the adequacy of that work for the practitioner's purposes.</p> <p>(Ref: par. 2.A402.A41)</p>	<p><i>Obtaining an Understanding of the Field of Expertise of a Practitioner's Specialist</i></p> <p>2.A402.A41 2.A40 Aspects of a practitioner's specialist's field of expertise relevant to the practitioner's understanding may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether that specialist's field has areas of specialty within it that are relevant to the engagement • Whether any professional or other standards and regulatory or legal requirements apply

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What assumptions and methods, including models when applicable, are used by the practitioner's specialist and whether they are generally accepted within that specialist's field and appropriate in the circumstances of the engagement • The nature of internal and external data or information the practitioner's specialist uses (Ref: par. 2.372.36b)
<p>c. Agree with the practitioner's specialist regarding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the nature, scope, and objectives of that practitioner's specialist's work; ii. the respective roles and responsibilities of the practitioner and that specialist; iii. the nature, timing, and extent of communication between the practitioner and that specialist, including the form of any report or documentation to be provided by that specialist; and iv. the need for the practitioner's specialist to observe confidentiality requirements. <p>(Ref: par. 2.A412.A42)</p>	<p><i>Agreement With a Practitioner's Specialist</i> 2.A41<u>2.A42</u> 2.A41The matters noted in paragraph 2.A36 may affect the level of detail and formality of the agreement between the practitioner and the practitioner's specialist, including whether it is appropriate that the agreement be in writing. The agreement between the practitioner and a practitioner's external specialist is often in the form of an engagement letter. (Ref: par. 2.372.36c)</p>
<p>d. Evaluate the adequacy of the work of the practitioner's specialist for the practitioner's purposes, including</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The relevance and reasonableness of the findings and conclusions of the practitioner's specialist and their consistency with other evidence ii. If the work of the practitioner's specialist involves the use of significant assumptions and methods, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. obtaining an understanding of those assumptions and methods and b. evaluating the relevance and reasonableness of those assumptions and methods in the circumstances, giving consideration to the rationale and support provided by the practitioner's specialist, and in relation to the practitioner's other findings and conclusions iii. If the work of the practitioner's specialist involves the use of source data that are<u>is</u> significant to the work of the practitioner's specialist, the relevance, completeness, and accuracy of that source data 	

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements

~~2.38~~2.37 ~~2.38~~ If the practitioner determines that the work of the practitioner's specialist is not adequate for the practitioner's purposes, the practitioner should

- a. agree with the practitioner's specialist on the nature and extent of further work to be performed by the practitioner's specialist, or
- b. perform additional procedures appropriate to the circumstances.

~~2.39~~2.38 ~~2.36~~ The nature, timing, and extent of the ~~procedures a practitioner's~~ ~~procedures~~ performs when the practitioner expects to use the work of a practitioner's specialist ~~with respect to the requirements in par. 2.37~~ will vary depending on the circumstances. In determining the nature, timing, and extent of those procedures, the practitioner should consider ~~matters including~~ the following: (See chapter 1.⁴):

- ~~b.a.~~ The significance of that specialist's work in the context of the engagement (See also paragraphs ~~2.A33–2.A44~~ 2.A34–2.A35.)
- b. The nature of the matter to which that specialist's work relates
- c. The risks of material misstatement in the matter to which that specialist's work relates
- d. The practitioner's knowledge of and experience with previous work performed by that specialist
- e. Whether that specialist is subject to the practitioner's firm's quality control policies and procedures (See also paragraph 2.A36.)

This paragraph was moved here from old par. 2.36.

Using the Work of Internal Auditors

~~2.39~~ 2.39 When the practitioner expects to use the work of the internal audit function ~~in obtaining evidence or to use internal auditors to provide direct assistance~~, the practitioner should determine whether the work ~~of the internal audit function~~ can be used for purposes of the examination by evaluating

- ~~a. evaluating~~
- a.i the level of competence of the internal audit function or the individual internal auditors providing direct assistance; ~~and~~
- b.i the extent to which the internal audit function's organizational status and

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Using the Work of Internal Auditors

~~2.A43~~ 2.A43 The practitioner may use (1) the work of the internal audit function in obtaining evidence or (2) internal auditors to provide direct assistance. (Ref: par. 2.39)

~~2.A42~~2.A44 ~~2.A44~~ Activities similar to those performed by an internal audit function may be conducted by functions with other titles within an entity. Some or all of the activities of an internal audit function may also be outsourced to a third party service provider. Neither the title of the function

⁴ Paragraph 1.~~32~~34 of chapter 1.

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements

Application and Other Explanatory Material

relevant policies and procedures support the objectivity of the internal auditors ~~function or for internal auditors providing direct assistance, the existence of threats to the objectivity of those internal auditors and the related safeguards applied to reduce or eliminate those threats; and~~
~~c.iii. when using the work of the internal audit function,~~ the application by the internal audit function of a systematic and disciplined approach, including quality control.
~~b. performing sufficient procedures, including reperformance, on the body of work of the internal audit function that the practitioner plans to use to evaluate whether such work is adequate for the practitioner's purposes.~~

(Ref: par. ~~2.A43-2.A46~~~~2.A42-2A44~~)

2.40 When using the work of the internal audit function the practitioner should perform sufficient procedures, including reperformance, on the body of work of the internal audit function that the practitioner plans to use to evaluate whether such work is adequate for the practitioner's purposes.

nor whether it is performed by the entity or a third party service provider are sole determinants of whether or not the practitioner can use the work of internal auditors. Rather it is the nature of the activities, the extent to which the internal audit function's organizational status and relevant policies and procedures support the objectivity of the internal auditors, competence, and systematic and disciplined approach of the function that are relevant. References in this ~~proposed~~ SSAE to the work of the internal audit function include relevant activities of other functions or third party providers that have these characteristics. (Ref: par. 2.39)

2.A45 A practitioner planning to use the work of the internal audit function to obtain evidence may find it effective and efficient to discuss the planned use of the work with the function as a basis for coordinating activities. (Ref: par. 2.39)

~~2.A44~~**2.A46** ~~2.A42~~ The practitioner has sole responsibility for the opinion expressed, and that responsibility is not reduced by the practitioner's use of the work of the internal auditors on the engagement. The ~~extent to which the internal audit function's organizational status and relevant policies and procedures support the~~ objectivity and competence of the internal auditors ~~and the level of competence of the function~~ are important in determining whether to use and, if so, the nature and extent of the use of their ~~work of the function that is appropriate in the circumstances. Objectivity and competence may be viewed as a continuum. The higher the degree of objectivity and competence, the greater use the practitioner may make of the work of the internal audit function.~~ However, a high degree of objectivity cannot compensate for a low degree of competence, nor can a high degree of competence compensate for a low degree of objectivity. Additionally, neither a high level of competence nor strong support for the objectivity of the internal auditors compensates for the lack of a systematic and disciplined approach when using the work of the internal audit function. (Ref: par. 2.39)

~~2.A45-2.A43~~ Because the practitioner has sole responsibility for the opinion expressed, the practitioner makes all significant judgments in the examination engagement. In addition, the practitioner generally plans to use less of the work

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements

~~2.402.41~~ When using internal auditors to provide direct assistance to the practitioner, the practitioner should direct, supervise, and review the work of the internal auditors.

~~2.42~~ Because the practitioner has sole responsibility for the opinion expressed, the practitioner should make all significant judgments in the examination engagement. To prevent undue use of the internal audit function in obtaining evidence, the external auditor should plan to use less of the work of the function and perform more of the work directly:

- ~~a.~~ The more judgment is involved in
 - ~~i.~~ planning and performing relevant procedures or
 - ~~ii.~~ evaluating the evidence obtained
- ~~b.~~ the higher the assessed risk of material misstatement;
- ~~c.~~ the less the internal audit function's organizational status and relevant policies and procedures adequately support the objectivity of the internal auditors; and
- ~~d.~~ the lower the level of competence of the internal audit function.

~~2.412.43~~ Before the conclusion of the engagement the practitioner should evaluate whether the use of the work of the internal audit function or the use of internal auditors to provide direct assistance results in the practitioner still being sufficiently involved in the examination given the practitioner's sole responsibility for the opinion expressed.

~~2.422.44~~ Prior to using internal auditors to provide direct assistance, the practitioner should obtain written acknowledgment from the responsible party, that internal auditors providing direct assistance to the practitioner will be allowed to follow the practitioner's instructions, and that the responsible party will not intervene in the work the internal auditor performs for the practitioner

Evaluating the Results of Examination Procedures

~~2.432.45~~ ~~2.41~~ The practitioner should accumulate misstatements identified during the engagement, other than those that are clearly trivial. (Ref: par. ~~2.A45-2.A46~~2.A47–2.A48)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

~~of the internal audit function when more judgment is involved and the higher the assessed risk of material misstatement. Likewise, the procedures the practitioner performs on the body of work of the internal audit function that the practitioner plans to use are commensurate with the level of judgment and risk involved, as well as the function's objectivity and competence. These procedures provide a basis for evaluating the overall quality of the function's work and the objectivity with which it has been performed. In addition to reperformance, these procedures may include the following:~~

- ~~• Making inquiries of appropriate individuals within the internal audit function~~
- ~~• Observing procedures performed by the internal audit function~~
- ~~• Reviewing the internal audit function's work program and working papers (Ref: par. ~~2.39~~)~~

Evaluating the Results of Examination Procedures

~~2.A46.2.A47~~~~2.A45~~ Uncorrected misstatements are accumulated during the engagement for the purpose of evaluating whether, individually or in aggregate, they are material when forming the practitioner's opinion. (See also

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<p>paragraph 2.542.59b) (Ref: par. 2.412.45)</p> <p>2.A472.A48 2.A46“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 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. (Ref: par. 2.412.45)</p>
<p>2.422.46 2.42 The practitioner should evaluate the sufficiency and appropriateness of the evidence obtained in the context of the engagement and, if necessary, attempt to obtain further evidence. The practitioner should consider all relevant evidence, regardless of whether it appears to corroborate or to contradict the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter against the applicable criteria. (Ref: par. 2.A47–2.A512.A49–2.A53)</p> <p>2.452.47 2.42 If the practitioner is unable to obtain necessary further evidence, the practitioner should consider the implications for the practitioner’s opinion in paragraphs 2.67–2.822.60b, 2.66, 2.62, 2.68, 2.71, and 2.72 (Ref: par. 2.A47–2.A51)</p>	<p>2.A482.A49 2.A47 Sufficient appropriate E evidence is necessary to support the practitioner’s opinion and examination report. It is cumulative in nature and is primarily obtained from procedures performed during the course of the engagement. It may, however, also include information obtained from other sources such as previous engagements (provided the practitioner has determined whether changes have occurred since the previous engagement that may affect its relevance to the current engagement) or a firm’s quality control procedures for client acceptance and continuance. Evidence may come from sources inside and outside the appropriate party(ies). Also, information that may be used as evidence may have been prepared by a specialist employed or engaged by the appropriate party(ies). Evidence comprises both information that supports and corroborates aspects of the subject matter and any information that contradicts aspects of the subject matter. In addition, in some cases, the absence of information (for example, refusal by the appropriate party(ies) to provide a requested representation) is considered by the practitioner and, therefore, also constitutes evidence. (Ref: par. 2.462.A43)</p> <p>2.A492.A502.A48 The sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence are interrelated. Sufficiency of evidence is the measure of the quantity of evidence. The quantity of the evidence needed is affected by the risks of material misstatement and also by the quality of such evidence. (Ref: par. 2.422.46)</p> <p>2.A502.A51 2.A49 Appropriateness of evidence is the measure of the quality of evidence; that is, its relevance and reliability in providing support for the practitioner’s opinion. The reliability of evidence is influenced by its source</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements

Application and Other Explanatory Material

and by its nature and is dependent on the individual circumstances under which it is obtained. Generalizations about the reliability of various kinds of evidence can be made; however, such generalizations are subject to important exceptions. Even when evidence is obtained from sources external to the responsible party, circumstances may exist that could affect its reliability. For example, evidence obtained from an independent external source may not be reliable if the source is not knowledgeable. Recognizing that exceptions may exist, the following generalizations about the reliability of evidence may be useful:

- Evidence is more reliable when it is obtained from independent sources outside the appropriate party(ies).
- Evidence that is generated internally is more reliable when the related controls are effective.
- Evidence obtained directly by the practitioner (for example, observation of the application of a control) is more reliable than evidence obtained indirectly or by inference (for example, inquiry about the application of a control).
- Evidence is more reliable when it exists in documentary form, whether paper, electronic, or other media (for example, a contemporaneously written record of a meeting is ordinarily more reliable than a subsequent oral representation of what was discussed).
- Evidence provided by original documents is more reliable than evidence provided by photocopies, facsimiles, or documents that have been filmed, digitized, or otherwise transformed into electronic form, the reliability of which may depend on the controls over their preparation and maintenance.

(Ref: par. [2.422.46](#))

[2.A512.A52](#) ~~2.A50~~ Evidence obtained from different sources or of a different nature ordinarily provides more assurance than evidence from items considered individually. In addition, obtaining evidence from different sources or of a different nature may indicate that an individual item of evidence is not

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<p>reliable. For example, corroborating information obtained from a source independent of the responsible party may increase the assurance the practitioner obtains from a representation from the responsible party. Conversely, when evidence obtained from one source is inconsistent with that obtained from another, the practitioner determines what additional procedures are necessary to resolve the inconsistency. (Ref: par. 2.422.46)</p> <p>2.A53 2.A51 Whether sufficient appropriate evidence has been obtained on which to base the practitioner’s opinion is a matter of professional judgment. (Ref: par. 2.422.46)</p>
<p>Considering Subsequent Events and Subsequently Discovered Facts</p> <p>2.462.48 2.43 The practitioner should inquire of the responsible party, and if different, the engaging party, and apply other appropriate procedures to obtain evidence regarding events subsequent to the period (or point in time) covered by the examination engagement up to the date of the practitioner’s report that could have a significant effect on the subject matter or assertion. If the practitioner becomes aware, through inquiry or otherwise, of such an event, or any other event that is of such a nature and significance that its disclosure is necessary to prevent report users of the report from being misled, and information about that event is not adequately disclosed by the responsible party in the subject matter or in its assertion, the practitioner should take appropriate action. (Ref: par. 2.A52–2.A54 2.A55–2.A56)</p>	<p>Considering Subsequent Events and Subsequently Discovered Facts</p> <p>2.A54 2.A53 For certain subject-matter, specific subsequent events <u>requirements and related application</u> guidance has <u>has</u> been developed to <u>provide additional requirements</u> for engagement performance and reporting. (Ref: par. 2.432.48)</p> <p>2.A55 2.A52 Procedures that a practitioner may perform to identify subsequent events, include inquiring about and considering information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contained in <u>relevant reports issued during the subsequent period by - relevant</u> internal auditors, reports issued during the subsequent period other practitioners, or regulatory agencies’ reports issued during the subsequent period • obtained through other professional engagements for that entity. <p>(Ref: par. 2.432.48)</p> <p>2.A56 2.A54 If the responsible party refuses to disclose a subsequent event for which disclosure is necessary to prevent report users from being misled, appropriate actions the practitioner may take include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disclosing the event in the practitioner’s report and modifying the practitioner’s report • withdrawing from the engagement

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	(Ref: par. 2.43 2.48)
<p>2.47<u>2.49</u> 2.44 The practitioner has no responsibility to perform any procedures regarding the subject matter or assertion after the date of the practitioner’s report. Nevertheless, the practitioner should respond appropriately to facts that become known to the practitioner after the date of the practitioner’s report that, had they been known to the practitioner at that date, may have caused the practitioner to revise the practitioner’s report. (Ref: par. 2.A55 2.A562.A57–2.A58)</p>	<p>2.A57 2.A55 Subsequent to the date of the practitioner’s report, the practitioner may become aware of facts that, had they been known to the practitioner at that date, may have caused the practitioner to revise the practitioner’s report. In such circumstances, the practitioner undertakes to determine whether the facts existed at the date of the practitioner’s report and, if so, whether persons are currently using or likely to use the practitioners’ report and related subject matter or assertion who would attach importance to these facts. This may include discussing the matter with the appropriate party(<i>ies</i>) and requesting the appropriate party(<i>ies</i>)’s cooperation in whatever investigation or further action that may be necessary. The specific actions to be taken in a particular case by the appropriate party(<i>ies</i>) and the practitioner may vary with the circumstances. Consideration may be given to, among other things, the time elapsed since the date of the practitioner’s report and whether issuance of a subsequent report is imminent. The practitioner may need to perform additional procedures deemed necessary to determine whether the subject matter or assertion needs revision and whether the previously issued report continues to be appropriate. (Ref: par. 2.442.49)</p> <p>2.A58 2.A56 Depending on the circumstances, the practitioner may determine that notification of the situation by the appropriate party(<i>ies</i>) to persons who are currently using or likely to use the practitioners’ report who would attach importance to the facts is necessary. This may be the case, for example, when the practitioner’s report is not to be relied upon because the subject matter or assertion need revision or the practitioner is unable to determine whether revision is necessary and when issuance of a subsequent report is not imminent. If the appropriate party(<i>ies</i>) failed to take the necessary steps to prevent reliance on the practitioner’s report, the practitioner’s course of action depends upon the practitioner’s legal and ethical rights and obligations. Consequently, the practitioner may consider it appropriate to seek legal advice prior to making any disclosure of the situation. Disclosure of the situation directly by the practitioner may include a description of the nature of</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	the matter and of its effect on the subject matter or assertion and the practitioner's report, avoiding comments concerning the conduct or motives of any person. (Ref: par. 2.44 2.49)
<p>Written Representations 2.48<u>2.50</u> 2.45The practitioner should request from the responsible party written representations in the form of a letter addressed to the practitioner. The representations should</p> <p><i>a.</i> state that include the responsible party's assertion about the subject matter is in conformity with (or based on) the applicable criteria and that all relevant matters are reflected in the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter or assertion.</p> <p><i>b.</i> <u>state</u> that all relevant matters are reflected in the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter or assertion.</p> <p><i>c</i><i>b.</i> state that all known matters contradicting the subject matter or assertion and any communication from regulatory agencies or others affecting the subject matter or assertion have been disclosed to the practitioner, including <u>communications received between the end of the period addressed in the written assertion and the date of the practitioner's report.</u></p> <p><i>d</i><i>e.</i> acknowledge responsibility for</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the subject matter and the assertion;⁵ ii. selecting the criteria, when applicable;⁵ and iii. determining that such criteria are appropriate for its purposes. <p><i>d</i><i>e.</i> state that any known events subsequent to the period (or point in time) of the subject matter being reported on that would have a material effect on the subject matter or assertion have been disclosed to the practitioner. (Ref: par. 2.592.A61)</p> <p><i>f</i><i>e.</i> state that it has provided the practitioner with all relevant information and access, as agreed upon in the terms of the engagement.</p>	<p>Written Representations 2.A59 2.A57Written confirmation of oral representations reduces the possibility of misunderstandings between the practitioner and the responsible party. The person(s) from whom the practitioner requests written representations is ordinarily a member of senior management or those charged with governance depending on, for example, the management and governance structure of the responsible party(ies), which may vary by entity, reflecting influences such as size and ownership characteristics. (Ref: par. 2.452.50)</p> <p>2.A60 2.A58Representations by the responsible party cannot replace other evidence the practitioner could reasonably expect to be available. Although written representations provide necessary evidence, they do not provide sufficient appropriate evidence on their own about any of the matters with which they deal. Furthermore, the fact that the practitioner has received reliable written representations does not affect the nature or extent of other evidence that the practitioner obtains. (Ref: par. 2.452.50)</p> <p>2.A61 2.A59A discussion of what is considered a material effect on the subject matter or assertion may be included explicitly in the representation letter in qualitative or quantitative terms. (Ref: par. 2.452.50<i>e</i> and 2.52<i>d</i>)</p> <p>2.A62 2.A60A summary of uncorrected misstatements ordinarily is included</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p><i>gf.</i> if applicable, state that the responsible party believes the effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, individually and in aggregate, to the subject matter. (Ref: par. 2.A602.A62)</p> <p><i>hg.</i> if applicable, state that significant assumptions used in making any material estimates are reasonable.</p> <p><i>ih.</i> state that the responsible party has disclosed to the practitioner all deficiencies in internal control relevant to the engagement of which the responsible party is aware;</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">i. its knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud; or noncompliance with laws or regulations affecting the subject matter; and</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">ii. other matters as the practitioner deems appropriate.</p> <p>(Ref: par. 2.A57-2.A602.A59–2.A62)</p> <p>2.492.51 <u>2.46</u> When the engaging party is not the responsible party, and the responsible party refuses to provide the representations in paragraph 2.452.50 in writing, the practitioner should make inquiries of the responsible party about, and seek oral responses to, the matters in paragraph 2.452.50. <u>The requirement regarding a written assertion in paragraph 2.10 applies whether or not the engaging party is the responsible party. Notwithstanding this provision, the practitioner is still required to obtain from the responsible party the written assertion required by paragraph 2.10.</u> (Ref: par. 2.A612.A63)</p>	<p>in or attached to the written representation. (Ref: par. 2.452.50<i>gf</i>)</p> <p>2.A63 2.A61 Certain subject-matter specific chapters of the attestation standards do not permit the practitioner to perform the alternative procedures described in paragraph 2.462.51 (making inquiries of the responsible party and restricting the use of the report). (Ref: par. 2.462.51 <u>and</u> 2.56<i>a</i>)</p>
<p>2.502.52 <u>2.47</u> When the engaging party is not the responsible party, the practitioner should request written representations from the engaging party, in addition to those requested from the responsible party, in the form of a letter addressed to the practitioner. The representations should</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>a.</i> acknowledge the engaging party’s responsibility for selecting the criteria, when applicable.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>b.</i> acknowledge the engaging party’s responsibility for determining that such criteria are appropriate for its purposes.</p>	

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p><i>c.</i> state that the engaging party is not aware of any material misstatements in the subject matter or assertion.</p> <p><i>d.</i> state that the engaging party has disclosed to the practitioner all known events subsequent to the period (or point in time) of the subject matter being reported on that would have a material effect on the subject matter or assertion. (Ref: par. 2.A592.A61)</p> <p><i>e.</i> acknowledge that the responsible party is responsible for the subject matter and assertion.</p> <p><i>f.</i> address other matters as the practitioner deems appropriate.</p>	
<p>2.512.53 2.48 When written representations are directly related to matters that are material to the subject matter, the practitioner should</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>a.</i> evaluate their reasonableness and consistency with other evidence obtained, including other representations (oral or written);; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>b.</i> consider whether those making the representations can be expected to be well informed on the particular matters.</p> <p>2.522.54 2.49 The date of the written representations should be as of the date of the examination report. The written representations should address the subject matter and periods referred to in the practitioner’s opinion.</p>	
<p>Requested Written Representations Not Provided or Not Reliable</p> <p>2.532.55 2.50 When the engaging party is the responsible party, and one or more of the requested written representations are not provided; or the practitioner concludes that there is sufficient doubt about the competence, integrity, ethical values, or diligence of those providing the written representations; or the practitioner concludes that the written representations are otherwise not reliable; the practitioner should</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>a.</i> discuss the matter with the appropriate responsible party(ies);</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>b.</i> reevaluate the integrity of those from whom the representations were requested or received and evaluate the effect that this may have on the reliability of representations and evidence in general; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>c.</i> if any of the matters in paragraph 2.50a-e are not resolved to the practitioner’s satisfaction, take appropriate action. (Ref: par. 2.A622.A64)</p>	<p>Requested Written Representations Not Provided or Not Reliable</p> <p>2.A64 2.A62 The refusal to furnish such evidence in the form of written representations constitutes a limitation on the scope of an examination sufficient to preclude an unmodified opinion and may be sufficient to cause the practitioner to withdraw from the examination engagement. (Ref: par. 2.502.55)</p>
<p>2.542.56 2.51 When the engaging party is not the responsible party</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>a.</i> if one or more of the requested representations are not provided in writing by the responsible party, but the practitioner receives satisfactory oral</p>	<p>2.A65 2.A63 Even when the responsible party provides oral responses to the matters in paragraph 2.50, the practitioner may find it appropriate to consider whether there are significant concerns about the competence, integrity, ethical</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>responses to the practitioner’s inquiries performed in accordance with paragraph 2.462.51 sufficient to enable the practitioner to conclude that the practitioner has sufficient appropriate evidence to form an opinion about the subject matter, the examination report should contain a separate paragraph that restricts the use of the report to the engaging party. (Paragraphs See par. 2.582.622.64–2.65 contain for content the requirements for the contents of such a paragraph.separate paragraph that restricts the use of the report to the engaging party) (Ref: par. 2.A63)</p> <p>b. if one or more of the requested representations are not provided in writing or orally from the responsible party, in accordance with paragraph 2.462.51, a scope limitation exists, and the practitioner should determine the effect on the practitioner’s report, <u>or the practitioner should withdraw from the</u> engagement. (Ref: par. 2.A65)</p>	<p>values, or diligence of those providing the oral responses or whether the oral responses are otherwise not reliable and the potential effect, if any, on the practitioner’s examination report. (Ref: par. 2.512.56)</p>
<p>Other Information 2.552.57 2.52 If prior to or after the release of the practitioner’s examination report on subject matter or an assertion, the practitioner is willing to permit the inclusion of the practitioner’s examination report in a document that contains the subject matter or assertion and other information, the practitioner should read that other information to identify material inconsistencies, if any, with the subject matter, assertion, or the examination report. If on reading that other information, the practitioner</p> <p>a. identifies a material inconsistency between that other information and the subject matter, assertion, or the examination report; or</p> <p>b. becomes aware of a material misstatement of fact in that other information, the subject matter, assertion, or the examination report; ; the practitioner should discuss the matter with the responsible party and take further action as appropriate.</p> <p>(Ref: par. 2.A64 2.A652.A66–2.A67)</p>	<p>Other Information 2.A66 2.A64 Further actions that may be appropriate if the practitioner identifies a material inconsistency or becomes aware of a material misstatement of fact include, for example, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requesting the appropriate party(ies) to consult with a qualified third party, such as the appropriate party(ies)’s legal counsel • Obtaining legal advice about the consequences of different courses of action • If required or permissible, communicating with third parties (for example, a regulator) • Describing the material inconsistency in the examination report • Withdrawing from the engagement, when withdrawal is possible under applicable laws or regulations <p>(Ref: par. 2.522.57)</p> <p>2.A67 2.A65 Other information does not include information contained on the appropriate party(ies)’s website. Websites are a means of distributing information and are not, themselves, documents for the purposes of paragraph 2.522.57. (Ref: par. 2.522.57)</p>
Description of Applicable Criteria	Description of Applicable Criteria

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>2.56<u>2.58</u> 2.53 The practitioner should evaluate whether the written description of the subject matter or assertion adequately refers to or describes the applicable criteria. (Ref: par. 2.A66 2.A67 2.A68–2.A69)</p>	<p>2.A68 2.A66 The description of the criteria on which the subject matter <u>or assertion</u> is based is particularly important when there are significant differences between various criteria regarding how particular matters may be treated in the subject matter. (Ref: par. 2.53 2.58)</p> <p>2.A69 2.A67 A description of the criteria that states that the subject matter is prepared in accordance with particular criteria is appropriate only if the subject matter complies with all relevant requirements of those criteria that are effective. (Ref: par. 2.53 2.58)</p>
<p>Forming the Opinion 2.57<u>2.59</u> 2.54 The practitioner should form an opinion about whether the subject matter or assertion is free from material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. In forming that opinion, the practitioner should evaluate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the practitioner’s conclusion regarding the sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence obtained; and (Ref: par. 2.A69 2.A71) b. whether uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate. (Ref: par. 2.A68 2.A70) 	<p>Forming the Opinion 2.A70 2.A68 An examination engagement is a cumulative and iterative process. As the practitioner performs planned procedures, the evidence obtained may cause the practitioner to change the nature, timing, or extent of other planned procedures. Information that differs significantly from the information on which the risk assessments and planned procedures were based may come to the practitioner’s attention, for example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extent of the misstatements that the practitioner detects is greater than expected. (This may alter the practitioner’s professional judgment about the reliability of particular sources of information.) • the practitioner may become aware of discrepancies in relevant information or conflicting or missing evidence. • procedures performed toward the end of the engagement may indicate a previously unrecognized risk of material misstatement. In such circumstances, the practitioner may need to reevaluate the planned procedures. <p>(Ref: par. 2.54 2.59b)</p> <p>2.A71 2.A69 The practitioner’s professional judgment regarding what constitutes sufficient appropriate evidence is influenced by such factors as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significance of a potential misstatement and the likelihood that it will have a material effect, individually or aggregated with other potential misstatements, on the subject matter • The effectiveness of the responsible party’s responses to address the

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material									
<p>Preparing the Report 2.582.60 2.55 The report should be in writing. (Ref: par. 2.A70 2.A71 2.A72–2.A73)</p>	<p>known risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The experience gained during previous examination or review engagements with respect to similar potential misstatements • The results of procedures performed, including whether such procedures identified specific misstatements • The source and reliability of the available information • The persuasiveness of the evidence • The practitioner’s understanding of the responsible party and its environment <p>(Ref: par. 2.54 2.59a)</p> <p>Preparing the Report 2.A72 2.A70 Oral and other forms of expressing an opinion can be misunderstood without the support of a written report. For this reason, the practitioner may not report orally or by use of symbols (such as a web seal) under the attestation standards without also providing a written report that is readily available whenever the oral report is provided or the symbol is used. For example, a symbol could be hyperlinked to a written examination report on the Internet. (Ref: par. 2.55 2.60)</p> <p>2.A73 2.A71 This chapter does not require a standardized format for reporting on all examination engagements. Instead it identifies the basic elements that the examination report is to include. Examination reports are tailored to the specific engagement circumstances. The practitioner may use headings, separate paragraphs, paragraph numbers, typographical devices (for example, the bolding of text), and other mechanisms to enhance the clarity and readability of the examination report. (Ref: par. 2.55 2.60)</p>									
<p>2.592.61 2.56 If the practitioner is reporting on the assertion, the assertion should be bound with or accompany the practitioner’s report, or the assertion should be clearly stated in the practitioner’s report. (Ref: par. 2.A72 2.A74)</p>	<p>2.A74 2.A72 All of the following reporting options are available to a practitioner, except when the circumstances described in paragraph 2.74 2.80 exist:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><i>The report may state that the practitioner examined</i></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">and</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"><i>expresses an opinion on</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">the subject matter</td> <td></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">the subject matter</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">the responsible party’s assertion</td> <td></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">the responsible party’s assertion</td> </tr> </table>	<i>The report may state that the practitioner examined</i>	and	<i>expresses an opinion on</i>	the subject matter		the subject matter	the responsible party’s assertion		the responsible party’s assertion
<i>The report may state that the practitioner examined</i>	and	<i>expresses an opinion on</i>								
the subject matter		the subject matter								
the responsible party’s assertion		the responsible party’s assertion								

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">the responsible party's assertion</td> <td style="width: 50%;">the subject matter</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">(Ref: par. 2.562.61)</p>	the responsible party's assertion	the subject matter
the responsible party's assertion	the subject matter		
<p>Report Content 2.602.62 2.571The practitioner's examination report should include the following, unless the practitioner is disclaiming an opinion, in which case items 2.57e(ii), 2.572.62f(i)–(iii), and 2.572.62g should be omitted:</p> <p>a. A title that includes the word independent (Ref: par. 2.A732.A75)</p> <p>b. An appropriate addressee as required by the circumstances of the engagement</p> <p>c. An identification or description of the subject matter or assertion being reported on, including the point in time or period of time to which the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter or assertion relates</p>	<p>Report Content 2.A75 2.A73-A title indicating that the examination report is the report of an independent practitioner (for example, "Independent Practitioner's Report," "Report of Independent Certified Public Accountant," or "Independent Accountant's Report") affirms that the practitioner has met all of the relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and, therefore, distinguishes the independent practitioner's report from reports issued by others. (Ref: par. 2.572.62a)</p>		
<p>d. An identification of the criteria against which the subject matter was measured or evaluated (Ref: par. 2.A742.A76)</p>	<p>2.A76 2.A74The examination report may include the criteria or refer to them if they are included in the subject matter presentation, in the assertion, or are otherwise readily available. It may be relevant in the circumstances, to disclose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the source of the criteria. • the measurement or evaluation methods used when the criteria allow for choice between a number of methods. • any significant interpretations made in applying the criteria in the engagement circumstances. • whether there have been any changes in the measurement or evaluation methods used. <p>(Ref: par. 2.572.62d)</p>		
<p>e. A statement that <u>identifies</u></p> <p>i. identifies the responsible party and its responsibilities, including that the responsible party is responsible for the subject matter based on the criteria or is responsible for its assertion, and 2.A75–2.A762.A77-2.A78</p> <p>ii. the practitioner's responsibility is to express an opinion on the subject matter or assertion (Ref: par. 2.A752.A77)</p>	<p>2.A77 2.A75Identifying relative responsibilities informs the intended users that the responsible party is responsible for the subject matter, and the practitioner's role is to independently express an opinion about it. (Ref: par. 2.622.57e)</p> <p>2.A78 2.A76The practitioner may wish to expand the discussion of the responsible party's responsibility, for example, to indicate that the responsible</p>		

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	party is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the subject matter in accordance-conformity with the criteria, including the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent or detect and correct misstatement of the subject matter, due to fraud or error. (Ref: par. 2.57 2.62e[i])
<p><i>f</i> A statement that</p> <p>i. the examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants</p> <p>ii. those standards require that the practitioner plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether</p> <p>(1) the subject matter is free from material misstatement based on the identified criteria (or <u>equivalent</u> language regarding the subject matter and criteria, such as the language used in the examples that enables the practitioner to use the alternatives in paragraph 2.A792.A77 (Ref: par. 2.80); or</p> <p>(2) the responsible party's management's assertion is free from material misstatement</p> <p>iii. the practitioner believes the evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for the practitioner's opinion</p> <p>iv. describes significant inherent limitations, if any, associated with the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter against the criteria (Ref: par. 2.A78). Item f(iv) was moved to become separate item (h)</p>	<p>2.A79 2.A77The language in paragraph 2.572.62f(ii) may need to be tailoredmodified to reflect the nature of the subject matter and criteria for the engagement. Examples of language that meet the requirements in paragraph 2.62f(ii) include, "to obtain reasonable assurance about whether</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the entity maintained effective internal control over the subject matter, based on the criteria." • the subject matter is presented in accordanceconformity with the criteria." • the subject matter achieves the objectives <u>(when the objectives are the criteria)</u>. <p>(Ref: par. 2.572.62f[ii]<u>1</u>)</p> <p>2.A78 An example of an examination report and the inherent limitations it identifies is an examination report on a forecast under chapter 5, "Financial Forecasts," indicating that there will usually be differences between the forecasted and actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected, and those differences may be material. (Ref: par. 2.57f[iv])</p>
<p><i>g.</i> A description of the nature of an examination engagement (Ref: par. 2.A79 2.A802.A80-2.A81)</p>	<p>2.A80 2.A79 A description of the nature of an examination engagement may state, for example, that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the subject matter is presented in conformity with the criteria and that the nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on the practitioner's judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the subject matter, whether due to fraud or error.

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an examination also involves examining on a test basis evidence about the subject matter or assertion. • in making an assessment of the risks of material misstatement, the practitioner considered and obtained an understanding of internal control relevant to the subject matter in order to design examination procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. Accordingly no such opinion is expressed. <p>(Ref: par. 2.572.62g)</p> <p>2.A81 2.A80The practitioner may decide to more fully describe the practitioner’s responsibility, for example, to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perform procedures to obtain evidence based on the practitioner’s assessment of the risk of material misstatement about whether the subject matter is presented in accordance-conformity with the criteria. • obtain an understanding of internal control over the subject matter <p>(Ref: par. 2.572.62g)</p>
<p>h. (iv)<u>A statement that</u> describes significant inherent limitations, if any, associated with the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter against the criteria (Ref: par. 2.A782.A82)</p>	<p>2.A82 2.A78<u>In some cases identification of specific inherent limitations is required by a chapter of the attestation standards. For An</u> example of an examination report and the inherent limitations it identifies is an examination report on a forecast under chapter 5, “<u>Prospective Financial InformationForecasts and Projections</u>,” indicatesing that “there will usually be differences between the forecasted and actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected, and those differences may be material.” <u>When not explicitly required by a chapter of the attestation standards, identification in the practitioner’s report of inherent limitations is based on the practitioner’s judgment.</u> (Ref: par. 2.62h2.57(iv))</p>
<p>ih. The practitioner’s opinion about whether</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the subject matter is free from material misstatement, in all material respects, based on (or in accordance-conformity with) the identified criteria; (Ref: par.2.A85) or ii. the assertion is fairly stated, in all material respects (Ref: par. 2.A81 	<p>2.A83 2.A81The practitioner’s opinion can be worded either in terms of the subject matter and the criteria (for example, “In our opinion, the schedule referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX, based on the ABC</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements

~~2.A84~~2.A83-2.A86)

Application and Other Explanatory Material

criteria set forth in Note 1”) or in terms of an assertion made by the responsible party (for example, “In our opinion, XYZ Company’s assertion that the accompanying schedule of investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX presents the investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX, based on the ABC criteria set forth in Note 1, is fairly stated in all material respects.”). (Ref: par. ~~2.572.62i~~)

2.A84 ~~2.A82~~The language of the practitioner’s opinion in paragraph 2.62*h*(i) may need to be tailored to reflect the nature of the subject matter and criteria for the engagement. Examples of language that meet the requirements in paragraph 2.62*h*(i) include the following:

- The entity maintained effective internal control over the subject matter, in all material respects, based on the criteria.
- The subject matter is presented in accordance with the criteria, in all material respects.
- The subject matter achieved the objectives in all material respects (when the objectives are the criteria).
- The subject matter is free from material misstatement, in all material respects, based on the criteria.

(Ref: par. ~~2.572.62i~~[i])

2.A85 ~~2.A83~~A single report may cover more than one aspect of a subject matter or an assertion about the subject matter. When that is the case, the practitioner’s report may contain separate opinions or conclusions on each aspect of the subject matter or assertion (for example, examination level related to some aspects or assertions and review level related to others or an unmodified opinion on some aspects or assertions and a modified opinion on others). (Ref: par. ~~2.572.62i~~)

2.A86 ~~2.A84~~A practitioner may report on subject matter or an assertion at multiple dates or covering multiple periods during which criteria have changed (for example, a report on comparative information). Criteria are clearly described when they identify the criteria for each period and how the criteria have changed from one period to the next. If the criteria for the current date or

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
	<p>period have changed from the criteria for a preceding date or period, changes in the criteria may be significant to users of the report. If so, the criteria and the fact that they have changed may be disclosed in the presentation of the subject matter, in the written assertion, or in the practitioner's report, even if the subject matter for the preceding date or period is not presented. (Ref: par. 2.572.62i)</p>
<p>i. The manual or printed signature of the practitioner's firm</p> <p>kj. The city and state where the practitioner practices (Ref: par. 2.A852.A87)</p> <p>lk. The date of the report (The report should be dated no earlier than the date on which the practitioner has obtained sufficient appropriate evidence on which to base the practitioner's opinion, including that the responsible party has provided a written assertion.) (Ref: par. 2.A86–2.A88–2.A89)</p>	<p>2.A87 2.A85In the United States, the location of the issuing office is the city and state. In another country, it may be the city and country. (Ref: par. 2.572.62kj)</p> <p>2.A88 2.A86 Including the date of the examination report informs the intended users that the practitioner has considered the effect on the subject matter and on the examination report of events that occurred up to that date. (Ref: par. 2.572.62lk)</p> <p>2.A89 2.A87 Because the practitioner's expresses an opinion is with respect to on the subject matter or assertion and the subject matter or assertion is the responsibility of the responsible party, the practitioner is not in a position to conclude that sufficient appropriate evidence has been obtained until evidence is obtained that all of the elements that the subject matter or assertion comprises, including any related notes, when applicable, have been prepared, and the responsible party has accepted responsibility for them. (Ref: par. 2.572.62lk)</p>
<p><i>Restricted-Use Paragraphs</i></p> <p>2.612.63 2.58In the following circumstances, the practitioner's report should include an alert in a separate paragraph; that restricts the use of the report:</p> <p>a. The practitioner determines that the criteria used to evaluate the subject matter are appropriate only for a limited number of parties who either participated in their establishment or can be presumed to have an adequate understanding of the criteria.</p> <p>b. The criteria used to evaluate the subject matter are available only to specified parties.</p>	<p><i>Restricted-Use Paragraphs</i></p> <p>2.A90 2.A88Reports on examination engagements for which the conditions in paragraphs 2.632.58a-e do not apply need not include an alert that restricts their use. However, nothing in the attestation standards precludes a practitioner from including such an alert in any examination report or other practitioner's written communication. (Ref:; par. 2.632.58a-e)</p> <p>2.A91 2.A89A practitioner's report that is required by paragraphs 2.582.63 to include an alert that restricts the use of the report may be included in a document that also contains a practitioner's report that is for general use. In such circumstances, the use of the general use report is not affected. (Ref: par. 2.582.63)</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements

Application and Other Explanatory Material

c. The ~~engaging party is not the~~ responsible party ~~is not the engaging party,~~ and the responsible party does not provide ~~the~~ written representations ~~required by paragraph 2.50, but does provide~~ the oral ~~responses to the practitioner's inquiries about the matters in paragraph 2.50, as provided for in paragraph 2.56a.~~

(Ref: par. 2.A90–2.A92)

~~2.622.64~~ ~~2.58~~The alert should

- a. state that the report is intended solely for the information and use of the specified parties,
- b. identify the specified parties for whom use is intended, and (Ref: par. 2.A93)
- c. state that the practitioner's report is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified parties (Ref: par. 2.A94–2.A96)

2.A92 ~~2.A90~~A practitioner may also issue a single combined report that includes (a) reports that are required by paragraph ~~2.58~~2.63 to include an alert that restricts their use and (b) reports that are for general use. If these two types of reports are clearly differentiated within the combined report, such as through the use of appropriate headers, the alert that restricts the use of the practitioner's report may be limited to the report required by paragraph ~~2.58~~2.63 to include such an alert. In such circumstances, the use of the general use report is not affected. (Ref: par. ~~2.58~~ 2.63)

2.A93 ~~2.A93~~The practitioner may identify the specified parties by naming them, referring to a list of those parties, or identifying the class of parties, for example, "all customers of XYZ Company during some or all of the period January 1, 20XX to December 31, 20XX." The method of identifying the specified parties is determined by the practitioner. (Ref: par. 2.64~~b~~~~2.58~~)

2.A94 ~~2.A91~~In some cases the criteria used to measure or evaluate the subject matter may be designed for a specific purpose. For example, a regulator may require certain entities to use particular criteria designed for regulatory purposes. To avoid misunderstandings, the practitioner alerts ~~users~~ ~~readers~~ of the report to this fact and that, therefore, the report is intended solely for the information and use of the specified parties. (Ref: par. 2.64~~c~~~~2.58~~)

2.A95 ~~2.A92~~ The alert that restricts the use of the practitioner's written report is designed to avoid misunderstandings related to the use of the practitioner's written report, particularly if the practitioner's written report is taken out of the context in which the practitioner's written report is intended to be used. A practitioner may consider informing the responsible party and, if different, the engaging party or other specified parties that the practitioner's written report is not intended for distribution to parties other than those specified in the practitioner's written report. The practitioner may, in connection with establishing the terms of the engagement, reach an understanding with the responsible party or, if different, the engaging party that the intended use of the practitioner's written report will be restricted and

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>2.642.65 2.58 When the engagement is also performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards, the alert that restricts the use of the report should include the following information rather than the information required by paragraph 2.642.58d-e</p> <p>ad. A description of the purpose of the practitioner’s report and</p> <p>be. A statement that the practitioner’s report is not suitable for any other purpose.</p> <p>(Ref: par. 2.A89-2.A93)</p>	<p>may obtain the responsible party’s agreement that the responsible party and specified parties will not distribute such practitioner’s report to parties other than those identified therein. A practitioner is not responsible for controlling, and cannot control, distribution of the practitioner’s report after its release. (Ref: par. 2.642.58c)</p> <p>2.A972.A96 For some governmental entities, law or regulation may prohibit the practitioner from limiting the distribution of the practitioner’s report. (Ref: par. 2.64c)</p>
<p>Reference to the Practitioner’s Specialist</p> <p>2.652.66 2.59 The practitioner should not refer to the work of a practitioner’s specialist in the practitioner’s examination report containing an unmodified opinion. (Ref: par. 2.A942.A97)</p>	<p>Reference to the Practitioner’s Specialist</p> <p>2.A982.A97 2.A94 The practitioner has sole responsibility for the opinion expressed, and that responsibility is not reduced by the practitioner’s use of the work of a practitioner’s specialist. (Ref: par. 2.66)</p>
<p>Modified Opinions</p> <p>2.662.67 2.60 The practitioner should modify the opinion when either of the following circumstances exist and, in the practitioner’s professional judgment, the effect of the matter is or may be material:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The practitioner is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to conclude that the subject matter is free from material misstatement. b. The practitioner concludes, based on evidence obtained, that the subject matter is not free from material misstatement. 	<p>Modified Opinions</p> <p>2.A992.A98 2.A95 The three types of modified opinions are: a qualified opinion, an adverse opinion, and a disclaimer of opinion. The decision regarding which type of modified opinion is appropriate depends upon the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The nature of the matter giving rise to the modification (that is, whether the subject matter of the engagement is materially misstated or, in the case of an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>(Ref: par. 2.A95-2.A962.A98–2.A99)</p> <p>2.672.68 2.61 When the practitioner modifies the opinion, the practitioner should include a separate paragraph in the practitioner’s report that provides a description of the matter(s) giving rise to the modification.</p>	<p>evidence, may be materially misstated)</p> <p>b. The practitioner’s professional judgment about the pervasiveness of the effects or possible effects of the matter on the subject matter of the engagement</p> <p>(Ref: par. 2.672.60)</p> <p>2.A1002.A99 2.A96A practitioner may issue Aan unmodified opinion may only occur when the engagement has been conducted in accordance with the attestation standards. Such standards will not have been complied with if the practitioner has been unable to apply all the procedures that the practitioner considers necessary in the circumstances. (Ref: par. 2.672.60a)</p>
<p>2.682.69 2.62The practitioner should express a qualified opinion when</p> <p>a. the practitioner, having obtained sufficient appropriate evidence, concludes that misstatements, individually or in the aggregate, are material, but not pervasive to the subject matter or</p> <p>b. the practitioner is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence on which to base the opinion, but the practitioner concludes that the possible effects on the subject matter of undetected misstatements, if any, could be material but not pervasive.</p> <p>(Ref: par. 2.A100–2.A1042.A97-2.A98)</p>	<p>2.A1012.A100 2.A97 The term <i>pervasive</i> describes the effects on the subject matter of misstatements or the possible effects on the subject matter of misstatements, if any, that are undetected due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence. Pervasive effects on the subject matter are those that, in the practitioner’s professional judgment</p> <p>a. are not confined to specific aspects of the subject matter;</p> <p>b. if so confined, represent or could represent a substantial proportion of the subject matter; or</p> <p>c. in relation to disclosures, are fundamental to the intended users’ understanding of the subject matter.</p> <p>(Ref: par. 2.692.62)</p> <p>2.A1022.A101 2.A98The following table illustrates how the practitioner’s professional judgment about the nature of the matter giving rise to the modification and the pervasiveness of its effects or possible effects on the subject matter affects the type of report to be issued.</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Nature of Matter Giving Rise to the Modification	Practitioner’s Professional Judgment About the Pervasiveness of the Effects or Possible Effects on the Subject Matter	
	<i>Material but Not Pervasive</i>	<i>Material and Pervasive</i>
Scope limitation. An inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence.	Qualified opinion	Disclaimer of opinion
Subject matter is materially misstated.	Qualified opinion	Adverse opinion

(Ref: par. 2.69~~2~~.62)

- ~~2.A103~~2.A102 ~~2.A100~~ A scope limitation may arise from the following:
- a. Circumstances beyond the control of the appropriate party(ies). For example, documentation that the practitioner considers necessary to inspect may have been accidentally destroyed.
 - b. Circumstances relating to the nature or timing of the practitioner’s work. For example, a physical process that the practitioner considers necessary to observe may have occurred before the practitioner’s engagement.
 - c. Limitations imposed by the responsible party or the engaging party on the practitioner that, for example, may prevent the practitioner from performing a procedure that the practitioner considers necessary in the circumstances. Limitations of this kind may have other implications for the engagement, such as for the practitioner’s consideration of risks of material misstatement and engagement acceptance and continuance.

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>2.69<u>2.70</u> 2.63 When the practitioner expresses a qualified opinion due to a material misstatement of the subject matter, the practitioner should state that, in the practitioner’s opinion, except for the effects of the matter(s) giving rise to the modification, the subject matter is presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable criteria. When the modification arises from an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence, the practitioner should use the corresponding phrase "except for the possible effects of the matter(s) ..." for the modified opinion.</p> <p>2.70<u>2.71</u> 2.64 The practitioner should express an adverse opinion when the practitioner, having obtained sufficient appropriate evidence, concludes that misstatements, individually or in the aggregate, are both material and pervasive to the subject matter.</p> <p>2.71<u>2.72</u> 2.65 When the practitioner expresses an adverse opinion, the practitioner should state that, in the practitioner’s opinion, because of the significance of the matter(s) giving rise to the modification, the subject matter is not presented fairly in accordance with the applicable criteria.</p> <p>2.72<u>2.73</u> 2.66 The practitioner should disclaim an opinion when the practitioner is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence on which to base the opinion, and the practitioner concludes that the possible effects on the subject matter of undetected misstatements, if any, could be both material and pervasive. (Ref: par. <u>2.A104</u>)</p>	<p>(Ref: par. 2.692.71)</p> <p>The order of old pars. 2.A100 and 2.A101 has been reversed.</p> <p>2.A104<u>2.A103</u> 2.A99 The inability to obtain written representations from the responsible party ordinarily would result in a scope limitation. However, when the engaging party is not the responsible party is not the engaging party, paragraph 2.56a enables the practitioner to make inquiries of the responsible party and if the responsible party’s oral responses enable the practitioner to conclude that the practitioner has sufficient appropriate evidence to form an opinion about the subject matter, paragraph 2.56a indicates this would not cause a scope limitation. Further, paragraph 2.56a requires that the examination report in these circumstances contain an alert paragraph that restricts the use of the report to the engaging party. (Ref: par. 2.692.71).</p> <p>2.A105<u>2.A104</u> 2.A101 The practitioner’s decision to provide a qualified opinion, disclaim an opinion, or withdraw from the engagement because of a scope limitation depends on an assessment of the effect of the omitted procedure(s) on the practitioner’s ability to express an opinion. This assessment will be affected by the nature and magnitude of the potential effects of the matters in question, and by their significance to the subject matter or assertion. If the effects or potential effects are material but not pervasive to the subject matter or assertion, a qualified opinion is appropriate. (Ref: par. 2.69 2.62 and 2.73 2.66)</p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements

Application and Other Explanatory Material

~~2.732.74~~ ~~2.67~~ When the practitioner disclaims an opinion due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence, the practitioner's report should state that

- a. because of the significance of the matter(s) giving rise to the modification, the practitioner has not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to provide a basis for an examination opinion and
- b. accordingly, the practitioner does not express an opinion on the subject matter.

~~2.68 The practitioner's decision to provide a qualified opinion, to disclaim an opinion, or to withdraw because of a scope limitation in an examination engagement depends on an assessment of the effect of the omitted procedure(s) on his or her ability to express assurance. This assessment will be affected by the nature and magnitude of the potential effects of the matters in question, and by their significance to the subject matter or the assertion. If the potential effects are pervasive to the subject matter or the assertion, a disclaimer or withdrawal is more likely to be appropriate. When restrictions that significantly limit the scope of the engagement are imposed by the client or the responsible party, the practitioner generally should disclaim an opinion or withdraw from the engagement.~~

Description of the Practitioner's Responsibility When the Practitioner Expresses a Qualified or an Adverse Opinion

~~2.742.75~~ ~~2.69~~ When the practitioner expresses a qualified or an adverse opinion, the practitioner should amend the description of the practitioner's responsibility to state that the practitioner believes that the evidence the practitioner has obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the practitioner's modified examination opinion.

Description of the Practitioner's Responsibility When the Practitioner Disclaims an Opinion

~~2.752.76~~ ~~2.70~~ When the practitioner disclaims an opinion due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence, the practitioner should amend the practitioner's report to state that the practitioner was engaged to examine the

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>subject matter [or assertion]. The practitioner should also amend the description of the practitioner’s responsibility and the description of an examination to state only the following: "Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the subject matter [or assertion] based on conducting the examination in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Because of the limitation on the scope of our examination discussed in the preceding paragraph, the scope of our work was not sufficient to enable us to express, and we do not express, an opinion on whether the subject matter [or assertion] referred to above is presented fairly, in all material respects, based on the criteria."</p>	
<p>2.76<u>2.77</u> 2.71 If the scope limitation arises because the responsible party does not provide the practitioner with a written assertion as required by paragraph 2.10, the practitioner should withdraw from the engagement when withdrawal is possible under applicable laws and regulations. (Ref: par. 2.A102.A105)</p>	<p>2.A106<u>2.A105</u> 2.A102 An inability to perform a specific procedure does not constitute a scope limitation if the practitioner is able to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence by performing alternative procedures. (Ref: par. 2.77 <u>2.78</u> 2.71)</p>
<p>2.77<u>2.78</u> 2.72 If law or regulation does not allow the practitioner to withdraw from the engagement, the practitioner should disclaim an opinion. (Ref: par. 2.77)</p>	
<p>2.78<u>2.79</u> 2.73 If the practitioner expresses a modified opinion because of a scope limitation but is also aware of a matter(s) that causes the subject matter to be materially misstated, the practitioner should include in the report a clear description of both the scope limitation and the matter(s) that causes the subject matter to be materially misstated.</p>	
<p>2.79<u>2.80</u> 2.74 If <u>the practitioner has concluded</u> conditions exist that, individually or in combination, result in one or more material misstatements or deviations from the criteria, the practitioner should modify the report and should express a qualified or adverse opinion directly on the subject matter, not on the assertion, even when the assertion acknowledges the misstatement.</p>	
<p>2.80<u>2.81</u> 2.75 The practitioner’s opinion on the subject matter or assertion should be clearly separated from any paragraphs emphasizing matters related to the subject matter or any other reporting responsibilities.</p>	

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>2.81<u>2.82</u> 2.76 When the examination report is modified, reference to an external specialist is permitted when such reference is relevant to an understanding of the modification to the practitioner’s opinion. The practitioner should indicate in the practitioner’s report that such reference does not reduce the practitioner’s responsibility for that opinion.</p>	
<p>Communication Responsibilities</p> <p>2.82<u>2.83</u> 2.77The practitioner should communicate to the responsible party fraud, suspected fraud, <u>noncompliance with laws or regulations, uncorrected misstatements, illegal acts (including illegal acts that are not relevant to the subject matter)</u> and internal control deficiencies <u>relevant to the subject matter</u> identified during the engagement. When the engaging party is not the responsible party, the practitioner should also communicate this information to the engaging party. (Ref: par. 2.A103 2.A106)</p> <p><u>2.84</u> If the practitioner has identified or suspects noncompliance with laws and regulations that are not relevant to the subject matter, the practitioner should determine whether the practitioner has a responsibility to report the identified or suspected noncompliance to parties outside the entity, other than the engaging party that is not the responsible party. (Ref: par. 2.A107–2.A108)</p>	<p>Communication Responsibilities</p> <p>2.A103 When the engaging party is not the responsible party, the practitioner need not report to the responsible party the matters identified in paragraph 2.A107 if those matters relate only to the engaging party. (Ref: par. 2.78)</p> <p>2.A107<u>2.A106</u> 2.A104Other matters that may be appropriate to communicate to the responsible party or, if different, the engaging party, include uncorrected errors or bias in the measurement, evaluation, or disclosure of the subject matter. (Ref: par. 2.832.77)</p> <p><u>2.A107</u> The practitioner’s professional duty to maintain the confidentiality of client information may preclude the practitioner from reporting identified or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations to a party outside the entity, with the exception of an engaging party that is not the responsible party. However, the practitioner’s legal responsibilities vary by jurisdiction, and in certain circumstances, the duty of confidentiality may be overridden by statute, the law, or courts of law. In the following circumstances, a duty to notify parties outside the entity may exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>In response to a court order</u> • <u>In compliance with requirements for examinations of entities that receive financial assistance from a government agency</u> <p><u>Because potential conflicts with the practitioner’s ethical and legal obligations for confidentiality may be complex, the practitioner may consult with legal counsel before discussing noncompliance with parties outside the entity. (Ref: par. 2.84)</u></p>

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>Documentation 2.84<u>2.85</u> 2.78 The practitioner should prepare engagement documentation that is sufficient to determine</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the nature, timing, and extent of the procedures performed to comply with relevant chapters of the attestation standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, including <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the identifying characteristics of the specific items or matters tested. ii. who performed the engagement work and the date such work was completed. iii. the discussions with the responsible party or others about findings or issues that, in the practitioner’s professional judgment, are significant. The documentation should include the nature of the significant findings or issues discussed, and when and with whom the discussions took place. iv. when the engaging party is the responsible party and the responsible party will not provide one or more of the requested written representations or the practitioner concludes that there is sufficient doubt about the competence, integrity, ethical values, or diligence of those providing the written representations; or that the written representations are otherwise not reliable, the matters in paragraph 2.50<u>2.55</u><i>a-c</i> v. when the engaging party is not the responsible party and the responsible party will not provide the written representations regarding the matters in paragraph 2.45<u>2.50</u>, the oral responses from the responsible party to the practitioner’s inquiries regarding the matters in paragraph 2.45<u>2.50</u>, in accordance with paragraph 2.46<u>2.51</u>. 	<p>Documentation 2.A108<u>2.A109</u> 2.A105 Documentation includes a record of the practitioner’s reasoning on all significant findings or issues that require the exercise of professional judgment and related conclusions. The existence of difficult questions of principle or professional judgment calls for the documentation to include the relevant facts that were known by the practitioner at the time the conclusion was reached. (Ref: par.2.85 2.78)</p> <p>2.A109<u>2.A110</u> 2.A106 It is neither necessary nor practical to document every matter considered, or professional judgment made, during an engagement. Further, it is unnecessary for the practitioner to document separately (as in a checklist, for example) compliance with matters for which compliance is demonstrated by documents included in the engagement file. Similarly, the practitioner need not include in the engagement file superseded drafts of working papers, notes that reflect incomplete or preliminary thinking, previous copies of documents corrected for typographical or other errors, and duplicates of documents. (Ref: par. 2.85 2.78)</p> <p>2.A110<u>2.A111</u> 2.A107 In applying professional judgment to assess the extent of documentation to be prepared and retained, the practitioner may consider what is necessary to provide an experienced practitioner, having no previous connection with the engagement, with an understanding of the work performed and the basis of the principal decisions made. (Ref: par. 2.85 2.78)</p> <p>2.A111<u>2.A112</u> 2.A108 Documentation ordinarily includes a record of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issues identified with respect to compliance with relevant ethical requirements and how they were resolved.

Chapter 2—Examination Engagements

Requirements	Application and Other Explanatory Material
<p>vi. who reviewed the engagement work performed and the date and extent of such review.</p> <p>b. the results of the procedures performed and the evidence obtained.</p> <p>(Ref: par. 2.A109–2.A112–2.A105–2.108)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conclusions on compliance with independence requirements that apply to the engagement and any relevant discussions with the firm that support these conclusions. • conclusions reached regarding the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and attestation engagements. • the nature and scope of, and conclusions resulting from, consultations undertaken during the course of the engagement. <p>(Ref: par. 2.85–2.78)</p>
<p>2.85<u>2.86</u> 2.79 If the practitioner identified information that is inconsistent with the practitioner’s final conclusion regarding a significant finding or issue, the practitioner should document how the practitioner addressed the inconsistency.</p>	
<p>2.86<u>2.87</u> 2.80 If, in circumstances such as those described in paragraph 2.442.49, the practitioner performs new or additional procedures or draws new conclusions after the date of the practitioner’s report, the practitioner should document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the circumstances encountered; b. the new or additional procedures performed, evidence obtained, and conclusions reached and their effect on the practitioner’s report; and c. when and by whom the resulting changes to the documentation were made and reviewed. 	

~~2.A112~~2.A113 ~~2.A109~~

Exhibit—Illustrative Examination Reports

The illustrative examination reports in this exhibit meet the applicable reporting requirements in paragraphs ~~2.55–2.76~~2.60–2.82. A practitioner may use alternative language in drafting an examination report, provided that the language meets the applicable requirements in paragraphs ~~2.55–2.76~~2.60–2.82. The criteria for evaluating the subject matter in examples 1–3 and 5–6 have been determined by the practitioner to be suitable and available to all report users; therefore, these reports may be for general use. The criteria for evaluating the subject matter in example 4 are suitable but available only to specified parties; therefore, use of this report is restricted to the specified parties who either participated in the establishment of the criteria or can be presumed to have an adequate understanding of the criteria. (See paragraph ~~2.58~~2.63 for the information to be included in a separate report paragraph that contains an alert that restricts the use of the report and paragraph 2.65 for the contents of that paragraph when the engagement is also performed in accordance with government auditing standards.)

Example 1—Examination Report on Subject Matter; Unmodified Opinion

The following is an illustrative report for an examination engagement in which the practitioner has examined the subject matter and is reporting on the subject matter.

Independent Accountant's Report

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have examined *[identify the subject matter, for example, the accompanying schedule of investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX]*. XYZ Company's management is responsible for *[identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns]*, based on *[identify the criteria, for example, the ABC criteria set forth in Note 1]*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on *[identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns]* based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether *[identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns]* is free from material misstatement based on the identified criteria. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about *[identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns]*. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of *[identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns]*, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

[Include a description of significant inherent limitations, if any, associated with the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter against the criteria.]

[Additional paragraph(s) may be added to emphasize certain matters relating to the attestation engagement or the subject matter.]

In our opinion, ~~the schedule referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects,~~ *[identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX]*, is presented fairly, in all material respects, based on *[identify the criteria, for example, the ABC criteria set forth in Note 1]*.

[Practitioner's signature]

[Practitioner's city and state]

[Date of practitioner's report]

Example 2—Examination Report on an Assertion; Unmodified Opinion

The following is an illustrative report for an examination engagement in which the practitioner has examined the responsible party's assertion and is reporting on that assertion.

Independent Accountant's Report

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have examined management's assertion that *[identify the assertion, which includes the subject matter and the criteria, for example, the accompanying schedule of investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX, ~~is presented~~ ~~the investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX,~~ based on the ABC criteria set forth in Note 1]*. XYZ Company's management is responsible for its assertion. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assertion based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether management's assertion is free from material misstatement. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about management's assertion. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of management's assertion, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

[Include a description of significant inherent limitations, if any, associated with the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter against the criteria.]

[Additional paragraph(s) may be added to emphasize certain matters relating to the attestation engagement or the subject matter.]

In our opinion, management's assertion that *[identify the assertion, which includes the subject matter and the criteria, for example, the accompanying schedule of investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX, presents the investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX, based on the ABC criteria set forth in Note 1]* is fairly stated, in all material respects.

[Practitioner's signature]

[Practitioner's city and state]

[Date of practitioner's report]

Example 3—Examination Report in Which the Practitioner Examines Management's Assertion and Reports Directly on the Subject Matter; Unmodified Opinion

The following is an illustrative report for an examination engagement in which the practitioner has examined the responsible party's assertion and is reporting directly on the subject matter.

Independent Accountant's Report

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have examined management's assertion that *[identify the assertion, which includes the subject matter and the criteria, for example, the accompanying schedule of investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX, ~~is presented~~ ~~the investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX,~~ based on the ABC criteria set forth in Note 1]*. XYZ Company's management is responsible for its assertion. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the *[identify the subject matter, for example, the accompanying schedule of investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX].management's assertion* based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether [*identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns*] is free from material misstatement based on the identified criteria. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about [*identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns*]. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement [*identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns*], whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

[*Include a description of significant inherent limitations, if any, associated with the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter against the criteria.*]

[*Additional paragraph(s) may be added to emphasize certain matters relating to the attestation engagement or the subject matter.*]

In our opinion, the schedule referred to above presents, fairly, in all material respects, [*identify the subject matter, for example, the investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX*], based on [*identify the criteria, for example, the ABC criteria set forth in Note 1*].

[*Practitioner's signature*]

[*Practitioner's city and state*]

[*Date of practitioner's report*]

Example 4—Examination Report on Subject Matter; Unmodified Opinion; Use of Report Is Restricted to Specified Parties

The following This is an illustrative examination report for an examination engagement in which the criteria are suitable but available only to specified parties; therefore, use of the report is restricted to the specified parties who either participated in the establishment of the criteria or can be presumed to have an adequate understanding of the criteria. (See paragraph 2.64 for the information to be included in a separate report paragraph that contains an alert that restricts the use of the report and paragraph 2.65 for the contents of such a -paragraph when the engagement is also performed in accordance with government auditing standards.) The practitioner has examined the subject matter and is reporting on the subject matter.

Independent Accountant's Report

[*Appropriate Addressee*]

We have examined [*identify the subject matter, for example, the number of widgets sold by XYZ Company (or tons of coal mined by XYZ Company... or gallons of gas sold in the United States by XYZ Company to ABC Company) during the year ended December 31, 20XX.*] to determine whether it has been calculated in accordance with [*identify the criteria, for example, the agreement dated (date) between ABC Company and XYZ Company, as further described in Note 1*]. XYZ Company's management is responsible for [*identify the subject matter, for example, the number of widgets sold*]. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on [*identify the subject matter, for example, the number of widgets sold by XYZ Company (or tons of coal mined by XYZ Company... or gallons of gas sold in the United States by XYZ Company to ABC Company) during the year ended December 31, 20XX.*] ~~subject matter~~ based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether [*identify the subject matter, for example, the number of widgets sold, tons of coal mined, or gallons of gas sold*] is free from material misstatement, based on the identified criteria. An examination involves performing procedures

to obtain evidence about *[identify the subject matter, for example, the number of widgets sold, tons of coal mined, or gallons of gas sold]*. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of *[identify the subject matter, for example, the number of widgets sold by XYZ Company (or tons of coal mined by XYZ Company... or gallons of gas sold in the United States by XYZ Company to ABC Company)]*, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

[Include a description of significant inherent limitations, if any, associated with the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter against the criteria.]

[Additional paragraph(s) may be added to emphasize certain matters relating to the attestation engagement or the subject matter.]

In our opinion, *[identify the subject matter, for example, the number of widgets sold by XYZ Company (or tons of coal mined by XYZ Company... or gallons of gas sold in the United States by XYZ Company to ABC Company) during the year ended December 31, 20XX,]* has been calculated, in all material respects, in accordance with *[identify the criteria, for example, the agreement dated (date) between ABC Company and XYZ Company, as further described in Note 1]*.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of *[identify the specified parties, for example, ABC Company and XYZ Company]* and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified parties.

[Practitioner's signature]

[Practitioner's city and state]

[Date of practitioner's report]

Example 5—Examination Report on Subject Matter; Qualified Opinion

The following is an **illustrative report for an examination engagement in which the practitioner expresses report with** a qualified opinion because conditions exist that, individually or in combination, result in one or more material but not pervasive misstatements of the subject matter (or, in certain engagements, deviations from, exceptions to, or instances of noncompliance with) the criteria. The practitioner has examined the subject matter and is reporting on the subject matter. Paragraph 2.80 states, "If conditions exist that, individually or in combination, result in one or more material misstatements or deviations from the criteria, the practitioner should modify the report and should express a qualified or adverse opinion directly on the subject matter, not on the assertion, even when the assertion acknowledges the misstatement."

Independent Accountant's Report

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have examined *[identify the subject matter, for example, the accompanying schedule of investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX]*. XYZ Company's management is responsible for *[identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns]* based on *[identify the criteria, for example, the ABC criteria set forth in Note 1]*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the subject matter based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether *[identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns]* is free from material misstatement, based on the identified criteria. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about *[identify the*

subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns]. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of [*identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns*], whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

[*Include a description of significant inherent limitations, if any, associated with the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter against the criteria.*]

[*Additional paragraph(s) may be added to emphasize certain matters relating to the attestation engagement or the subject matter.*]

Our examination disclosed [*describe condition(s) that, individually or in the aggregate, resulted in a material misstatement, or deviation from, the criteria*].

In our opinion, except for the material misstatement [*or deviation from the criteria*] described in the preceding paragraph, the schedule referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, [*identify the subject matter, for example, the investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX*], based on [*identify the criteria, for example, the ABC criteria set forth in Note 1*].

[*Practitioner's signature*]

[*Practitioner's city and state*]

[*Date of practitioner's report*]

Example 6—Examination Report; Practitioner Engaged to Report on Subject Matter; Disclaimer of Opinion Because of Scope Limitation

The following is an illustrative examination report for an examination engagement in which the practitioner was engaged to report on the subject matter but is disclaiming an opinion because of a scope limitation. (See paragraphs 2.60-2.82 and the related application guidance for reporting guidance when a scope limitation exists.)

Independent Accountant's Report

[*Appropriate Addressee*]

We were engaged to examine [*identify the subject matter, for example, the accompanying schedule of investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX*], based on [*identify the criteria, for example, the ABC criteria set forth in Note 1*]. XYZ Company is responsible for [*identify the subject matter, for example, the schedule of investment returns*]. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on [*identify the subject matter, for example, the accompanying schedule of investment returns*] based on conducting the examination in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

[*The first sentence of the report has been revised to state, "We were engaged to examine," rather than "We have examined." The identification of the standards under which the practitioner conducts an examination have been identified at the end of the second sentence of the report rather than in a separate sentence in the second paragraph of the report. Paragraph describing the scope of the engagement is omitted.*]

[*The report should omit statements*]

- indicating what those standards require of the practitioner
- indicating that the practitioner believes the evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for the practitioner's opinion
- describing the nature of an examination engagement.

[Include paragraph to describe scope limitations.]

Because of the limitation on the scope of our examination discussed in the preceding paragraph, the scope of our work was not sufficient to enable us to express, and we do not express, an opinion on whether the schedule referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, [*identify the subject matter, for example, the investment returns of XYZ Company for the year ended December 31, 20XX*], based on [*identify the criteria, for example, the ABC criteria set forth in Note 1*].

[Practitioner's signature]

[Practitioner's city and state]

[Date of practitioner's report]