

AU Section 530

Dating of the Independent Auditor's Report

Source: SAS No. 1, section 530; SAS No. 29; SAS No. 98; SAS No. 103.

Issue date, unless otherwise indicated: November, 1972.

.01 The auditor's report should not be dated earlier than the date on which the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence¹ to support the opinion. Paragraph .05 describes the procedure to be followed when a subsequent event occurring after the date of the auditor's report is disclosed in the financial statements. [As amended, effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2006, by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 103.]

.02 The auditor has no responsibility to make any inquiry or carry out any auditing procedures for the period after the date of his report.² However, with respect to filings under the Securities Act of 1933, reference should be made to section 711.10–.13.*

Events Occurring After Completion of Field Work But Before Issuance of Report

.03 In case a subsequent event of the type requiring adjustment of the financial statements (as discussed in section 560.03) occurs after the date of the independent auditor's report but before the issuance of the related financial statements, and the event comes to the attention of the auditor, the financial statements should be adjusted or the auditor should qualify his or her opinion.³ When the adjustment is made without disclosure of the event, the report ordinarily should be dated in accordance with paragraph .01. However, if the financial statements are adjusted and disclosure of the event is made, or if no adjustment is made and the auditor qualifies his or her opinion,⁴ the procedures set forth in paragraph .05 should be followed. [As amended, effective September 2002, by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 98.]

.04 In case a subsequent event of the type requiring disclosure (as discussed in section 560.05) occurs after the date of the auditor's report but before the issuance of the related financial statements, and the event comes to the attention of the auditor, it should be disclosed in a note to the financial statements

¹ Among other things, sufficient appropriate audit evidence includes evidence that the audit documentation has been reviewed and that the entity's financial statements, including disclosures, have been prepared and that management has asserted that they have taken responsibility for them. [Footnote added, effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2006, by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 103.]

² See section 561 regarding procedures to be followed by the auditor who, subsequent to the date of his report upon audited financial statements, becomes aware that facts may have existed at that date which might have affected his report had he then been aware of such facts. [Footnote renumbered, by the issuance of Statement on Auditing Standards No. 103, December 2005.]

* Section number revised, April 1981, by the issuance of Statement on Auditing Standards No. 37.

³ In some cases, a disclaimer of opinion or an adverse opinion may be appropriate. [Footnote renumbered, by the issuance of Statement on Auditing Standards No. 103, December 2005.]

⁴ Ibid. [Footnote renumbered, by the issuance of Statement on Auditing Standards No. 103, December 2005.]

or the auditor should qualify his or her opinion.⁵ If disclosure of the event is made, either in a note or in the auditor's report, the auditor would date the report as set forth in the following paragraph. [As amended, effective September 2002, by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 98.]

.05 The independent auditor has two methods available for dating the report when a subsequent event disclosed in the financial statements occurs after the original date of the auditor's report but before the issuance of the related financial statements. The auditor may use "dual dating," for example, "February 16, 20__, except for Note __, as to which the date is March 1, 20__," or may date the report as of the later date. In the former instance, the responsibility for events occurring subsequent to the original report date is limited to the specific event referred to in the note (or otherwise disclosed). In the latter instance, the independent auditor's responsibility for subsequent events extends to the date of the report and, accordingly, the procedures outlined in section 560.12 generally should be extended to that date. [As amended, effective September 2002, by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 98. As amended, effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2006, by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 103.]

Reissuance of the Independent Auditor's Report

.06 An independent auditor may reissue his or her report on financial statements contained in annual reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission or other regulatory agencies or in a document that contains information in addition to the client's basic financial statements subsequent to the date of his or her original report on the basic financial statements. An independent auditor may also be requested by his or her client to furnish additional copies of a previously issued report. Use of the original report date in a reissued report removes any implication that records, transactions, or events after that date have been examined or reviewed. In such cases, the independent auditor has no responsibility to make further investigation or inquiry as to events which may have occurred during the period between the original report date and the date of the release of additional reports. However, see section 711* as to an auditor's responsibility when his or her report is included in a registration statement filed under the Securities Act of 1933 and see section 508.70–.73, for the predecessor auditor's responsibility when reissuing or consenting to the reuse of a report previously issued on the financial statements of a prior period. [As modified, effective December 31, 1980, by SAS No. 29. Revised, December 2010, to reflect conforming changes necessary due to the issuance of SAS Nos. 118–120.]

.07 In some cases, it may not be desirable for the independent auditor to reissue his report in the circumstances described in paragraph .06 because he has become aware of an event that occurred subsequent to the date of his original report that requires adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements. In such cases, adjustment with disclosure or disclosure alone should be made as described in section 560.08. The independent auditor should consider the effect of these matters on his opinion and he should date his report in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph .05.

⁵ Ibid. [Footnote renumbered, by the issuance of Statement on Auditing Standards No. 103, December 2005.]

* See footnote * in paragraph .02.

.08 However, if an event of the type requiring disclosure only (as discussed in section 560.05 and .08) occurs between the date of the independent auditor's original report and the date of the reissuance of such report, and if the event comes to the attention of the independent auditor, the event may be disclosed in a separate note to the financial statements captioned somewhat as follows:

Event (Unaudited) Subsequent to the Date of the
Independent Auditor's Report

Under these circumstances, the report of the independent auditor would carry the same date used in the original report.
