

Hello, my firm performs over 30 benefit plan audits. I think for the most part the proposed changes are fine. I think the results of testing performed on plan provisions might be better included in a separate report similar to an “internal controls” type report, rather than burying them within the standard audit report.

On a side note, I’ve never understood why, with respect to these audits, there isn’t a requirement to issue and/or make available the auditors’ report for the true “users” of these statements, i.e., the participants. It seems to me that we do all this work with a mindset towards protecting the interest of the participant, yet in the end we do not provide the auditors’ report to the participants. This is ridiculous. Our report and the disclosures required should be geared towards providing value to the participant who reads it; it should be meaningful and easy to understand. If we had that sort of requirement and emphasis I believe the overall procedures being performed and the end product would be more meaningful and important. Currently, the entire emphasis is simply to prepare an audit report/financial statements to be submitted with the Form 5500 and its never seen again. I believe this creates a very low value mind set among practioners. Let’s start preparing these statements for the true users of the statements –the participants.

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