



*Statement on  
Auditing Standards*

May 2019  
135

*Issued by the Auditing Standards Board*

**Omnibus Statement on Auditing Standards—2019**

*(Amendments to*

- ***Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) No. 122, Statements on Auditing Standards: Clarification and Recodification, as amended,***
  - *section 210, Terms of Engagement;*
  - *section 240, Consideration of Fraud in a Financial Statement Audit;*
  - *section 260, The Auditor’s Communication With Those Charged With Governance;*
  - *section 265, Communicating Internal Control Deficiencies Identified in an Audit;*
  - *section 315, Understanding the Entity and Its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement;*
  - *section 330, Performing Audit Procedures in Responses to Assessed Risks and Evaluating the Audit Evidence Obtained;*
  - *section 510, Opening Balances—Initial Audit Engagements, Including Reaudit Engagements;*
  - *section 550, Related Parties;*
  - *section 560, Subsequent Events and Subsequently Discovered Facts; Section 580, Written Representations;*
  - *section 600, “Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors),” and*
  - *section 930, Interim Financial Information [AICPA, Professional Standards];*
- ***SAS No. 130, An Audit of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting That Is Integrated With an Audit of Financial Statements [AICPA, Professional Standards, AU-C sec. 940]***

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## Statement on Auditing Standards *Omnibus Statement on Auditing Standards—2019*

***Boldface italic*** denotes new language. Deleted text is in ~~strike through~~.

### Amendment to SAS No. 122, Section 260

1. AU-C section 260, *The Auditor's Communication With Those Charged With Governance*, addresses the auditor's responsibility to communicate with those charged with governance in an audit of financial statements. This amendment adds material from PCAOB AS 1301 that the ASB believes will enhance the quality of audits of financial statements of non-issuers. Additional communications about the auditor's views relating to the entity's significant unusual transactions, and about the potential effects of uncorrected misstatements on future-period financial statements are required. Application material provides guidance about communicating the possible implications of uncorrected misstatements and complaints or concerns about accounting or auditing matters that have come to the auditor's attention. Additionally, application material is provided addressing documentation when management has communicated some or all of the matters the auditor is required to communicate with those charged with governance.

[No amendment to paragraphs .01–.11.]

**.12** The auditor should communicate with those charged with governance: (Ref: par. .A25–.A26)

*a.* The auditor's views about qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates, and financial statement disclosures. When applicable, the auditor should (Ref: par. .A27–.A29)

- i. explain to those charged with governance why the auditor considers a significant accounting practice that is acceptable under the applicable financial reporting framework not to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the entity.
- ii. determine that those charged with governance are informed about the process used by management in formulating particularly sensitive accounting estimates, including fair value estimates, and about the basis for the auditor's conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates.

*b.* ***Significant unusual transactions, if any.*** (Ref: par. .A30)

- ~~bc.~~ Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit. (Ref: par. ~~.A30.A31~~)
- ~~ed.~~ Disagreements with management, if any. (Ref: par. ~~.A31.A32~~)
- ~~de.~~ Circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditor's report, if any. (Ref: par. ~~.A32.A33–A33.A34~~)
- f. Matters that are difficult or contentious for which the auditor consulted outside the engagement team and that are, in the auditor's professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their responsibility to oversee the financial reporting process.*
- ~~g.~~ Other findings or issues, if any, arising during the audit that are, in the auditor's professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their responsibility to oversee the financial reporting process. (Ref: par. ~~.A34.A35–A36.A37~~)

#### *Uncorrected Misstatements*

- ~~.13~~ The auditor should communicate with those charged with governance: (Ref: par. ~~.A37–A38.A38–.A39~~)
- a.* uncorrected misstatements accumulated by the auditor and the effect that they, individually or in the aggregate, may have on the opinion in the auditor's report. The auditor's communication should identify material uncorrected misstatements individually. The auditor should request that uncorrected misstatements be corrected.
- b.* the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole.
- c. that uncorrected misstatements or matters underlying those uncorrected misstatements could potentially cause future-period financial statements to be materially misstated, even if the auditor has concluded that the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements under audit.*

[No amendment to paragraphs .14–.15.]

#### *Forms of Communication*

***17. If, as part of its communication to those charged with governance, management communicated some or all of the matters the auditor is required to communicate, and as a result, the auditor did not communicate these matters at the same level of detail as management, the auditor should communicate any omitted or inadequately described matters to those charged with governance. The auditor does not need to communicate them at the same level of detail as management, as long as the auditor a) participated in management's discussion with those charged with governance, and b) affirmatively confirmed to those charged with governance that management has adequately communicated these matters.***

[Paragraphs .17–.19 are renumbered as .18–.20. The content is unchanged.]

## Documentation

**.2021** When matters required to be communicated by this section have been communicated orally, the auditor should include them in the audit documentation, including when and to whom they were communicated.<sup>fn 2</sup> When matters have been communicated in writing, the auditor should retain a copy of the communication as part of the audit documentation. *If, as part of its communication to those charged with governance, management communicated some or all of the matters the auditor is required to communicate, and as a result, the auditor did not communicate these matters at the same level of detail as management, the auditor should include a copy or summary of management’s communications provided to those charged with governance in the audit documentation.* (Ref: par. .A47A48)

[No amendment to paragraphs .A1–.A29.]

### *Significant Unusual Transactions (Ref. par. .12b)*

- .A30** *The communication of significant unusual transactions may include*
- *the auditor’s views on the policies and practices management used to account for significant unusual transactions; and*
  - *the auditor’s understanding of the business purpose for significant unusual transactions.*

[Paragraphs .A30–.A57 are renumbered as .A31–.A58. The content is unchanged.]

This amendment is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2020.

## Amendment to SAS No. 122, AU-C section 550

2. AU-C section 550, *Related Parties*, addresses the auditor’s responsibility relating to related party relationships and transactions in an audit of financial statements. This amendment adds material from PCAOB AS 2410, *Related Parties*, that the ASB believes will enhance the quality of audits of financial statements of non-issuers. The amendment adds or amends

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<sup>fn 2</sup> [Paragraphs .08–.12](#) and [.A8](#) of section 230, *Audit Documentation*.

requirements and application material to heighten the auditor’s focus on related parties relationships and transactions. The amendment accomplishes the following:

- Enhance requirements to identify previously unidentified or undisclosed related parties or significant related party transactions.
- Enhance the auditor’s response to the risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions, including procedures to test the accuracy and completeness of the related party relationships and transactions identified by the entity, taking into account the information gathered during the audit.
- Provide application material regarding the enhanced requirements, as well as additional examples of significant related party findings and issues that may be communicated to those charged with governance.

**.01** This section addresses the auditor’s responsibilities relating to related party relationships and transactions in an audit of financial statements.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, it expands on how section 315, *Understanding the Entity and Its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement*; section 330, *Performing Audit Procedures in Response to Assessed Risks and Evaluating the Audit Evidence Obtained*; and section 240, *Consideration of Fraud in a Financial Statement Audit*, are to be applied regarding risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions.

<sup>1</sup> *The phrase “related party relationships and transactions” as used in generally accepted auditing standards is intended to have the same meaning as the phrase “related parties and relationships and transactions with related parties” as used in the auditing standards of the PCAOB.*

[Subsequent footnotes are renumbered.]

[No amendment to paragraphs .02–.13.]

**.14** The auditor should inquire of management *and others within the entity* regarding the following:

- a. The identity of the entity’s related parties, including changes from the prior period (Ref: par. .A9–.A14**I5**)
- b. The nature of the relationships (*including ownership structure*) between the entity and these related parties
- c. *The business purpose of entering into a transaction with a related party versus an unrelated party*
- d. Whether the entity entered into, *modified, or terminated* any transactions with these related parties during the period and, if so, the type and *business* purpose of the transactions

**.15** The auditor should inquire of management and others within the entity and perform other risk assessment procedures <sup>fn11</sup> considered appropriate to obtain an understanding of the controls, if any, that management has established to (Ref: par. ~~A15-A20.A16-A21~~)

- a. identify, account for, and disclose related party relationships and transactions.
- b. authorize and approve significant transactions and arrangements with related parties. (Ref: par. ~~A21A22~~)
- c. authorize and approve significant *unusual* transactions, and arrangements outside the normal course of business.

*Inquiries should include asking about any related party transactions*

- a. *that have not been authorized and approved in accordance with the entity's established policies or procedures regarding the authorization and approval of transactions with related parties.*
- b. *for which exceptions to the entity's established policies or procedures were granted and the reasons for granting those exceptions. (Ref: par. A44-A45)*

<sup>fn 11</sup> [Footnote omitted for purposes of this proposed SAS.]

**.16** *Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, the auditor should inquire of those charged with governance (or the audit committee or, at least, its chair) regarding*

- a. *their understanding of the entity's relationships and transactions with related parties that are significant to the entity and*
- b. *whether any of those charged with governance have concerns regarding relationships or transactions with related parties and, if so, the substance of those concerns.*

*Remaining Alert—~~Maintaining Alertness~~ for Related Party Information When Reviewing Records or Documents*

**.1617** During the audit, the auditor should remain alert when inspecting records or documents for arrangements or other information that may indicate the existence of related party relationships or transactions that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor. In particular, the auditor should inspect the following for indications of the existence of related party relationships or transactions that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor: (Ref: par. ~~A22-A24.A23-A25~~)

- a. Bank and legal confirmations obtained as part of the auditor's procedures

- b. Minutes of meetings of shareholders and of those charged with governance **and summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared**
- c. Such other records or documents as the auditor considers necessary in the circumstances of the entity

~~.17.18~~ If the auditor identifies significant **unusual** transactions ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~ when performing the audit procedures required by paragraph .17 or through other audit procedures, the auditor should inquire of management about the following: (Ref: par. ~~.A25-.A26~~~~A26-.A27~~)

- a. The nature of these transactions (Ref: par. ~~A27~~.A28)
- b. Whether related parties could be involved (Ref: par. ~~A28~~.A29)

[Paragraph .18 is renumbered as paragraph .19. The content is unchanged.]

~~.19~~20 In meeting the requirement of section 315 to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement, the auditor should identify and assess the risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions and determine whether any of those risks are significant risks. In making this determination, the auditor should treat identified ~~significant~~ related party transactions **that are also significant unusual transactions** ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~ as giving rise to significant risks.

[Paragraph .20 is renumbered as paragraph .21. The content is unchanged.]

~~.21~~22 As part of the requirement in section 330 that the auditor respond to assessed risks, the auditor should design and perform further audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the assessed risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions. ***The auditor should evaluate whether the entity has properly identified its related party relationships and transactions. Evaluating whether an entity has properly identified its related party relationships and transactions involves more than assessing the process used by the entity. The evaluation should include procedures to test the accuracy and completeness of the related party relationships and transactions identified by the entity, taking into account the information gathered during the audit.***<sup>fn 14</sup> (Ref: par. ~~.A34-.A37~~.A35-.A38)

.23 ***The auditor should perform procedures on balances with affiliated entities as of concurrent dates, even if fiscal years of the respective entities differ. The procedures performed should address the risks of material misstatement associated with the entity's accounts with affiliates.***



<sup>fn 14</sup> [Footnote omitted for purposes of this proposed SAS.]

***Identified Significant Related Party Transactions That Are Required to Be Disclosed or Determined to be a Significant Risk***~~*Outside the Entity's Normal Course of Business*~~

[Paragraphs .22–.23 are renumbered as paragraphs .24–.25. The content is unchanged.]

**.2426** For identified related party transactions *that are required to be disclosed in the financial statements or determined to be a significant risk* ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~, the auditor should <sup>fn 15</sup>

- a. ~~inspect~~ **read** the underlying contracts or agreements, if any, and evaluate whether
  - i. the business ~~rational~~ **purpose** (or lack thereof) of the transactions suggests that they may have been entered into to engage in fraudulent financial reporting or to conceal misappropriation of assets. <sup>fn 16</sup> (Ref: par. ~~.A41–.A42.A42–.A43~~)
  - ii. the terms of the transactions are consistent with management's explanations.
  - iii. the transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.
- b. obtain audit evidence that the transactions have been appropriately authorized and approved. (Ref: par. ~~.A43–.A44.A45–.A46~~)

<sup>fn 15</sup> *See paragraph .20, which requires the auditor to treat identified related party transactions that are also significant unusual transactions as giving rise to significant risks.*

[Subsequent footnotes are renumbered.]

<sup>fn 16</sup> [Footnote omitted for purposes of this proposed SAS.]

[Paragraphs .25–.26 are renumbered as paragraphs .27–.28. The content is unchanged.]

**.2729** Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, the auditor should communicate with those charged with governance significant

findings ~~and~~ *or* issues arising during the audit in connection with the entity's related parties.<sup>fn 17</sup> (Ref: par. ~~A52.A53~~)

[Paragraph .28 is renumbered as paragraph .30. The content is unchanged. No amendment to paragraphs .A1–.A2.]

- .A3** Related party relationships and transactions may cause the financial statements to fail to achieve fair presentation if, for example, the economic ~~reality~~ *substance* of such relationships and transactions is not appropriately reflected in the financial statements. For instance, fair presentation may not be achieved if the sale of a property by the entity to a controlling shareholder at a price above or below fair market value has been accounted for as a transaction involving a profit or loss for the entity when it may constitute a contribution or return of capital or the payment of a dividend.

[No amendment to paragraphs .A4–.A10.]

- .A11** In the context of a group audit, section 600, *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*, requires the group engagement team to provide each component auditor with a list of *information about* related parties prepared by group management and any other related parties of which the group engagement team is aware, *including the nature of the entity's relationships and transactions with those related parties*.<sup>fn 22</sup> When the entity is a component within a group, this information provides a useful basis for the auditor's inquiries of management regarding the identity of the entity's related parties.

<sup>fn 22</sup> [Footnote omitted for purposes of this proposed SAS.]

[No amendment to paragraphs .A12–.A13.]

- .A14** *The inquiry about the identity of the entity's related parties may include background information concerning the related parties, for example, physical location, industry, size, and extent of operations.*

[Extant paragraph .A14 is renumbered as paragraph .A15. The content is unchanged.]

- .A15/16** Others within the entity are those considered likely to have knowledge of the entity's related party relationships and transactions and the entity's controls over such relationships and transactions, *as well as the existence of related parties or*

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<sup>fn 17</sup> Paragraph .09 of section 260, *The Auditor's Communication With Those Charged With Governance*.

*relationships or transactions with related parties previously undisclosed to the auditor, and whether such relationships or transactions were with known or previously unknown related parties.* These may include, to the extent that they do not form part of management, the following:

- Those charged with governance
- Personnel in a position to initiate, authorize, process, or record *significant unusual* transactions ~~that are both significant and outside the entity's normal course of business~~ and those who supervise or monitor such personnel
- The internal audit function
- In-house legal counsel
- The chief ethics officer or equivalent person
- Chief compliance officer
- *The human resources director or equivalent person*

~~A16~~17 The audit is conducted on the premise that management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, have acknowledged and understand that they have responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.<sup>fn 24</sup> Accordingly, the preparation of the financial statements requires management, with oversight from those charged with governance, to design, implement, and maintain adequate controls over related party relationships and transactions so that these are identified and appropriately accounted for and disclosed. In their oversight role, those charged with governance monitor how management is discharging its responsibility for such controls. Those charged with governance may, in their oversight role, obtain information from management to enable them to understand the nature and business ~~rational~~*purpose* of the entity's related party relationships and transactions.

<sup>fn 24</sup> [Footnote omitted for purposes of this proposed SAS.]

~~A17~~18 In meeting the requirement of section 315 to obtain an understanding of internal control, the auditor may consider features or elements relevant to mitigating the risks of material misstatement associated with related party relationships and transactions, such as the following:<sup>fn 25</sup>

- Internal ethical codes, appropriately communicated to the entity's personnel and enforced, governing the circumstances in which the entity may enter into specific types of related party transactions
- Policies and procedures for open and timely disclosure of the interests that management and those charged with governance have in related party transactions
- The assignment of responsibilities within the entity for identifying, recording, summarizing, and disclosing related party transactions
- Timely disclosure and discussion between management and those charged with governance of ~~significant~~ related party transactions **that are also significant unusual transactions** ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~, including whether those charged with governance have appropriately challenged the business ~~rational~~ **purpose** of such transactions (for example, by seeking advice from external professional advisers)
- Clear guidelines for the approval of related party transactions involving actual or perceived conflicts of interest, such as approval by a subcommittee of those charged with governance comprising individuals independent of management
- Periodic reviews by the internal audit function, when applicable
- Proactive action taken by management to resolve related party disclosure issues, such as by seeking advice from the auditor or external legal counsel
- The existence of whistle-blowing policies and procedures, when applicable

<sup>fn 25</sup> [Footnote omitted for purposes of this proposed SAS.]

[Paragraph .A18 is renumbered as .A19. The content is unchanged.]

**.A19**20 Fraudulent financial reporting often involves management override of controls that otherwise may appear to be operating effectively. <sup>fn 26</sup> The risk of management override of controls is higher if management has relationships that involve control or significant influence with parties with which the entity does business because these relationships may present management with greater incentives and opportunities to perpetrate fraud. For example, management's financial interests in certain related parties may provide incentives for management to override controls by (a) directing the entity, against its interests, to conclude transactions for the benefit of these parties, or (b) colluding with

such parties or controlling their actions. Examples of possible fraud include the following:

- Creating fictitious terms of transactions with related parties designed to misrepresent the business ~~rationale~~ **purpose** of these transactions
- Fraudulently organizing the transfer of assets from or to management or others at amounts significantly above or below market value
- Engaging in complex transactions with related parties, such as entities formed to accomplish specific purposes, that are structured to misrepresent the financial position or financial performance of the entity

<sup>fn 26</sup> [Footnote omitted for purposes of this proposed SAS.]

[Paragraph .A20 is renumbered as .A21. The content is unchanged.]

~~.A21~~**.A22** *Authorization and approval of significant transactions and arrangements (Ref: par. .15b).* Authorization involves the granting of permission by a party or parties with the appropriate authority (whether management, those charged with governance, or the entity's shareholders) for the entity to enter into specific transactions in accordance with predetermined criteria, whether or not judgmental. Approval involves those parties' acceptance of the transactions the entity has entered into as having satisfied the criteria on which authorization was granted. Examples of controls the entity may have established to authorize and approve significant transactions and arrangements with related parties or significant **unusual** transactions, and arrangements outside the normal course of business include the following:

- Monitoring controls to identify such transactions and arrangements for authorization and approval
- Approval of the terms and conditions of the transactions and arrangements by management, those charged with governance, or, when applicable, shareholders

~~Remaining Alert~~ ~~**Maintaining Alertness**~~ **for Related Party Information When Reviewing Records or Documents**

[Paragraphs .A22-.A24 are renumbered as .A23-.A25. The content is unchanged.]

*Identification of Significant **Unusual** Transactions ~~Outside the Normal Course of Business~~ (Ref: par. .A718)*

~~.A25~~**.A26** Obtaining further information on significant **unusual** transactions ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~ enables the auditor to evaluate whether fraud risk factors, if any, are present and to identify the risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

~~.A26~~**27** Examples of transactions *that may be significant unusual transactions* ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~ may include the following:

- Complex equity transactions, such as corporate restructurings or acquisitions
- Transactions with offshore entities in jurisdictions with less rigorous corporate governance structures, laws, or regulations
- The leasing of premises or the rendering of management services by the entity to another party if no consideration is exchanged
- Sales transactions with unusually large discounts or returns
- Transactions with circular arrangements (for example, sales with a commitment to repurchase)
- Transactions under contracts whose terms are changed before expiration

~~.A27~~**28** Understanding the nature of significant **unusual** transactions ~~outside the normal course of business~~ (Ref: par. **.1718a**). Inquiring into the nature of the significant **unusual** transactions ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~ involves obtaining an understanding of the business ~~rationale~~ **purpose** of the transactions and the terms and conditions under which these have been entered into. <sup>fn 27</sup>

<sup>fn 27</sup> [Footnote omitted for purposes of this proposed SAS.]

~~.A28~~**29** Inquiring into whether related parties could be involved (Ref: par. **.17b**). A related party could be involved in a significant **unusual** transaction ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~ not only by directly influencing the transaction by being a party to the transaction but also by indirectly influencing it through an intermediary. Such influence may indicate the presence of a fraud risk factor.

[No amendment to paragraphs ~~.A29–.A34~~, renumbered as ~~.A30–.A35~~.]

~~.A35~~**36** Examples of substantive audit procedures that the auditor may perform when the auditor has assessed a significant risk that management has not appropriately accounted for or disclosed specific related party transactions (whether due to fraud or error) include the following:

- Confirming the **business** purposes, specific terms, or amounts of the transactions with the related parties (this audit procedure may be less effective when the auditor judges that the entity is likely to influence the related parties in their responses to the auditor).

- Inspecting evidence in possession of the other party or parties to the transaction.
- Confirming or discussing significant information with intermediaries, such as banks, guarantors, agents, or attorneys, to obtain a better understanding of the transaction.
- Referring to financial publications, trade journals, credit agencies, and other information sources when there is reason to believe that unfamiliar customers, suppliers, or other business enterprises with which material amounts of business have been transacted may lack substance.
- With respect to material uncollected balances, guarantees, and other obligations, ~~obtaining~~ **evaluating** information about the financial capability of the other party or parties to the transaction. Such information may be obtained from audited financial statements, unaudited financial statements, income tax returns, and reports issued by regulatory agencies, taxing authorities, financial publications, or credit agencies.

[No changes to paragraphs .A36–.A40., renumbered as .A37–.A41.]

***Identified ~~Significant~~ Related Party Transactions Required To Be Disclosed or Determined to be a Significant Risk ~~Outside the Entity's Normal Course of Business~~***

*Evaluating the Business ~~Rationale~~ **Purpose** of Significant ~~Related Party Transactions~~ (Ref: par. ~~.2426a(i)~~)*

- ~~A4142~~ **A4142** In evaluating the business ~~rational~~ **purpose** of a ~~significant~~ related party transaction ***that is required to be disclosed in the financial statements or determined to be a significant risk*** ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~, the auditor may consider the following:

- Whether the transaction
  - is overly complex (for example, it may involve multiple related parties within a consolidated group)
  - has unusual terms of trade, such as unusual prices, interest rates, guarantees, and repayment terms
  - lacks an apparent logical business reason for its occurrence
  - involves previously unidentified related parties
  - is processed in an unusual manner

- Whether management has discussed the nature of, and accounting for, such a transaction with those charged with governance
- Whether management is placing more emphasis on a particular accounting treatment rather than giving due regard to the ~~underlying economics~~ **economic substance** of the transaction

If management's explanations are materially inconsistent with the terms of the related party transaction, the auditor is required to consider the reliability of management's explanations and representations on other significant matters.<sup>fn 31</sup>

~~.A4243~~ The auditor also may seek to understand the business ~~rationale~~ **purpose** of such a transaction from the related party's perspective because this may help the auditor to better understand the economic ~~reality~~ **substance** of the transaction and why it was carried out. A business ~~rationale~~ **purpose** from the related party's perspective that appears inconsistent with the nature of its business may represent a fraud risk factor.

~~. A4344~~ Authorization and approval by management, those charged with governance, or, when applicable, the shareholders of ~~significant~~ related party transactions **that are required to be disclosed in the financial statements or determined to be a significant risk** ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~ may provide audit evidence that these have been duly considered at the appropriate levels within the entity, and that their terms and conditions have been appropriately reflected in the financial statements. The existence of transactions of this nature that were not subject to such authorization and approval, in the absence of rational explanations based on discussion with management or those charged with governance, may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud or error. In these circumstances, the auditor may need to be alert for other transactions of a similar nature. Authorization and approval alone, however, may not be sufficient in concluding whether risks of material misstatement due to fraud are absent because authorization and approval may be ineffective if there has been collusion between the related parties or if the entity is subject to the dominant influence of a related party.

~~. A4445~~ *Considerations specific to smaller entities.* A smaller entity may not have the same controls provided by different levels of authority and approval that may exist in a larger entity. Accordingly, when auditing a smaller entity, the auditor may rely to a lesser degree on authorization and approval for audit evidence regarding the validity of ~~significant~~ related party transactions **that are required to be disclosed in the financial statements or determined to be a significant risk** ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~. Instead, the auditor may consider performing other audit procedures, such as inspecting relevant documents, confirming specific aspects of the transactions with relevant parties, or observing the owner-manager's involvement with the transactions.

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<sup>fn 31</sup> [Paragraph .10](#) of section 500, *Audit Evidence*.



The discussion of management domination in paragraph .A32 and the fraud considerations discussed in paragraph .A8 provide further relevant guidance.

[Paragraphs .A45–.A50 are renumbered as paragraphs .A46–.A51. The content is unchanged.]

### **Communication With Those Charged With Governance (Ref: par. .2729)**

**.A51**52 Evaluating the related party disclosures means considering whether the facts and circumstances of the entity’s related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately summarized and presented so that the disclosures are understandable. Disclosures of related party transactions may not be understandable if

- a. the business ~~rational~~ **purpose** and the effects of the transactions on the financial statements are unclear or misstated.
- b. key terms, conditions, or other important elements of the transactions necessary for understanding them are not appropriately disclosed.

**.A52**53 Communicating significant findings ~~and~~ **or** issues arising during the audit in connection with the entity’s related parties helps the auditor establish a common understanding with those charged with governance of the nature and resolution of these matters. <sup>Fn 33</sup> Examples of significant related party findings ~~and~~ **or** issues include the following:

- Nondisclosure (whether or not intentional) by management to the auditor of related parties or significant related party transactions, which may alert those charged with governance to significant related party relationships and transactions of which they may not have been previously aware
- The identification of significant related party transactions that have not been appropriately authorized and approved which may give rise to suspected fraud
- ***The identification of significant related party transactions that appear to lack a business purpose***
- Disagreement with management regarding the accounting for, and disclosure of, significant related party transactions
- ***The inclusion of a statement in the financial statements that a transaction with a related party was conducted on terms equivalent to those prevailing in an arm’s-length transaction***

- Noncompliance with applicable laws or regulations prohibiting or restricting specific types of related party transactions
- Difficulties in identifying the party that ultimately controls the entity.

<sup>fn 33</sup> [Footnote omitted for purposes of this proposed SAS.]

This amendment is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2020.

## Amendment to SAS No. 122, AU-C section 210

3. AU-C section 210, *Terms of Engagement*, addresses the auditor's responsibilities in agreeing upon the terms of the audit engagement with management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance. The amendment to AU-C section 210 is intended to enhance guidance relating to obtaining information about related parties and significant unusual transactions from predecessor auditors.

[No amendment to paragraphs .01–.A31.]

**.A32** The communication with the predecessor auditor may be either written or oral. Matters subject to the auditor's inquiry of the predecessor auditor may include the following:

- Information that might bear on the integrity of management
- Disagreements with management about accounting policies, auditing procedures, or other similarly significant matters
- Communications to those charged with governance regarding fraud and noncompliance with laws or regulations by the entity
- Communications to management and those charged with governance regarding significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control
- The predecessor auditor's understanding about the reasons for the change of auditors
- *The predecessor auditor's understanding of the nature of the entity's relationships and transactions with related parties and significant unusual transactions*

[No further amendment to AU-C section 210.]

This amendment is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2020.

## Amendment to SAS No. 122, AU-C section 240

4. AU-C section 240, *Consideration of Fraud in a Financial Statement Audit*, addresses the auditor's responsibilities relating to fraud in an audit of financial statements. This amendment introduces the term *significant unusual transactions* and define it as significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity or that otherwise appear to be unusual due to their timing, size, or nature. This amendment includes requirements for basic procedures for obtaining information for evaluating significant unusual transactions, and guidance and conforming changes related to significant unusual transactions.

[No amendment to paragraphs .01–.10.]

**.11** For purposes of GAAS, the following terms have the meanings attributed as follows:

**Fraud.** An intentional act by one or more individuals among management, those charged with governance, employees, or third parties, involving the use of deception that results in a misstatement in financial statements that are the subject of an audit.

**Fraud risk factors.** Events or conditions that indicate an incentive or pressure to perpetrate fraud, provide an opportunity to commit fraud, or indicate attitudes or rationalizations to justify a fraudulent action. (Ref: par. .A11, .A30, and .A56)

*Significant unusual transactions. Significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity or that otherwise appear to be unusual due to their timing, size, or nature.*

[No amendment to paragraphs .12–.16.]

**.17** The auditor should make inquiries of management regarding

- a. management's assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated due to fraud, including the nature, extent, and frequency of such assessments; (Ref: par. .A14–.A15)
- b. management's process for identifying, responding to, and monitoring the risks of fraud in the entity, including any specific risks of fraud that management has identified or that have been brought to its attention, or

classes of transactions, account balances, or disclosures for which a risk of fraud is likely to exist; (Ref: par. .A16)

- c. management's communication, if any, to those charged with governance regarding its processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud in the entity; ~~and~~
- d. management's communication, if any, to employees regarding its views on business practices and ethical behavior; **and**
- e. ***whether the entity has entered into any significant unusual transactions and, if so, the nature, terms, and business purpose (or the lack thereof) of those transactions and whether such transactions involved related parties.***

[No amendment to paragraph .18.]

**.19** For those entities that have an internal audit function, the auditor should make inquiries of appropriate individuals within the internal audit function to obtain their views about the risks of fraud; determine whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud affecting the entity; whether they have performed any procedures to identify or detect fraud during the year; and whether management has satisfactorily responded to any findings resulting from these procedures; ***and whether they are aware that the entity has entered into any significant unusual transactions.***

[No amendment to paragraph .20.]

**.21** Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, the auditor should make inquiries of those charged with governance (or the audit committee or, at least, its chair) to determine their views about the risks of fraud, ~~and~~ whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud affecting the entity, ***and whether the entity has entered into any significant unusual transactions.*** These inquiries are made, in part, to corroborate the responses received from the inquiries of management.

[No amendment to paragraphs .22–.31.]

**.32** Even if specific risks of material misstatement due to fraud are not identified by the auditor, a possibility exists that management override of controls could occur. Accordingly, the auditor should address the risk of management override of controls apart from any conclusions regarding the existence of more specifically identifiable risks by designing and performing audit procedures to:

- a. test the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in the preparation of the financial statements, including entries posted directly to financial statement drafts. In designing and performing audit procedures for such tests, the auditor should (Ref: par. .A47–.A50 and .A.A56)

- i. obtain an understanding of the entity's financial reporting process and controls over journal entries and other adjustments,<sup>fn 12</sup> and the suitability of design and implementation of such controls;
- ii. make inquiries of individuals involved in the financial reporting process about inappropriate or unusual activity relating to the processing of journal entries and other adjustments;
- iii. consider fraud risk indicators, the nature and complexity of accounts, and **unusual** entries processed ~~outside the normal course of business~~;
- iv. select journal entries and other adjustments made at the end of a reporting period; and
- v. consider the need to test journal entries and other adjustments throughout the period.

[No changes to list item *b.*]

c. Evaluate, ~~for significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the entity or that otherwise appear to be unusual~~ given the auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment and other information obtained during the audit, whether the business ~~rationale~~ **purpose** (or the lack thereof) of **significant unusual transactions** ~~the transactions~~ suggests that they may have been entered into to engage in fraudulent financial reporting or to conceal misappropriation of assets. **The procedures should include the following:** (Ref: par. .A54- .A55)

- i. Reading the underlying documentation and evaluating whether the terms and other information about the transaction are consistent with explanations from inquiries and other audit evidence about the business purpose (or the lack thereof) of the transaction*
- ii. Determining whether the transaction has been authorized and approved in accordance with the entity's established policies and procedures*
- iii. Evaluating whether significant unusual transactions that the auditor has identified have been properly accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements*

[No amendment to paragraphs .33–.A18.]

.A19 Examples of others within the entity to whom the auditor may direct inquiries about the existence or suspicion of fraud include the following:

- Operating personnel not directly involved in the financial reporting process

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<sup>fn 12</sup> Paragraph .19 of section 315.

- Employees with different levels of authority
- Employees involved in initiating, processing, or recording complex or unusual transactions (*for example, a sales transaction with multiple elements or a significant related party transaction*) and those who supervise or monitor such employees
- In-house legal counsel
- Chief ethics officer or equivalent person
- The person or persons charged with dealing with allegations of fraud

[No amendment to paragraphs .A20–.A53.]

~~Business Rationale~~ **Purpose for Significant Unusual Transactions** (Ref: par. .32c)

**A54** Indicators that may suggest that significant *unusual* transactions ~~that are outside the normal course of business for the entity, or that otherwise appear to be unusual,~~ may have been entered into to engage in fraudulent financial reporting or to conceal misappropriation of assets include the following:

- The form of such transactions appears overly complex (for example, the transaction involves multiple entities within a consolidated group or multiple unrelated third parties).
- Management has not discussed the nature of and accounting for such transactions with those charged with governance of the entity, and inadequate documentation exists.
- Management is placing more emphasis on the need for a particular accounting treatment than on the ~~underlying economics~~ *economic substance* of the transaction.
- Transactions ~~that~~ involve nonconsolidated related parties, including special purpose entities, have not been properly reviewed or approved by those charged with governance of the entity.
- Transactions ~~that~~ involve ~~previously unidentified~~ related parties or *relationships or transactions with related parties previously undisclosed to the auditor*.
- *Transactions involve other* parties that do not have the substance or the financial strength to support the transaction without assistance from the entity under audit *or any related party of the entity*.
- *Transactions lack commercial or economic substance or are part of a larger series of connected, linked, or otherwise interdependent arrangements that lack commercial or economic substance individually or in the aggregate (for example, a transaction is entered into shortly prior to period end and is unwound shortly after period end).*
- *Transactions occur with a party that falls outside the definition of a related party (as defined by the applicable financial reporting framework), with either party able to negotiate terms that may not be available for other, more clearly independent parties on an arm's-length basis.*
- *Transactions exist to enable the entity to achieve certain financial targets.*

*.A55. Procedures for evaluating significant unusual transactions may include evaluating the financial capability of the other parties with respect to significant uncollected balances, loan commitments, supply arrangements, guarantees and other obligations, if any. Examples of information that might be relevant to the auditor's evaluation of a related party's financial capability include, among other things, the audited financial statements of the related party, reports issued by regulatory agencies, financial publications, and income tax returns of the related party, to the extent available.*

[Paragraphs .A55–.A70 are renumbered as .A56–.A71. The content is unchanged.]

~~.A71~~<sup>.A72</sup>Other matters related to fraud to be discussed with those charged with governance of the entity may include, for example, *the following*:

- Concerns about the nature, extent, and frequency of management's assessments of the controls in place to prevent and detect fraud and of the risk that the financial statements may be misstated
- A failure by management to appropriately address identified significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control or to appropriately respond to an identified fraud
- The auditor's evaluation of the entity's control environment, including questions regarding the competence and integrity of management
- Actions by management that may be indicative of fraudulent financial reporting, such as management's selection and application of accounting policies that may be indicative of management's effort to manage earnings in order to deceive financial statement users by influencing their perceptions concerning the entity's performance and profitability
- Concerns about the adequacy and completeness of the authorization of *significant unusual* transactions ~~that appear to be outside the normal course of business.~~

[Paragraphs .A72–.A74 are renumbered as .A73–.A75. The content is unchanged.]

## **Appendix A—Examples of Fraud Risk Factors (Ref: par. .11, .24, and .A30)**

~~.A75~~<sup>.A76</sup>

[No amendment to prior sections of this appendix.]

## *Opportunities*

The nature of the industry or the entity's operations provides opportunities to engage in fraudulent financial reporting that can arise from the following:

- ~~Significant related party transactions not in the ordinary course of business or with related entities not audited or audited by another firm~~
- ***Related party transactions that are also significant unusual transactions***
- ***Significant transactions with related parties whose financial statements are not audited or are audited by another firm***
- A strong financial presence or ability to dominate a certain industry sector that allows the entity to dictate terms or conditions to suppliers or customers that may result in inappropriate or non-arm's-length transactions
- Assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenses based on significant estimates that involve subjective judgments or uncertainties that are difficult to corroborate
- Significant, ~~unusual~~, or highly complex transactions ***or significant unusual transactions***, especially those close to period end that pose difficult "substance over form" questions
- Significant operations located or conducted across jurisdictional borders where differing business environments and regulations exist
- Use of business intermediaries for which there appears to be no clear business justification
- Significant bank accounts or subsidiary or branch operations in tax-haven jurisdictions for which there appears to be no clear business justification
- ***Contractual arrangements lacking a business purpose***

The monitoring of management is not effective as a result of the following:

- Domination of management by a single person or small group (in a nonowner-managed business) without compensating controls.
- Oversight by those charged with governance over the financial reporting process and internal control is not effective.
- ***The exertion of dominant influence by or over a related party.***



[No further amendment to this appendix.]

This amendment is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2020.

### Amendment to SAS No. 122, AU-C section 265

5. AU-C section 265, *Communicating Internal Control Deficiencies Identified in an Audit*, addresses the auditor's responsibility to appropriately communicate to those charged with governance and management deficiencies in internal control that the auditor has identified in an audit of financial statements. A conforming amendment is made for the use of the term *significant unusual transactions*.

[No amendment to paragraphs .01– .A7.]

**.A8** Risk factors affect whether there is a reasonable possibility that a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control will result in a misstatement of an account balance or disclosure. The factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The nature of the financial statement classes of transactions, account balances, disclosures, and assertions involved
- The cause and frequency of the exceptions detected as a result of the deficiency, or deficiencies, in internal control
- The susceptibility of the related asset or liability to loss or fraud
- The subjectivity, complexity, or extent of judgment required to determine the amount involved
- The interaction or relationship of the control(s) with other controls
- The interaction with other deficiencies in internal control
- The possible future consequences of the deficiency, or deficiencies, in internal control
- The importance of the controls, such as the following, to the financial reporting process:
  - General monitoring controls (such as oversight of management)
  - Controls over the prevention and detection of fraud
  - Controls over the selection and application of significant accounting policies

- Controls over significant transactions with related parties
- Controls over significant *unusual* transactions ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~
- Controls over the period-end financial reporting process (such as controls over nonrecurring journal entries)

[No further amendment to AU-C section 265.]

This amendment is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2020.

## Amendment to SAS No. 122, AU-C section 315

6. AU-C section 315, *Understanding the Entity and Its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement*, addresses the auditor's responsibility to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements through understanding the entity and its environment, including the entity's internal control. A conforming amendment is made for the use of the term *significant unusual transactions*.

[No amendment to paragraphs .01– .29.]

- .29** In exercising professional judgment about which risks are significant risks, the auditor should consider the following at least

[No amendment to list items *a–e*.]

- f.* whether the risk involves significant *unusual* transactions ~~that are outside the normal course of business for the entity or that otherwise appear to be unusual~~. (Ref: par. .A139–.A143)

[No amendment to paragraphs .30– .A35.]

- .A36** An understanding of the entity's selection and application of accounting policies may encompass such matters as

- the methods the entity uses to account for significant ~~and~~ unusual transactions.

[No amendment to the remainder of paragraph .A35.]

[No amendment to paragraphs .A37– .A147.]

**.A148** Significant risks often relate to significant ~~nonroutine~~ **unusual** transactions and matters that require significant judgment. ~~Nonroutine transactions are transactions that are unusual, either due to size or nature, and that, therefore, occur infrequently.~~ Matters that require significant judgment may include the development of accounting estimates for which a significant measurement uncertainty exists. Routine, noncomplex transactions that are subject to systematic processing are less likely to give rise to significant risks.

**.A149** Risks of material misstatement may be greater for significant ~~nonroutine~~ **unusual** transactions arising from matters such as the following:

- Greater management intervention to specify the accounting treatment
- Greater manual intervention for data collection and processing
- Complex calculations or accounting principles
- The nature of ~~nonroutine~~ **unusual** transactions, which may make it difficult for the entity to implement effective controls over the risks
- Related party transactions

[No amendment to paragraphs .A150– .A152.]

**.A153** Although risks relating to significant ~~nonroutine~~ **unusual** transactions or matters that require significant judgment are often less likely to be subject to routine controls, management may have other responses intended to deal with such risks. Accordingly, the auditor's understanding of whether the entity has designed and implemented controls for significant risks arising from ~~nonroutine~~ **unusual** transactions or matters that require significant judgment includes whether and how management responds to the risks. Such responses might include

- control activities, such as a review of assumptions by senior management or specialists.
- documented processes for estimations.
- approval by those charged with governance

[No further amendment to AU-C section 315.]

This amendment is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2020.

Amendment to SAS No. 122, AU-C section 330

7. AU-C section 330, *Performing Audit Procedures in Response to Assessed Risks and Evaluating the Audit Evidence Obtained*, addresses the auditor's responsibility to design and implement responses to the risks of material misstatement identified and assessed by the auditor in accordance with section 315, *Understanding the Entity and Its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement*, and to evaluate the audit evidence obtained in an audit of financial statements. A conforming amendment is made for the use of the term *significant unusual transactions*.

[No amendment to paragraphs .01–.A57. Paragraph .A58 is amended to include new text and is split into two paragraphs.]

**.A58** Paragraph .22 requires the auditor to perform substantive procedures that are specifically responsive to risks the auditor has determined to be significant risks. ***Because significant unusual transactions can affect the risks of material misstatement due to error or fraud, substantive procedures that take into account the types of potential misstatements that could result from significant unusual transactions may be necessary, including procedures performed pursuant to paragraph .32 of section 240.***

.A59 Audit evidence in the form of external confirmations received directly by the auditor from appropriate confirming parties may assist the auditor in obtaining audit evidence with the high level of reliability that the auditor requires to respond to significant risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. For example, if the auditor identifies that management is under pressure to meet earnings expectations, a risk may exist that management is inflating sales by improperly recognizing revenue related to sales agreements with terms that preclude revenue recognition or by invoicing sales before shipment. In these circumstances, the auditor may, for example, design external confirmation procedures not only to confirm outstanding amounts but also to confirm the details of the sales agreements, including date, any rights of return, and delivery terms. In addition, the auditor may find it effective to supplement such external confirmation procedures with inquiries of nonfinancial personnel in the entity regarding any changes in sales agreements and delivery terms.

[Paragraphs .A59–.A76 are renumbered as .A60–.A77. The content is unchanged.]

This amendment is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2020.

## Amendment to SAS No. 122, AU-C section 510

8. AU-C section 510, *Opening Balances—Initial Audit Engagements, Including Reaudit Engagements*, addresses the auditor's responsibilities relating to opening balances in an

initial audit engagement, including a reaudit engagement. The amendment is intended to enhance guidance relating to obtaining information about related parties and significant unusual transactions from predecessor auditors.

[No amendment to paragraphs .01–.A4.]

**.A5** It is customary for the predecessor auditor to make himself or herself available to the auditor and to make available for review certain audit documentation. The predecessor auditor determines which audit documentation is to be made available for review and which may be copied. The predecessor auditor ordinarily permits the auditor to review audit documentation, including documentation of planning; risk assessment procedures; further audit procedures; audit results; and other matters of continuing accounting and auditing significance, such as the schedule of uncorrected misstatements, working paper analysis of balance sheet accounts, and those relating to contingencies, *related parties, and significant unusual transactions*.

[No further amendment to AU-C section 510.]

This amendment is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2020.

## Amendment to SAS No. 122 Section 560

9. AU-C section 560, *Subsequent Events and Subsequently Discovered Facts*, addresses the auditor’s responsibilities relating to subsequent events and subsequently discovered facts in an audit of financial statements. The amendment is intended to enhance guidance relating to obtaining information about subsequent events.

[No amendment to paragraphs .01–.A5.]

**.A6** In inquiring of management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance about whether any subsequent events have occurred that might affect the financial statements, the auditor may inquire about the current status of items that were accounted for on the basis of preliminary or inconclusive data and may make specific inquiries about the following matters:

- Whether new commitments, borrowings, or guarantees have been entered into
- Whether sales or acquisitions of assets have occurred or are planned
- Whether there have been increases in capital or issuance of debt instruments, such as the issue of new shares or debentures, or an agreement to merge or liquidate has been made or is planned
- Whether any assets have been appropriated by the government or destroyed (for example, by fire or flood)
- Whether there have been any developments regarding contingencies
- Whether any unusual accounting adjustments have been made or are contemplated
- Whether any events have occurred or are likely to occur that will bring into question the appropriateness of accounting policies used in the financial

statements, as would be the case, for example, if such events call into question the validity of the going concern assumption

- Whether any events have occurred that are relevant to the measurement of estimates or provisions made in the financial statements
- Whether any events have occurred that are relevant to the recoverability of assets
- ***Whether there have been any changes in the entity's related parties***
- ***Whether there have been any significant new related party transactions***
- ***Whether the entity has entered into any significant unusual transactions***

[No further amendment to AU-C section 560.]

This amendment is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2020.

## Amendment to SAS No. 122 AU-C section 580

10. AU-C section 580, *Written Representations*, addresses the auditor's responsibilities to obtain written representations from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance in an audit of financial statements. This amendment is intended to enhance guidance relating to obtaining representations about related parties and related party transactions.

[No amendment to paragraphs .01–.16.]

**.17** The auditor should request management to provide written representations that (Ref: par. .A15–.A16)

- a. it has disclosed to the auditor the identity of ***all*** the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which it is aware and
- b. it has appropriately accounted for and disclosed such relationships and transactions.

[No amendment to paragraphs .18–.A14.]

**.A15** Circumstances in which it may be appropriate to obtain written representations about related parties from those charged with governance in addition to management include the following:

- When they have approved specific related party transactions that (a) materially affect the financial statements or (b) involve management
- When they have made specific oral representations to the auditor on details of certain related party transactions
- When they have financial or other interests in the related parties or the related party transactions

**.A16** The auditor also may decide to obtain written representations regarding specific assertions that management may have made, such as a representation that specific related party transactions do not involve undisclosed side agreements, *or that a transaction with a related party was conducted on terms equivalent to those prevailing in an arm's-length transaction.*

[No amendment to paragraphs .A16–.A17.]

**.A18** In addition to the written representations required by paragraphs .10–.18, the auditor may consider it necessary to request other written representations about the financial statements. Such written representations may supplement, but do not form part of, the written representations required by paragraphs .10–.18. They may include representations about the following:

- Whether the selection and application of accounting policies are appropriate
- Whether matters such as the following, when relevant under the applicable financial reporting framework, have been recognized, measured, presented, or disclosed in accordance with that framework:
  - Plans or intentions that may affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities
  - Liabilities, both actual and contingent
  - Title to, or control over, assets and the liens or encumbrances on assets and assets pledged as collateral
- Aspects of laws, regulations, and contractual agreements that may affect the financial statements, including noncompliance
- ***Whether any side agreements or other arrangements (either written or oral) exist that have not been disclosed to the auditor***

[No further amendment to AU-C section 580.]

This amendment is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2020.

## Amendment to SAS No. 122, AU-C section 600

11. AU-C section 600, *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*, addresses special considerations that apply to group audits, in particular those that involve component auditors. The amendment is intended to enhance requirements relating to obtaining information about related parties.

[No amendment to paragraphs .01–.40.]

**.41** The group engagement team should communicate its requirements to a component auditor on a timely basis. This communication should include the following:

[No amendment to list items *a–b*.]

*c.* A list of related parties prepared by group management and any other related parties of which the group engagement team is aware, ***including the nature of the entity's relationships and transactions with those related parties***. The group engagement team should request the component auditor to communicate on a timely basis related parties not previously identified by group management or the group engagement team. The group engagement team should identify such additional related parties to other component auditors.

[No amendment to paragraphs .42–.A93.]

**.A94** The examples provided cover a broad range of matters; however, not all matters are relevant to every group audit engagement, and the list of examples is not necessarily complete.

### **...Consolidation Process**

The group engagement team's understanding of the consolidation process may include matters such as the following:

...

- Matters relating to consolidation adjustments, such as the following:
  - The process for recording consolidation adjustments, including the preparation, authorization, and processing of related journal entries and the experience of personnel responsible for the consolidation
  - The consolidation adjustments required by the applicable financial reporting framework
  - Business ~~rational~~**purpose** for the events and transactions that gave rise to the consolidation adjustments

[No further amendment to AU-C section 600.]

This amendment is effective for audits of group financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2020.



## Amendment to SAS No. 122, AU-C section 930

12. AU-C section 930, *Interim Financial Information*, addresses the auditor's responsibilities when engaged to review interim financial information under specified conditions. This amendment is intended to enhance guidance relating to obtaining information about related parties and significant unusual transactions.

[No amendment to paragraphs .01–.20.]

**.21** For all interim financial information presented and for all periods covered by the review, the auditor should request management to provide written representations, as of the date of the auditor's review report (Ref: par. .A29–.A30)

[No amendment to list items *a–l*.]

*m.* that management has disclosed to the auditor the identity of ***all*** the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which it is aware, and it has appropriately accounted for and disclosed such relationships and transactions.

[No amendment to list item *n*.]

[No amendment to paragraphs .21–.A29.]

**.A30** The auditor may request additional representations, ***including representations regarding the following:***

- Matters specific to the entity's business or industry
- ***Support for any assertion that a transaction with a related party was conducted on terms equivalent to those prevailing in an arm's-length transaction***
- ***Whether any side agreements or other arrangements (either written or oral) exist that have not been disclosed to the auditor***

[No amendment to paragraphs .A31–.A54.]

### **Appendix B—Unusual or Complex Situations to Be Considered by the Auditor When Conducting a Review of Interim Financial Information (Ref: par. .A18)**

**.A55** The following are examples of situations about which the auditor may inquire of management:

- Business combinations
- New or complex revenue recognition methods
- Impairment of assets
- Disposal of a segment of a business

- Use of derivative instruments and hedging activities
  - Sales and transfers that may call into question the classification of investments in securities, including management's intent and ability with respect to the remaining securities classified as held to maturity
  - Adoption of new stock compensation plans or changes to existing plans
  - Restructuring charges taken in the current and prior quarters
  - ~~Significant, unusual, or infrequently occurring transactions~~
  - *Infrequent transactions*
  - *Significant unusual transactions*
  - Changes in litigation or contingencies
  - Changes in major contracts with customers or suppliers
  - Application of new accounting principles
  - Changes in accounting principles or the methods of applying them
  - Trends and developments affecting accounting estimates, such as allowances for bad debts and excess or obsolete inventories, provisions for warranties and employee benefits, and realization of unearned income and deferred charges
  - Compliance with debt covenants
  - Changes in related parties or significant new related party transactions
  - Material off-balance-sheet transactions, special purpose entities, and other equity investments
- Unique terms for debt or capital stock that could affect classification

[No further amendment to AU-C section 930.]

This amendment is effective for reviews of interim financial information for interim periods of fiscal years ending on or after December 15, 2020.

## Amendment to SAS No. 130

13. AU-C section 940, *An Audit of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting That Is Integrated With an Audit of Financial Statements*, establishes requirements and provides

guidance that applies only when an auditor is engaged to perform an audit of internal control over financial reporting that is integrated with an audit of financial statements. The amendment is a conforming amendment for the use of the term *significant unusual transactions*.

[No amendment to paragraphs .01—.A24.]

**.A25** Section 240 addresses the auditor's identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud.<sup>fn 13</sup> Controls that might address these risks include

- controls over significant, unusual transactions, particularly those that result in late or unusual journal entries
- controls over journal entries and adjustments made in the period-end financial reporting process
- controls over related party transactions
- controls related to significant management estimates
- controls that mitigate incentives for, and pressures on, management to falsify or inappropriately manage financial results

[No amendment to paragraphs .A26—.A90.]

**.A91** Risk factors affect whether there is a reasonable possibility that a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in ICFR will result in a misstatement of an account balance or a disclosure. The factors include the following:

- The nature of the financial statement, classes of transactions, account balances, disclosures, and assertions involved
- The cause and frequency of the exceptions detected as a result of the deficiency, or deficiencies, in ICFR
- The susceptibility of the related asset or liability to loss or fraud
- The subjectivity, complexity, or extent of judgment required to determine the amount involved
- The interaction or relationship of the control(s) with other controls

- The interaction with other deficiencies in ICFR
- The possible future consequences of the deficiency, or deficiencies, in ICFR
- The importance of controls, such as the following, to the financial reporting process:
  - General monitoring controls (such as oversight of management)
  - Controls over the prevention and detection of fraud
  - Controls over the selection and application of significant accounting policies
  - Controls over significant transactions with related parties
  - Controls over significant *unusual* transactions ~~outside the entity's normal course of business~~
  - Controls over the period-end financial reporting process (such as controls over nonrecurring journal entries)

[No further amendment to AU-C section 940.]

This amendment is effective for integrated audits for periods ending on or after December 15, 2020.