
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY BOARD FOR AUDITORS
COMMITTEE FOR AUDITING STANDARDS

***Guide for Registered Auditors:
Auditing in the Public Sector (Revised August 2019)***

Johannesburg / 30 August 2019

The Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors' (IRBA) Committee for Auditing Standards (CFAS), at its meeting on 21 August 2019, approved the issue of the *Guide for Registered Auditors: Auditing in the Public Sector (Revised August 2019)* (this Revised Guide) for use by registered auditors (auditors).

This Revised Guide is approved by the CFAS for joint publication with the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) to help improve the understanding and enhance the performance of quality public sector audits by auditors in public practice (registered with the IRBA), who are contracted by the AGSA or appointed as auditors of public institutions where the AGSA has opted not to perform the audit, in accordance with Section 4(3) and 4(3A) of the Public Audit Act, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA).

Section 12(3)(a) of the PAA requires the AGSA to determine 'the minimum qualifications, experience and competence for authorised auditors'. Auditors performing public sector engagements shall ensure that they have the professional competence to perform such audit engagements in accordance with the applicable professional standards, additional extensive legal and regulatory requirements as well as the unique circumstances of the public sector. The guidance herein is intended to assist auditors to meet these requirements.

This Revised Guide has been updated for the following:

1. Changes made to the AGSA's audit methodology;
2. Guidance on interaction with political governance structures in the public sector;
3. Expanding/enhancing the sections dealing with legislation, guidance and key stakeholders/role players in the public sector;
4. A new section on the role and powers of the Auditor-General;
5. Changes to the financial reporting frameworks applicable to the public sector;
6. Enhancing referencing to the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions; and
7. Amendments arising from the revision of the PAA.

Effective Date

This Revised Guide is effective from 2 September 2019.

On the IRBA website (www.irba.co.za), this Revised Guide is available for downloading in PDF format. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Standards Department by email at standards@irba.co.za.

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Director: Standards

About the IRBA

The objective of the IRBA is to endeavour to protect the financial interests of the South African public and international investors in South Africa through the effective and appropriate regulation of audits conducted by registered auditors, in accordance with internationally recognised standards and processes.

The statutory responsibilities of the CFAS are to assist the IRBA to develop, maintain, adopt, issue or prescribe auditing pronouncements; to consider relevant international changes by monitoring developments by other auditing standard-setting bodies and sharing information where requested; and to promote and ensure the relevance of auditing pronouncements.