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**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY BOARD FOR AUDITORS**  
**COMMITTEE FOR AUDITOR ETHICS**

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**IESBA Proposes Technology-related Amendments to the Code**

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The International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) has issued, for public comment, the Exposure Draft, [Proposed Technology-related Revisions to the IESBA Code of Professional Conduct \(IESBA Code\)](#).

The proposed amendments seek to enhance the IESBA Code's robustness and expand its relevance in an environment that is being reshaped by rapid technological advancements. Furthermore, these proposed amendments will guide the ethical mindset and behaviour of registered auditors in business and public practice, as these practitioners deal with changes brought by technology in their work processes and the content of the services they provide.

Among other matters, the proposed amendments:

- Draw special attention to the professional competence and confidentiality imperatives of the digital age.
- Address the ethical dimension of registered auditors' reliance on, or use of, the output of technology in carrying out their work.
- Further enhance considerations relating to threats from the use of technology, as well as considerations relating to complex circumstances in applying the Code's conceptual framework.
- Strengthen and clarify the International Independence Standards (IIS) with respect to technology-related non-assurance services (NAS) that firms may provide to their audit clients or technology-related business relationships they may enter into with clients.
- Explicitly acknowledge that the IIS that apply to assurance engagements are applicable to assurance engagements on non-financial information, for example, environmental, social and governance disclosures.

The IESBA's extensive fact-finding work and outreach to stakeholders informed the development of the proposed amendments.

Additionally, these proposed revisions build on the [role and mindset changes](#) that became effective in December 2021, and the [revised NAS provisions](#) that will be effective in December 2022.

**Relevance for South Africa**

The IRBA adopted the IESBA Code, issued during 2018, following the issue of proposed amendments on exposure in South Africa, together with South African enhancements. As such, all amendments to the [IRBA Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Auditors \(Revised November 2018\) \(IRBA Code\)](#) are in line with the IESBA Code.

Therefore, the IRBA's Committee for Auditor Ethics (CFAE) will consider these proposals to amend the IESBA Code for incorporation into the IRBA Code.

### **Request for Comments**

We invite registered auditors and others to submit to the IRBA, for its consideration, any comments regarding the proposed Technology-related Amendments to the IESBA Code, as we prepare our response to the IESBA. Comments, in Word and PDF formats, should be sent to [standards@irba.co.za](mailto:standards@irba.co.za) and submitted by 23 May 2022.

Alternatively, comments may be submitted directly to the IESBA through its [website](#). Comments to the IESBA close on 20 June 2022.

The Exposure Draft is available in a PDF format and may be downloaded from the [IRBA website](#).

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Standards Department by emailing [standards@irba.co.za](mailto:standards@irba.co.za).

### **IRBA Technology Webpage**

The IRBA has launched a [Technology webpage](#). This page provides a summary of technology resources that may be of use in performing assurance engagements.

**Imran Vanker**

**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 CFAE are to assist the IRBA to determine what constitutes improper conduct by registered auditors by developing rules and guidelines for professional ethics, including a code of professional conduct; to interact on any matter relating to its functions and powers with professional bodies and any other body or organ of state with an interest in the auditing profession; and to provide advice to registered auditors on matters of professional ethics and conduct.*