**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY BOARD FOR AUDITORS**

**COMMITTEE FOR AUDITING STANDARDS**

**Proposed Guide for Registered Auditors:**

**Reporting on Financial Information Contained in Interim, Preliminary, Provisional and Abridged Reports**

Johannesburg / 12 March 2013

The Committee for Auditing Standards (‘CFAS’) a statutory committee of the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (‘IRBA’) approved the release of this *Proposed Guide for Registered Auditors:* *Reporting on Financial Information contained in Interim, Preliminary, Provisional and Abridged Reports* (*proposed Guide*) in March 2013, for exposure for public comment by **15 May 2013**.

This *proposed Guide* replaces the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (‘SAICA’) Guide *Reporting on Financial Information contained in Interim, Preliminary, Provisional and Abridged Reports, (March 2004)* which was withdrawn in August 2011. It also addresses and updates matters previously dealt with in the SAICA Guide. This *proposed Guide* may be modified in light of comments received before being issued in final form.

This proposed Guide provides guidance for JSE accredited auditors of issuers, listed on the JSE Limited in meeting the JSE’s Listings Requirements for an audit, or review, and the related auditor’s audit or review report on an issuer’s interim, preliminary, provisional or abridged reports. The proposed Guide includes guidance for the following:

* It clarifies the application of the International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810, *Engagements to report on summary financial statements* (ISA 810) and the International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2410 *Review of Interim Financial Information performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity* (ISRE 2410) to the auditor’s reporting responsibilities in such engagements;
* It articulates the relationship between paragraph 8.57 of the Listings Requirements that specify the minimum contents of interim, preliminary, provisional and abridged reports and that comprise the “applicable criteria” envisaged in ISA 810 and the “financial reporting framework” envisaged in ISRE 2410;
* Appendix 1: contains illustrative auditor’s reports on financial information contained in an issuer’s interim, preliminary, provisional or abridged report;
* Appendix 2: contains illustrative wording where reference to the auditor’s report is included in a SENS or press announcement; and
* Appendix 4: contains a summary of the Listings Requirements applicable to auditor’s reporting responsibilities.

**Proposed Amendments to the JSE Listing requirements**

The JSE Issuer Services issued a SENS announcement on 21 February 2013 stating the following:

“The JSE issued a guidance letter in September 2012 dealing with various matters relating to the issue of an auditor’s report. We now wish to update the Listing Requirements to align them with that letter. There are also three specific changes arising from that letter which we wish to make:

1. We wish to delete par 3.18(g), which appears to be out of line with International Auditing Standards;
2. We wish to introduce a reporting obligation on issuers that, specifically in instances where announcements/publications include some information that is audited and some that is not, they warn the reader of this fact;

The JSE guidance letter clarified that we don’t expect issuers to obtain a separate audit report on the abridged results, as the full AFS have been audited. We wish to clarify that this principle expands to any summary of the audited AFS.”

As these proposed amendments are still out for public comment they have not been included in this proposed Guide but will result in consequential changes that will be addressed when the Guide is finalised and approved for issue, expected to be during June 2013.

**How to Comment**

To ensure that all relevant stakeholders are consulted and to streamline the consultation process, interested and affected stakeholders are invited to submit written comments to the IRBA. All comments will be considered a matter of public record.

Written comments should be submitted to the IRBA by **15 May 2013** preferably byemail to standards@irba.co.za, or on computer disk in MS **Word** format to:

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| **Mrs SD van Esch** Tel: +27 87 940 8871 Fax: +27 86 575 6535  Email: [svanesch@irba.co.za](mailto:svanesch@irba.co.za) | **Or to:** | **Ms N Simons** Tel; +27 87 940 8862  Fax: +27 86 578 0146 E-mail: [nsimons@irba.co.za](mailto:nsimons@irba.co.za) |

A copy of the exposure draft is available in PDF format and may be downloaded from the IRBA [website](http://www.irba.co.za/guidance-to-ras/technical-guidance-for-auditors/exposure-drafts-and-comment-letters). Should you have any other queries or experience any technical difficulties in downloading the documents please do not hesitate to contact the Standards Department at phone +27(0)87-940-8800 or email: [standards@irba.co.za](mailto:standards@irba.co.za).

**Sandy van Esch**

**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 CFAS assists the IRBA to develop and maintain auditing pronouncements which are internationally comparable.*