

2021-22

ASB strategy work plan

The following is the ASB work plan for 2021–22. This work plan includes our best estimates regarding how projects will progress. Timing and topics may be adjusted depending on changing circumstances, complexities and needs.

2021–22 ASB workplan	2021				2022			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. Current projects								
a. Standard-setting projects								
Group Audits	DI	DD	DD		ED	CL	DD	Final
Management specialists/investments (AU-C 501)	CL/ Final							
NOCLAR ¹	ED	CL/DD	Final					
Quality management standards:			CL	DD	Final			
• A Firm's System of Quality Management (SQMS 1)								
• Engagement Quality Reviews (SQMS 2)								
• Quality Management for an Engagement Conducted in Accordance With GAAS (QM SAS)								
Risk Assessment	DD	DD	Final					

Key: Info = Information gathering ED = Exposure draft	CL = Comment letters Final = Final standard/guidance	DD = Discussion draft TBD = To be determined	DI = Discuss issues
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¹ An additional project on NOCLAR may be considered depending on the outcome of PEEC standard setting

2021–22 ASB workplan	2021				2022			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
b. Active projects under consideration								
Attestation standards (e.g. to address emerging areas of assurance)		DI	TBD					
Audits of less complex entities (LCE)	Info	Info	DI	DI	TBD			
Fraud		Info	Info	DI	TBD			
Going concern		Info	Info	DI	TBD			
Leveraging technology			Info	Info	TBD			
Third-party assessments			DI	DI	TBD			
2. Monitoring of IAASB projects (potential future ASB projects – timing TBD)								
Audit evidence								
Professional skepticism								
Complexity, understandability, scalability (CUSP)								

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The ASB is also undertaking the following additional activities

1. Guidance and tools to Support the Implementation of Standards (under consideration)

Attestation Standards (e.g., Direct Examinations)

Quality Management

Risk Assessment

2. Technical Support of Interpretive Publications (ongoing)

Enhancive updates to industry and topical accounting and auditing guides, for example:

- *Employee Benefit Plans: Audit and Accounting Guide*
- *Attestation Engagements on Sustainability Information Guide (Including Greenhouse Gas Emissions Information)*
- *Reporting on an Examination of Controls at a Service Organization Relevant to User Entities' Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (SOC 1 guide)*

SOP 17-1 *Performing Agreed-Upon Procedures Related to Rated Exchange Act Asset-Backed Securities Third-Party Due Diligence Services as Defined by SEC Release No. 34-72936*

Examination of Quality Control Materials

3. Technical Support of Certain Non-Authoritative Publications (Ongoing)

Practice Aid – *Accounting for and Auditing Digital Assets*

ASB workplan 2021–22

Project	Project objective
Group Audits	Revise AU-C sec. 600 to strengthen the auditor's approach to planning and performing a group audit and clarify the interaction with other AU-C sections.
Management Specialists/ Investments (AU-C 501)	Add guidance related to the auditors' use of pricing information from third-party sources and the auditor's use of the work of specialists.
NOCLAR	Amend AU-C sec. 210 to address communications between predecessor and successor auditors about identified or suspected fraud or noncompliance with laws or regulation.
Quality Management Standards	Strengthen and modernize firm quality management through three new standards that take a risk-based approach.
Risk Assessment	Revise AU-C sec. 315 to enhance the performance of appropriate risk assessment procedures in a manner commensurate with the size and nature of the entity being audited.
Attestation standards	Consider revisions to the attestation standards to allow for direct review engagements and to address emerging areas of assurance.
Audits of Less Complex Entities (LCE)	Consider additional guidance or actions that might be taken to address issues and challenges associated with audits of financial statements of LCEs.
Fraud	Consider additional guidance or actions that might be taken to address issues and challenges relating to the identification of fraud in an audit of financial statements.
Going Concern	Consider additional guidance or actions that might be taken to address issues and challenges relating to addressing going concern in an audit of financial statements.
Leveraging Technology	Consider additional guidance or actions that might be taken to further encourage the effective and appropriate use of technology, including data analytics, to enhance audit quality.
Third-party Assessments	Consider additional guidance or actions that might be taken to address performing third-party assessments (e.g., HITRUST, FedRAMP).
Audit Evidence	Monitor the IAASB project on ISA 500 and explore whether additional changes are needed to AU-C 500 based on revisions to ISA 500.
Professional Skepticism	Monitor the IAASB project on professional skepticism and assess whether actions are needed to help practitioners more effectively apply professional skepticism.
Complexity, Understandability, Scalability and Proportionality (CUSP)	Monitor the IAASB project on CUSP, which is a project to develop drafting principles and guidelines to address complexity, understandability, scalability and proportionality (CUSP) in the ISAs. Assess whether similar principles and guidelines should be developed by the ASB in light of previous clarity projects already undertaken.