

AU-C Section 720

The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information Included in Annual Reports

Source: SAS No. 137; SAS No. 141.

Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2021.

Introduction

Scope of This Section

.01 This section addresses the auditor's responsibilities relating to other information, whether financial or nonfinancial information (other than financial statements and the auditor's report thereon), included in an entity's annual report. An entity's annual report may be a single document or a combination of documents that serve the same purpose.

.02 This section also may be applied, and adapted as necessary in the circumstances, to other documents to which the auditor, at management's request, devotes attention. (Ref: par. .A1–.A3)

.03 This section is written in the context of an audit of financial statements by an independent auditor. Accordingly, the objectives of the auditor in this section are to be understood in the context of the overall objectives of the auditor as stated in section 200, *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance With Generally Accepted Auditing Standards*.¹ The requirements in the standards are designed to enable the auditor to achieve the objectives specified in the standards, and thereby the overall objectives of the auditor. The auditor's opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, nor does this section require the auditor to obtain audit evidence beyond that required to form an opinion on the financial statements.

.04 This section requires the auditor to read and consider the other information because other information that is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit may indicate that a material misstatement of the financial statements or that a material misstatement of the other information exists, either of which may undermine the credibility of the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

.05 Other information may include amounts or other items that are intended to be the same as, to summarize, or to provide greater detail about amounts or other items in the financial statements and other amounts or other items about which the auditor has obtained knowledge in the audit. Other information may include nonfinancial information.

¹ Paragraph .12 of section 200, *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance With Generally Accepted Auditing Standards*.

.06 The auditor's responsibilities relating to other information, other than applicable reporting requirements, apply regardless of whether the other information is obtained by the auditor prior to or after the date of the auditor's report.

.07 The auditor's responsibilities under this section do not constitute an assurance engagement on other information or impose an obligation on the auditor to obtain assurance about the other information.

.08 Law or regulation may impose additional obligations on the auditor in relation to other information that are beyond the scope of this section.

.09 This section does not apply to supplemental information addressed by section 725, *Supplementary Information in Relation to the Financial Statements as a Whole*, or required supplementary information addressed by section 730, *Required Supplementary Information*. (Ref: par. .A2)

Effective Date

.10 This section is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2021. [As amended, effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2021, by SAS No. 141.]

Objectives

.11 The objectives of the auditor, having read the other information, are as follows:

- a. To consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements
- b. To remain alert for indications that
 - i. a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit or
 - ii. a material misstatement of fact exists or the other information is otherwise misleading
- c. To respond appropriately when the auditor identifies that such material inconsistencies appear to exist, or when the auditor otherwise becomes aware that other information appears to be materially misstated
- d. To report in accordance with this section

Definitions

.12 For purposes of the auditing standards, the following terms have the meanings attributed:

Annual report. A document, or combination of documents, typically prepared on an annual basis by management or those charged with governance in accordance with law, regulation, or custom, the purpose of which is to provide owners (or similar stakeholders) with information on the entity's operations and the entity's financial results and financial position as set out in the financial statements. An annual report contains, accompanies, or incorporates by reference the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon and usually includes information about the

entity's developments, its future outlook and risks and uncertainties, a statement by the entity's governing body, and reports covering governance matters. Annual reports include annual reports of governments and organizations for charitable or philanthropic purposes that are available to the public. (Ref: par. .A4–.A10)

Misstatement of the other information. A misstatement of the other information exists when the other information is incorrectly stated or otherwise misleading. (Ref: par. .A11–.A12)

Other information. Financial or nonfinancial information (other than financial statements and the auditor's report thereon) included in an entity's annual report. (Ref: par. .A13)

Requirements

Obtaining the Other Information

.13 The auditor should do the following: (Ref: par. .A14–.A24)

- a. Through discussion with management, determine and obtain management's written acknowledgment regarding which document or documents comprise the annual report and the entity's planned manner and timing of the issuance of such documents.
- b. Make appropriate arrangements with management to obtain in a timely manner and, if possible, prior to the date of the auditor's report, the final version of the document or documents comprising the annual report.
- c. When some or all the documents determined in (a) will not be available until after the date of the auditor's report on the financial statements, request management to provide a written representation that the final version of the documents will be provided to the auditor when available, and prior to the document's issuance by the entity, such that the auditor can complete the procedures required by this section. (Ref: par. .A23–.A24)

.14 If the auditor becomes aware that the entity did not provide the auditor with the final version of documents determined in accordance with paragraph .13a to be part of the annual report prior to the issuance of those documents to third parties, the auditor should take appropriate action. (Ref: par. .A25)

Communication With Those Charged With Governance

.15 The auditor should communicate with those charged with governance the auditor's responsibility with respect to other information, the procedures performed related to the other information, and the results.

Reading and Considering the Other Information

.16 The auditor should read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements. As the basis for this consideration, to evaluate their consistency, the auditor should compare selected amounts or other items in the other information (that are intended to be the same as, to summarize, or to provide greater detail about the amounts or other items in the financial statements) with such amounts or other items in the financial statements. (Ref: par. .A26–.A32)

.17 While reading the other information in accordance with paragraph .16, the auditor should remain alert for indications that (Ref: par. .A33–.A42)

- a. a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit.
- b. a material misstatement of fact exists or the other information is otherwise misleading.

.18 The auditor is not responsible for searching for omitted information or for the completeness of the other information.

Responding When a Material Inconsistency Appears to Exist or Other Information Appears to Be Materially Misstated

.19 If the auditor identifies that a material inconsistency appears to exist (or becomes aware that the other information appears to be materially misstated), the auditor should discuss the matter with management and, if necessary, perform other procedures to conclude the following: (Ref: par. .A43–.A47)

- a. Whether a material misstatement of the other information exists
- b. Whether a material misstatement of the financial statements exists
- c. Whether the auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment needs to be updated

Responding When the Auditor Concludes That a Material Misstatement of the Other Information Exists

.20 If the auditor concludes that a material misstatement of the other information exists, the auditor should request management to correct the other information and

- a. if management agrees to make the correction, determine that the correction has been made.
- b. if management refuses to make the correction, communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request that the correction be made.

.21 If the auditor concludes that a material misstatement exists in other information obtained prior to the date of the auditor's report, and the other information is not corrected after communicating with those charged with governance, the auditor should (Ref: par. .A48)

- a. consider the implications for the auditor's report and communicate to those charged with governance about how the auditor plans to address the material misstatement in the auditor's report (see paragraph .24cii); (Ref: par. .A49)
- b. withhold the auditor's report; or (Ref: par. .A51)
- c. withdraw from the engagement, when withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation. (Ref: par. .A50–.A51)

.22 If the auditor concludes that a material misstatement exists in other information obtained after the date of the auditor's report, the auditor should do the following:

- a. If the other information is corrected, perform the procedures necessary in the circumstances. (Ref: par. .A52)

- b. If the other information is not corrected after communicating with those charged with governance, take appropriate action considering the auditor's legal rights and obligations to seek to have the uncorrected material misstatement appropriately brought to the attention of anyone in receipt of the financial statements and the auditor's report. (Ref: par. .A53–.A54)

Responding When a Material Misstatement in the Financial Statements Exists or the Auditor's Understanding of the Entity and Its Environment Needs to Be Updated

.23 If, as a result of performing the procedures in paragraphs .16–.18, the auditor concludes that a material misstatement in the financial statements exists or the auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment needs to be updated, the auditor should respond appropriately in accordance with other relevant AU-C sections. (Ref: par. .A55)

Reporting

.24 At the date of the auditor's report, when the auditor has obtained all the other information, the composition of which was determined through discussion with management and for which the auditor obtained management's written acknowledgment (pursuant to paragraph .13a), the auditor should include a separate section in the auditor's report on the financial statements with the heading "Other Information" or other appropriate heading. The "Other Information" section in the auditor's report on the financial statements should include the following: (Ref: par. .A56)

- a. A statement that management is responsible for the other information
- b. An identification of other information and a statement that the other information does not include the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon
- c. A statement that the auditor's opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and that the auditor does not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon
- d. A statement that, in connection with the audit of the financial statements, the auditor is responsible to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated
- e. A statement that, if, based on the work performed, the auditor concludes that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, the auditor is required to describe it in the auditor's report
- f. If the auditor has concluded that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, a statement that the auditor has concluded that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists and a description of it in the auditor's report

.25 When the auditor expresses a qualified or adverse opinion in accordance with section 705, *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent*

Auditor's Report, the auditor should consider the implications of the matter giving rise to the modification of opinion for the statement required in paragraph .24^f of this section. (Ref: par. .A57–.A61)

Documentation

.26 In addressing the requirements in section 230, *Audit Documentation*,² as those requirements apply to this section, the auditor should include the following in the audit documentation:

- a. The procedures performed under this section
- b. The final version of the other information on which the auditor has performed the work required under this section

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Scope of This Section (Ref: par. .02 and .09)

.A1 In instances in which the auditor applies this section to other documents to which the auditor, at management's request, devotes attention, the requirements of this section are applicable, adapted as necessary in the circumstances.

.A2 Other AU-C sections provide requirements and guidance with respect to information in certain documents other than annual reports. For example, section 925, *Filings With the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Under the Securities Act of 1933*; section 945, *Auditor Involvement With Exempt Offering Documents*; and Statement on Auditing Standards No. 136, *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements of Employee Benefit Plans Subject to ERISA* (sec. 703).³

.A3 This section also addresses other information for which a designated accounting standard setter⁴ has issued standards or guidance regarding the format to be used and content to be included when such information is voluntarily presented in an annual report — for example, GASB Statement No. 44, *Economic Condition Reporting: The Statistical Section*.

Definitions

Annual Report (Ref: par. .12)

.A4 Law, regulation, or custom may define the content of an annual report and the name by which it is to be referred.

.A5 An annual report is typically prepared on an annual basis. However, when the financial statements being audited are prepared for a period less than or more than a year, an annual report may also be prepared that covers the same period as the financial statements.

² Paragraphs .08–.11 of section 230, *Audit Documentation*.

³ Statement on Auditing Standards No. 136, *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements of Employee Benefit Plans Subject to ERISA* (sec. 703), is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2021.

⁴ *Designated accounting standards setter* is defined in paragraph .04 of section 730, *Required Supplementary Information*.

.A6 In some cases, an entity's annual report may be a single document and referred to by the title "Annual Report" or by some other title. In other cases, law, regulation, or custom may require the entity to report to owners (or similar stakeholders) information on the entity's operations and the entity's financial results and financial position as set out in the financial statements (that is, an annual report) by way of a single document or by way of two or more separate documents that, in combination, serve the same purpose.

.A7 An annual report may be made available to users in printed form, or electronically, including on the entity's website. A document (or combination of documents) may meet the definition of an *annual report*, irrespective of the manner in which it is made available to users.

.A8 An annual report is different in nature, purpose, and content from other reports, such as a report prepared to meet the information needs of a specific stakeholder group or a report prepared to comply with a specific regulatory reporting objective (even when such a report is required to be publicly available). Examples of reports that, when issued as stand-alone documents, are not typically part of the combination of documents that comprise an annual report (subject to law, regulation, or custom), and, therefore, are not other information within the scope of this section, include the following:

- IRS Form 990, *Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax*
- IRS Form 5500, *Annual Return / Report of Employee Benefit Plan*
- Annual statement filed with National Association of Insurance Commissioners
- Separate industry or regulatory reports (for example, capital adequacy reports), such as those prepared in the banking, insurance, and pension industries
- Corporate social responsibility reports
- Sustainability reports
- Diversity and equal opportunity reports
- Product responsibility reports
- Labor practices and working conditions reports
- Human rights reports

.A9 Though a document may be referred to as an *annual report*, such document may not meet the definition of an *annual report* for purposes of this section.

Considerations Specific to Governmental Entities

.A10 The term *annual reports of governments* is intended to include comprehensive annual financial reports or other annual financial reports that include the government's financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

Misstatement of the Other Information (Ref: par. .12)

.A11 A misstatement of the other information may be

- an inconsistency;
- a misstatement of fact; or
- information that is otherwise misleading, including because it omits or obscures information necessary for a user to appropriately understand a matter disclosed in the other information.

An inconsistency exists when other information conflicts with information contained in the financial statements. A material inconsistency may raise doubt about the audit conclusions drawn from audit evidence previously obtained and, possibly, about the basis for the auditor's opinion on the financial statements. A misstatement of fact exists when other information that is unrelated to matters appearing in the financial statements is incorrectly stated or presented. A material misstatement of fact may undermine the credibility of the annual report. Information that is otherwise misleading, including because it omits or obscures information necessary for a user to appropriately understand a matter disclosed in the other information, could result in a material misstatement of the other information.

.A12 The concept of materiality may be discussed in a framework applicable to the other information and, if so, such a framework may provide a frame of reference for the auditor in making judgments about materiality under this section. In many cases, however, there may be no applicable framework that includes a discussion of the concept of materiality as it applies to the other information. In such circumstances, the following characteristics provide the auditor with a frame of reference in determining if a misstatement of the other information is material:

- Materiality is considered in the context of the common information needs of users as a group. The users of the other information are expected to be the same as the users of the financial statements because such users may be expected to read the other information to provide context to the financial statements.
- Judgments about materiality take into account the specific circumstances of the misstatement, considering whether users would be influenced by the effect of the uncorrected misstatement. Not all misstatements will influence the economic decisions of users.
- Judgments about materiality involve both qualitative and quantitative considerations. Accordingly, such judgments may take into account the nature or magnitude of the items that the other information addresses in the context of the entity's annual report.

Other Information (Ref: par. .12)

.A13 The following are examples of amounts and other items that may be included in other information. This list is not intended to be exhaustive:

- Management report, management commentary, or operating and financial review or similar reports by those charged with governance (for example, a directors' report)
- Chairman's statement
- Corporate governance statement
- Management's internal control and risk assessment reports
- Financial summaries or highlights
- Employment data
- Planned capital expenditures
- Financial ratios
- Names of officers and directors
- Selected quarterly data

Obtaining the Other Information (Ref: par. .13–.14)

.A14 Determining the document or documents that comprise the annual report is often clear based on law, regulation, or custom. In many cases, management or those charged with governance may have customarily issued a package of documents that, together, comprise the annual report or may have committed to do so. In some cases, it may not be clear which documents comprise the annual report. In such cases, the timing and purpose of the documents (and for whom they are intended) are matters that may be relevant to the auditor's determination of which documents are the annual report.

.A15 In accordance with paragraph .13a, management's written acknowledgment may be included in the engagement letter, an amendment to the engagement letter, a representation letter, or some other written communication.

.A16 Management, or those charged with governance, is responsible for preparing the annual report. The auditor may communicate the following to management or those charged with governance:

- The auditor's expectations in relation to obtaining the final version of the annual report (including a combination of documents that, together, comprise the annual report) in a timely manner prior to the date of the auditor's report such that the auditor can complete the procedures required by this section before the date of the auditor's report, or if that is not possible, as soon as practicable and, in any case, prior to the entity's issuance of such information
- The possible implications when the other information is obtained after the date of the auditor's report

.A17 The communications referred to in paragraph .A16 may be particularly appropriate in the following instances:

- In an initial audit engagement
- When there has been a change in management or those charged with governance
- When other information is expected to be obtained after the date of the auditor's report

.A18 When those charged with governance are to approve the other information prior to its issuance by the entity, the final version of such other information is the version that has been approved by those charged with governance for issuance.

.A19 In some cases, the entity's annual report may be a single document to be released, in accordance with law or regulation or the entity's reporting practice, shortly after the entity's financial reporting period such that it is available to the auditor prior to the date of the auditor's report. In other cases, such a document may not be required to be released until a later time, or at a time of the entity's choosing. There may also be circumstances in which the entity's annual report is a combination of documents, each subject to different requirements or reporting practices by the entity with respect to the timing of their release.

.A20 Obtaining the other information in a timely manner prior to the date of the auditor's report enables any revisions that are found to be necessary to

the financial statements, the auditor's report, or the other information prior to their issuance. The audit engagement letter⁵ may make reference to an agreement with management to make available to the auditor the other information in a timely manner, and, if possible, prior to the date of the auditor's report.

.A21 When other information is made available to users only via the entity's website, the version of the other information obtained from the entity, rather than directly from the entity's website, is the relevant document on which the auditor would perform procedures in accordance with this section. The auditor has no responsibility in accordance with this section to search for other information, including other information that may be on the entity's website, nor to perform any procedures to confirm that other information is appropriately displayed on the entity's website or otherwise has been appropriately transmitted or displayed electronically.

.A22 The auditor is not precluded from dating or issuing the auditor's report if the auditor has not obtained some or all of the other information.

.A23 When the other information is obtained after the date of the auditor's report, the auditor is not required to update the procedures performed in accordance with section 560, *Subsequent Events and Subsequently Discovered Facts*.⁶

.A24 Section 580, *Written Representations*, establishes requirements and provides guidance on the use of written representations. The written representation regarding other information that will be available only after the date of the auditor's report is intended to support the auditor's ability to complete the procedures required by this section with respect to such information. In addition, the auditor may find it useful to request other written representations, such as the following:

- That management has informed the auditor of all the documents that it expects to issue that may be other information
- That the financial statements and any other information obtained by the auditor prior to the date of the auditor's report are consistent with one another, and the other information does not contain any material misstatements
- With regard to other information that has not been obtained by the auditor prior to the date of the auditor's report, that management intends to prepare and issue such other information and the expected timing of such issuance

.A25 In accordance with paragraph .14, appropriate actions that the auditor may take include the following:

- Obtaining those documents from management and performing the procedures required by this section as soon as practical
- Communicating the matter to those charged with governance, if applicable
- Considering the need to obtain legal advice

⁵ Paragraph .A23 of section 210, *Terms of Engagement*.

⁶ Paragraphs .09–.11 of section 560, *Subsequent Events and Subsequently Discovered Facts*.

Reading and Considering the Other Information (Ref: par. .16–.17)

.A26 Section 200⁷ requires the auditor to plan and perform the audit with professional skepticism. Maintaining professional skepticism when reading and considering the other information includes, for example, recognizing that management may be overly optimistic about the success of its plans.

.A27 In accordance with section 220, *Quality Control for an Engagement Performed in Accordance With Generally Accepted Auditing Standards*,⁸ the engagement partner is required to take responsibility for the direction, supervision, and performance of the audit engagement in compliance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. In the context of this section, factors that may be considered when determining the appropriate engagement team members to address the requirements of paragraphs .16–.17 of this section include the following:

- The relative experience of engagement team members
- Whether the engagement team members have the relevant knowledge obtained in the audit to identify inconsistencies between the other information and that knowledge
- The degree of judgment involved in addressing the requirements of paragraphs .16–.17 of this section, for example, performing procedures to evaluate the consistency of amounts in the other information that are intended to be the same as amounts in the financial statements may be carried out by less experienced engagement team members
- Whether, in the case of a group audit, it is necessary to make inquiries of a component auditor in addressing the other information related to that component

.A28 Other information may include amounts or other items that are intended to be the same as, to summarize, or to provide greater detail about the amounts or other items in the financial statements. Examples of such amounts or other items may include the following:

- Tables, charts, or graphs containing extracts of the financial statements
- A disclosure providing greater detail about a balance or account shown in the financial statements, such as "Revenue for 20X1 was XXX million from product X and YYY million from product Y"
- Descriptions of the financial results, such as "Total research and development expense was XXX in 20X1"

.A29 In evaluating the consistency of selected amounts or other items in the other information with the financial statements, the auditor is not required to compare all amounts or other items in the other information that are intended to be the same as, to summarize, or to provide greater detail about the amounts or other items in the financial statements, with such amounts or other items in the financial statements.

⁷ Paragraph .17 of section 200.

⁸ Paragraph .17a of section 220, *Quality Control for an Engagement Performed in Accordance With Generally Accepted Auditing Standards*.

.A30 Selecting the amounts or other items to compare is a matter of professional judgment. Factors relevant to this judgment include the following:

- The significance of the amount or other item in the context in which it is presented, which may affect the importance that users would attach to the amount or other item (for example, a key ratio or amount)
- If quantitative, the relative size of the amount compared with accounts or items in the financial statements or the other information to which they relate
- The sensitivity of the particular amount or other item in the other information, for example, share-based payments for senior management

.A31 Determining the nature and extent of procedures to address the requirement in paragraph .16 is a matter of professional judgment, recognizing that the auditor's responsibilities under this section do not constitute an assurance engagement on the other information or impose an obligation to obtain assurance about the other information. Examples of such procedures include the following:

- For information that is intended to be the same as information in the financial statements, comparing the information to the financial statements
- For information intended to convey the same meaning as disclosures in the financial statements, comparing the words used and considering the significance of differences in wording used and whether such differences imply different meanings
- Obtaining a reconciliation between an amount within the other information and the financial statements from management
- Comparing items in the reconciliation to the financial statements and the other information
- Checking whether the calculations within the reconciliation are arithmetically accurate

.A32 Evaluating the consistency of selected amounts or other items in the other information with the financial statements includes, when relevant given the nature of the other information, the manner of their presentation compared to the financial statements.

.A33 Other information may include amounts or items that are related to the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit (other than those in paragraph .16). Examples of such amounts or items may include the following:

- A disclosure of the units produced or a table summarizing such production by geographical region
- A statement that "the company introduced product X and product Y during the year"
- A summary of the locations of the entity's major operations, such as "the entity's major center of operation is in country X, and there are also operations in countries Y and Z"

.A34 The auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit includes the auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment, including the entity's internal control, obtained in accordance with section 315, *Understanding the Entity and*

*Its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement.*⁹ Section 315 sets out the auditor's required understanding, which includes such matters as obtaining an understanding of the following:

- a. The relevant industry, regulatory, and other external factors
- b. The nature of the entity
- c. The entity's selection and application of accounting policies
- d. The entity's objectives and strategies
- e. The measurement and review of the entity's financial performance
- f. The entity's internal control

.A35 The auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit may also include matters that are prospective in nature. Such matters may include, for example, business prospects and future cash flows that the auditor considered when evaluating the assumptions used by management in performing impairment tests on intangible assets such as goodwill, or when evaluating management's evaluation of whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time in accordance with section 570, *The Auditor's Consideration of an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern*.

.A36 In the case of a group audit, though the group auditor is required to read the entirety of the other information if, in accordance with section 600, *Special Considerations — Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*,¹⁰ the group auditor decides to make reference to a component auditor in the auditor's report on the group financial statements, the group auditor's knowledge does not extend beyond that obtained by the group auditor during the audit of the group financial statements.

.A37 While remaining alert for indications that a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit, the auditor may focus on those matters in the other information that are of sufficient importance that a misstatement of the other information in relation to those matters could be material.

.A38 In relation to many matters in the other information, the auditor's recollection of the audit evidence obtained and conclusions reached during the audit may be sufficient to enable the auditor to consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit. For example, the auditor may be able to consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit in light of the auditor's recollection of discussions held with management or those charged with governance or findings from procedures carried out during the audit, such as the reading of board minutes, without the need to take further action.

.A39 The manner in which an auditor resolves a concern regarding whether other information is materially inconsistent with the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit, is a matter of professional judgment. The auditor may determine that referring to relevant audit documentation or making inquiries of relevant members of the engagement team or relevant component auditors is appropriate as a basis for the auditor's consideration of whether

⁹ Paragraphs .12–.13 of section 315, *Understanding the Entity and Its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement*.

¹⁰ Paragraph .24 of section 600, *Special Considerations — Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

a material misstatement exists. Whether, and if so, the extent to which, the auditor refers to relevant audit documentation or makes inquiries of relevant members of the engagement team or relevant component auditors is a matter of professional judgment.

.A40 It may not be necessary for the auditor to refer to relevant audit documentation or to make inquiries of relevant members of the engagement team or relevant component auditors about any matter included in the other information. This may be the case, for example, when the group auditor decides to make reference to a component auditor in the auditor's report in accordance with section 600,¹¹ and the group auditor has obtained sufficient knowledge in connection with the group audit about matters in the other information relating to the significant component with respect to which the component auditor has performed an audit of the financial statements.

.A41 Other information may include discussion of matters that are not related to the financial statements and may also extend beyond the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit. For example, the other information may include statements about the entity's greenhouse gas emissions.

.A42 Remaining alert for indications that a material misstatement of fact exists or the other information is otherwise misleading could potentially result in the auditor identifying such matters as the following:

- Information that omits or obscures information necessary for a user to appropriately understand a matter disclosed in the other information
- Differences between the other information and the general knowledge, apart from the knowledge obtained in the audit, of the engagement team member reading the other information that leads the auditor to believe that the other information appears to be materially misstated
- An internal inconsistency in the other information that leads the auditor to believe that the other information appears to be materially misstated

Responding When a Material Inconsistency Appears to Exist or Other Information Appears to Be Materially Misstated (Ref: par. .19)

.A43 The auditor's discussion with management about a material inconsistency (or other information that appears to be materially misstated) may include requesting management to provide support for the basis of management's statements in the other information. Based on management's further information or explanations, the auditor may be satisfied that the other information is not materially misstated. For example, management's explanations may indicate reasonable and sufficient grounds for valid differences of judgment.

.A44 Conversely, the discussion with management may provide further information that supports the auditor's conclusion that a material misstatement of the other information exists.

.A45 It may be more difficult for the auditor to challenge management on matters of judgment than on those of a more factual nature. However, there may

¹¹ Paragraph .24 of section 600.

be circumstances in which the auditor concludes that the other information contains a statement that is not consistent with the financial statements or the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit. These circumstances may raise doubt about the other information, the financial statements, or the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit.

.A46 Because there is a wide range of possible material misstatements of the other information, the nature and extent of other procedures the auditor may perform to conclude whether a material misstatement of the other information exists are matters of the auditor's professional judgment in the circumstances.

.A47 When a matter is unrelated to the financial statements or the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit, the auditor may not be able to fully assess management's responses to the auditor's inquiries. Nevertheless, based on management's further information or explanations, or following changes made by management to the other information, the auditor may be satisfied that a material inconsistency no longer appears to exist or that the other information no longer appears to be materially misstated. When the auditor is unable to conclude that a material inconsistency no longer appears to exist or that the other information no longer appears to be materially misstated, the auditor may request management to consult with a qualified third party (for example, management's expert or legal counsel). In certain cases, after considering the responses from management's consultation, the auditor may not be able to conclude whether a material misstatement of the other information exists. Actions the auditor may then take include one or more of the following:

- Obtaining advice from the auditor's legal counsel
- Considering the implications for the auditor's report, for example, whether to describe the circumstances when there is a limitation imposed by management
- Withdrawing from the audit, when withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation

Responding When the Auditor Concludes That a Material Misstatement of the Other Information Exists

Responding When the Auditor Concludes That a Material Misstatement Exists in Other Information Obtained Prior to the Date of the Auditor's Report (Ref: par. .21)

.A48 The actions the auditor takes if the other information is not corrected after communicating with those charged with governance are a matter of the auditor's professional judgment. The auditor may consider whether the rationale given by management and those charged with governance for not making the correction raises doubt about the integrity or honesty of management or those charged with governance, such as when the auditor suspects an intention to mislead. The auditor may also consider it appropriate to seek legal advice. In some cases, the auditor may be required by law, regulation, or other professional standards to communicate the matter to a regulator or relevant professional body.

Reporting Implications (Ref: par. .21a)

.A49 In rare circumstances, a disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements may be appropriate when the refusal to correct the material misstatement of the other information casts such doubt on the integrity of management

and those charged with governance that it calls into question the reliability of audit evidence in general.

Withdrawal From the Engagement (Ref: par. .21c)

.A50 Withdrawal from the engagement, when withdrawal is possible under applicable law or regulation, may be appropriate when the circumstances surrounding the refusal to correct the material misstatement of the other information cast such doubt on the integrity of management and those charged with governance that it calls into question the reliability of representations obtained from them during the audit.

Considerations Specific to Governmental Entities (Ref: par. .21b–c)

.A51 In audits of governmental entities, withdrawal from the engagement or withholding the auditor's report may not be possible under law or regulation. In such cases, the auditor may issue a report or written communication to those charged with governance and the appropriate statutory body, if applicable, giving details of the material misstatement.

Responding When the Auditor Concludes That a Material Misstatement Exists in Other Information Obtained After the Date of the Auditor's Report (Ref: par. .22)

.A52 If the auditor concludes that a material misstatement exists in other information obtained after the date of the auditor's report, and such a material misstatement has been corrected, the auditor's procedures necessary in the circumstances include determining that the correction has been made (in accordance with paragraph .20a) and may include reviewing the steps taken by management to communicate with those in receipt of the other information, if previously issued, to inform them of the revision.

.A53 If those charged with governance do not agree to revise the other information, taking appropriate action to seek to have the uncorrected misstatement appropriately brought to the attention of anyone in receipt of the financial statements and the auditor's report requires the exercise of professional judgment and may be affected by relevant law or regulation in the jurisdiction. Accordingly, the auditor may consider it appropriate to seek legal advice about the auditor's legal rights and obligations.

.A54 When a material misstatement of the other information remains uncorrected, appropriate actions that the auditor may take to seek to have the uncorrected material misstatement appropriately brought to the attention of anyone in receipt of the financial statements and the auditor's report, when permitted by law or regulation, include, for example, the following:

- Providing a new or amended auditor's report to management, including a modified section in accordance with paragraph .25, and requesting management to provide this new or amended auditor's report to anyone in receipt of the financial statements and the auditor's report. In doing so, the auditor may need to consider the effect, if any, on the date of the new or amended auditor's report, in view of the requirements of GAAS or applicable law or regulation. The auditor may also review the steps taken by management to provide the new or amended auditor's report to such users.
- Bringing the material misstatement of the other information to the attention of known users of the financial statements and the auditor's report.

- Communicating with a regulator or relevant professional body about the uncorrected material misstatement.
- Considering the implications for engagement continuance (see also paragraph .A51).

Responding When a Material Misstatement in the Financial Statements Exists or the Auditor's Understanding of the Entity and Its Environment Needs to Be Updated (Ref: par. .23)

.A55 In reading the other information, the auditor may become aware of new information that has implications for the following:

- The auditor's understanding of the entity and its environment, which may indicate the need to revise the auditor's risk assessment¹²
- The auditor's responsibility to evaluate the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements¹³
- The auditor's responsibilities relating to subsequent events¹⁴

Reporting (Ref: par. .24–.25)

.A56 Illustrative examples of the "Other Information" section in the auditor's report are included in the exhibit.

Reporting Implications When the Auditor's Opinion on the Financial Statements Is Qualified or Adverse (Ref: par. .25)

.A57 A qualified or adverse auditor's opinion on the financial statements may not have an impact on the statement required by paragraph .24f if the matter with respect to the auditor's opinion has been modified is not included or otherwise addressed in the other information, and the matter does not affect any part of the other information. For example, a qualified opinion on the financial statements because of nondisclosure of directors' remuneration as required by the applicable financial reporting framework may have no implications for the reporting required under this section. In other circumstances, there may be implications for such reporting as described in paragraphs .A58–.A61.

Qualified Opinion Due to a Material Misstatement in the Financial Statements

.A58 In circumstances in which the auditor's opinion is qualified, consideration may be given to whether the other information is also materially misstated for the same matter as, or a matter related to, the matter giving rise to the qualified opinion on the financial statements.

Qualified Opinion Due to Limitation of Scope

.A59 When there is a limitation of scope with respect to a material item in the financial statements, the auditor will not have obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence about that matter. In these circumstances, the auditor may be unable to conclude whether the amounts or other items in the other information related to this matter result in a material misstatement of the other information. Accordingly, the auditor may need to modify the statement

¹² Paragraphs .11, .31, and .A1 of section 315.

¹³ Section 450, *Evaluation of Misstatements Identified During the Audit*.

¹⁴ Paragraphs .10 and .14 of section 560.

required by paragraph .24f to refer to the auditor's inability to consider management's description of the matter in the other information with respect to which the auditor's opinion on the financial statements has been qualified, as explained in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph. The auditor is, nevertheless, required to report any other uncorrected material misstatements of the other information that have been identified.

Adverse Opinion

.A60 An adverse opinion on the financial statements relating to a specific matter or matters described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion paragraph does not justify the omission of reporting of material misstatements of the other information that the auditor has identified in the auditor's report in accordance with paragraph .24f. When an adverse opinion has been expressed on the financial statements, the auditor may need to appropriately modify the statement required by paragraph .24f, for example, to indicate that amounts or items in the other information are materially misstated for the same matter as, or a related matter to, the matter giving rise to the adverse opinion on the financial statements.

Disclaimer of Opinion

.A61 When the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, providing further details about the audit, including a section to address other information, may overshadow the disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, in those circumstances, as required by section 705,¹⁵ the auditor's report does not include a section addressing the reporting requirements under this section.

¹⁵ Paragraph .30 of section 705, *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report*.

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Exhibit — Illustrations of Other Information Sections to Be Included in Auditor’s Reports Relating to Other Information Included in the Annual Report

Illustration 1 — The auditor has not identified an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information.

Illustration 2 — The auditor has concluded that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists.

Illustration 1: The Auditor Has Not Identified an Uncorrected Material Misstatement of the Other Information

Other Information [Included in the Annual Report]

Management is responsible for the other information [*included in the annual report*]. The other information comprises the [*information included in the annual report*]¹ but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

¹ A more specific description of the other information, such as "the management report and chairman's statement," may be used to identify the other information.

Illustration 2: The Auditor Has Concluded That an Uncorrected Material Misstatement of the Other Information Exists***Other Information [Included in the Annual Report]***

Management is responsible for the other information [*included in the annual report*]. The other information comprises the [*information included in the annual report*]² but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report. As described below, we have concluded that such an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists.

[Description of material misstatement of the other information]

² See footnote 1.