

HKSA 570 (Revised 2024)  
Issued July 2025

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Effective for audits of financial statements  
for periods beginning on or after 15 December 2026

*Hong Kong Standard on Auditing 570 (Revised 2024)*

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# **Going Concern**

## **Including Conforming and Consequential Amendments to Other Hong Kong Standards on Auditing (HKSAAs)**



Hong Kong Institute of  
**Certified Public Accountants**  
香港會計師公會

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# HONG KONG STANDARD ON AUDITING (HKSA) 570 (REVISED 2024), GOING CONCERN

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after 15 December 2026)

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## Introduction

### Scope of this HKSA

1. This Hong Kong Standard on Auditing (HKSA) deals with the auditor's responsibilities in the audit of financial statements relating to going concern and the implications for the auditor's report. Although this HKSA applies irrespective of the entity's size or complexity, particular considerations apply only for audits of financial statements of listed entities. (Ref: Para. A1–A2)

### Going Concern Basis of Accounting

2. Under the going concern basis of accounting, the financial statements are prepared on the assumption that the entity is a going concern and will continue its operations for the foreseeable future. General purpose financial statements are prepared using the going concern basis of accounting, unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Special purpose financial statements may or may not be prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework for which the going concern basis of accounting is relevant (e.g., the going concern basis of accounting is not relevant for some financial statements prepared on a tax basis in particular jurisdictions). When the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, assets and liabilities are recorded on the basis that the entity will be able to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business. (Ref: Para. A3)

### Responsibility for Assessment of the Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern

#### *Responsibilities of Management*

3. Some financial reporting frameworks contain an explicit requirement for management to make a specific assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and include standards regarding matters to be considered and disclosures to be made in connection with going concern. For example, Hong Kong Accounting Standard (HKAS) 1 requires management to make an assessment of an entity's ability to continue as a going concern.<sup>1</sup> The detailed requirements regarding management's responsibility to assess the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and related financial statement disclosures may also be set out in law or regulation. (Ref: Para. A4)
4. In other financial reporting frameworks, there may be no explicit requirement for management to make a specific assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, where the going concern basis of accounting is a fundamental principle in the preparation of financial statements as discussed in paragraph 2, the preparation of the financial statements requires management to assess the entity's ability to continue as a going concern even if the financial reporting framework does not include an explicit requirement to do so.
5. Management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern involves making a judgment, at a particular point in time, about inherently uncertain future outcomes of events or conditions. The following factors are relevant to that judgment:
  - The degree of uncertainty associated with the outcome of an event or condition increases significantly the further into the future an event or condition or the outcome occurs. For that reason, most financial reporting frameworks that require an explicit management assessment specify the minimum period for which management is required to take into

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<sup>1</sup> HKAS 1, *Presentation of Financial Statements*, paragraphs 25–26

account all available information.

- The size and complexity of the entity, the nature and condition of its business and the degree to which it is affected by external factors affect the judgment regarding the outcome of events or conditions.
- Any judgment about the future is based on information available at the time at which the judgment is made. Subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgments that were reasonable at the time they were made.

### *Responsibilities of the Auditor*

6. The auditor's responsibilities are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding, and conclude on, the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements, and to conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. These responsibilities exist even if the financial reporting framework used in the preparation of the financial statements does not include an explicit requirement for management to make a specific assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
7. However, as described in HKSA 200,<sup>2</sup> the potential effects of inherent limitations on the auditor's ability to detect material misstatements are greater for future events or conditions that may cause an entity to cease to continue as a going concern. The auditor cannot predict such future events or conditions. Accordingly, the absence of a reference to an identified material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in an auditor's report cannot be viewed as a guarantee as to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

### **Effective Date**

8. This HKSA is effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after 15 December 2026.

### **Objectives**

9. The objectives of the auditor are:
  - (a) To obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding, and conclude on, the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements;
  - (b) To conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern; and
  - (c) To report in accordance with this HKSA.

### **Definition**

10. For purposes of the HKSAs, the following term has the meaning attributed below:

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<sup>2</sup> HKSA 200, *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing*, paragraphs A56–A57

Material Uncertainty (Related to Going Concern)—An uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. "May cast significant doubt" is used to refer to circumstances where the magnitude of the potential impact and likelihood of occurrence of the identified events or conditions are such that, unless management's plans for future actions mitigate their effects, the entity may be unable to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business and continue its operations for the foreseeable future. (Ref: Para. A5–A6)

## Requirements

### Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities

11. In applying HKSA 315 (Revised 2019),<sup>3</sup> the auditor shall design and perform risk assessment procedures, including those required by paragraph 12, to obtain audit evidence that provides an appropriate basis for determining whether events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. The identification of such events or conditions shall be before consideration of any related mitigating factors included in management's plans for future actions. (Ref: Para. A7–A15)

### *Obtaining an Understanding of the Entity and Its Environment, the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework and the Entity's System of Internal Control*

12. In applying HKSA 315 (Revised 2019),<sup>4</sup> the auditor shall perform risk assessment procedures to obtain an understanding of: (Ref: Para. A9–A15)

#### The Entity and Its Environment

- (a) The entity's business model, objectives, strategies and related business risks relevant to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para. A16)
- (b) Industry conditions, including the competitive environment, technological developments, and other external factors affecting the entity's financing.
- (c) The measures used, internally and externally, to assess the entity's financial performance, including forecasts, future cash flows, and management's budgeting processes. (Ref: Para. A17)

#### The Applicable Financial Reporting Framework

- (d) The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework relating to going concern, and the related disclosures that are required to be included in the entity's financial statements. (Ref: Para. A18, A20)
- (e) The basis for management's intended use of the going concern basis of accounting. (Ref: Para. A19–A20)

<sup>3</sup> HKSA 315 (Revised 2019), *Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement*, paragraphs 13-14

<sup>4</sup> HKSA 315 (Revised 2019), paragraphs 19-27



### The Entity's System of Internal Control

- (f) Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity,<sup>5</sup> how those charged with governance exercise oversight over management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para. A21–A22)
- (g) The entity's risk assessment process to identify, assess and address business risks relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
- (h) How management identifies the relevant method, significant assumptions and data that are appropriate in assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para. A23–A24)
- (i) How the entity's financial reporting process addresses disclosures related to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para. A25).

### *Remaining Alert Throughout the Audit for Information about Events or Conditions*

13. The auditor shall remain alert throughout the audit for information about events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para. A26–A29)

### *Events or Conditions not Previously Identified or Disclosed by Management*

14. In applying HKSA 315 (Revised 2019),<sup>6</sup> the auditor shall determine whether the audit evidence obtained from risk assessment procedures and related activities indicates the existence of events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor. (Ref: Para. A30–A31)

### *Control Deficiencies Within the Entity's System of Internal Control*

15. In applying HKSA 315 (Revised 2019),<sup>7</sup> based on the auditor's evaluation of each of the components of the entity's system of internal control, the auditor shall determine whether one or more control deficiencies in respect of management's assessment of going concern have been identified. (Ref: Para. A32)

### **Evaluating Management's Assessment**

16. Where management has not yet performed an assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor shall request management to make its assessment. If management is unwilling to make its assessment, the auditor shall consider the implications for the audit. (Ref: Para. A33)
17. The auditor shall design and perform audit procedures to evaluate management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, including the significant judgments on which management's assessment is based. (Ref: Para. A34–A36)
18. In designing and performing the audit procedures required by paragraph 17, the auditor shall do so in a manner that is not biased towards obtaining audit evidence that may be corroborative or towards excluding audit evidence that may be contradictory. (Ref: Para. A37)

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<sup>5</sup> HKSA 260 (Revised), *Communication with Those Charged with Governance*, paragraph 13

<sup>6</sup> HKSA 315 (Revised 2019), paragraph 35

<sup>7</sup> HKSA 315 (Revised 2019), paragraph 27

*Method, Significant Assumptions and Data Used in Management's Assessment*

19. The audit procedures required by paragraph 17 shall include evaluating the method, significant assumptions and data used by management in assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. In determining the nature and extent of such audit procedures, the auditor shall take into account the results of the risk assessment procedures performed. Such audit procedures shall address: (Ref: Para. A35, A38, A46)
- (a) The method used by management to assess the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, including whether the: (Ref: Para. A39)
    - (i) Method selected is appropriate in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework, and, if applicable, changes from the method used in prior periods are appropriate; and (Ref: Para. A40)
    - (ii) Calculations, if applicable, are applied in accordance with the method and are mathematically accurate. (Ref: Para. A41)
  - (b) Whether the significant assumptions on which management's assessment is based are: (Ref: Para. A42).
    - (i) Appropriate in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework, and, if applicable, changes from prior periods are appropriate; and
    - (ii) Consistent with each other and with related assumptions used in other areas of the entity's business activities, based on the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit.
  - (c) Whether the data is:
    - (i) Relevant and reliable; and (Ref: Para. A43–A44)
    - (ii) Appropriate in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework, and, if applicable, changes from prior periods are appropriate. (Ref: Para. A45)

*Period Beyond Management's Assessment*

20. The auditor shall inquire of management as to its knowledge of events or conditions beyond the period of management's assessment that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If management or the auditor identifies such events or conditions, the auditor shall request management to evaluate the potential significance of the events or conditions on its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para. A47–A49)

*Requesting Management to Extend Its Assessment*

21. If management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern covers less than twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements as defined in HKSA 560,<sup>8</sup> the auditor shall request management to extend its assessment period to at least twelve months from that date. (Ref: Para. A50–A53)

*Management Unwilling to Extend its Assessment*

22. If management is unwilling to extend its assessment when requested to do so by the auditor, the auditor shall discuss the matter with management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance. (Ref: Para. A54–A56)

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<sup>8</sup> HKSA 560, *Subsequent Events*, paragraph 5(b)

23. If, following the discussion required by paragraph 22, in the auditor's professional judgment it is necessary for management to extend its assessment and management remains unwilling to do so, the auditor shall determine the implications for the audit. (Ref: Para. A57)

#### *Information Used in Management's Assessment*

24. In evaluating management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor shall consider whether management's assessment includes all relevant information of which the auditor is aware.
25. If the auditor identifies events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern that management has not previously identified or disclosed to the auditor, the auditor shall:
- (a) Discuss the matter with management to understand the effects of those events or conditions on management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and request management to evaluate their potential significance;
  - (b) Determine whether it is necessary to request management to revise its going concern assessment to address the effect of those events or conditions; and (Ref: Para. A58)
  - (c) If applicable, design and perform additional audit procedures to evaluate management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with paragraphs 17-19.

#### **Evaluating Management's Plans for Future Actions**

26. If events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor shall evaluate management's plans for future actions in relation to its going concern assessment, including whether: (Ref: Para. A59–A62)
- (a) The outcome of these plans is likely to be sufficient to mitigate the effects of the identified events or conditions;
  - (b) Management's plans are feasible in the circumstances; and
  - (c) Management has both the intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action.
27. If management's plans for future actions include the use of significant assumptions or data, the auditor shall perform the audit procedures required by paragraph 19(b)-(c).

#### *Financial Support by Third Parties or Related Parties, Including the Entity's Owner-Manager*

28. If management's plans for future actions include financial support by third parties or related parties, including the entity's owner-manager, the auditor shall obtain audit evidence about the intent and ability of those parties to maintain or provide the necessary financial support. (Ref: Para. A63–A65)

#### **Information Becomes Known After the Date of the Auditor's Report**

29. If additional information becomes known to the auditor after the date of the auditor's report but before the date the financial statements are issued that is related to management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor shall perform procedures in accordance with HKSA 560. (Ref: Para. A66)

### Evaluating the Audit Evidence Obtained and Concluding

30. The auditor shall evaluate whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained regarding, and shall conclude on, the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. In doing so, the auditor shall: (Ref: Para. A67)
- (a) Evaluate whether the judgments and decisions made by management in making its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, even if they are individually reasonable, are indicators of possible management bias. When indicators of possible management bias are identified, the auditor shall evaluate the implications for the audit. (Ref: Para. A68–A71)
  - (b) Consider all audit evidence obtained, including audit evidence that is consistent or inconsistent with other audit evidence, and regardless of whether it appears to corroborate or contradict the assertions in the financial statements.
31. Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor shall conclude whether, in the auditor's professional judgment, a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para. A72)

### Adequacy of Disclosures

#### *Adequacy of Disclosures When No Material Uncertainty Exists*

32. If events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern but, based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor concludes that no material uncertainty exists, the auditor shall evaluate whether, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, the financial statements provide adequate disclosures about these events or conditions, including, as applicable, when significant judgments are made by management in concluding that there is no material uncertainty. (Ref: Para. A73–A76)

#### *Adequacy of Disclosures When a Material Uncertainty Exists*

33. If the auditor concludes that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate in the circumstances but a material uncertainty exists, the auditor shall determine whether the financial statements: (Ref: Para. A77)
- (a) Adequately disclose the principal events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and management's plans for future actions to address these events or conditions; and
  - (b) Disclose clearly that there is a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and, therefore, that the entity may be unable to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business and continue its operations for the foreseeable future.

When a material uncertainty exists, adequate disclosure of the nature and implications of the uncertainty is necessary for:

- (i) In the case of a fair presentation financial reporting framework, the fair presentation of the financial statements, or
- (ii) In the case of a compliance framework, the financial statements not to be misleading.

## Implications for the Auditor's Report

### *Use of Going Concern Basis of Accounting Is Appropriate – No Material Uncertainty Exists*

34. If the auditor concludes that the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate and no material uncertainty exists, the auditor shall include a separate section in the auditor's report with the heading "Going Concern", and: (Ref: Para. A78–A79)
- (a) State that: (Ref: Para. A80–A81)
    - (i) In the context of the audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming the auditor's opinion thereon, the auditor concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate;
    - (ii) Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern; and
    - (iii) The auditor's conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
  - (b) For an audit of financial statements of a listed entity, when significant judgments are made by management in concluding that there is no material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern: (Ref: Para. A82–A83, A89)
    - (i) Include a reference to the related disclosure(s) in the financial statements, if any; and (Ref: Para. A73–A76)
    - (ii) Describe how the auditor evaluated management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para. A84–A88)

### *Use of Going Concern Basis of Accounting Is Appropriate – A Material Uncertainty Exists*

#### *Adequate Disclosure of a Material Uncertainty Is Made in the Financial Statements*

35. If adequate disclosure about the material uncertainty is made in the financial statements, the auditor shall express an unmodified opinion and the auditor's report shall include a separate section under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern" and: (Ref: Para. A78–A79, A90–A91)
- (a) Include a reference to the related disclosure(s) in the financial statements; (Ref: Para. A73, A77)
  - (b) For an audit of financial statements of a listed entity, describe how the auditor evaluated management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern; (Ref: Para. A84–A88)
  - (c) State that these events or conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern;
  - (d) State that:
    - (i) The auditor's opinion is not modified in respect of the matter;
    - (ii) In the context of the audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming the auditor's opinion thereon, the auditor concluded that management's use of the going

concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate; and

- (iii) The auditor's conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### **Adequate Disclosure of a Material Uncertainty Is Not Made in the Financial Statements**

36. If adequate disclosure about the material uncertainty is not made in the financial statements, the auditor shall: (Ref: Para. A78–A79, A90, A92)

- (a) Express a qualified opinion or adverse opinion, as appropriate, in accordance with HKSA 705 (Revised);<sup>9</sup>
- (b) In the Basis for Qualified (Adverse) Opinion section of the auditor's report, state that a material uncertainty exists and that the financial statements do not adequately disclose this matter;
- (c) Include in the auditor's report a separate section under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern" and:
  - (i) Draw attention to the Basis for Qualified (Adverse) Opinion section of the auditor's report that states that a material uncertainty exists that has not been adequately disclosed in the financial statements;
  - (ii) State that:
    - a. In the context of the audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming the auditor's opinion thereon, the auditor concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate; and
    - b. The auditor's conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### ***Considerations When the Auditor Disclaims an Opinion on the Financial Statements***

37. When the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, unless required by law or regulation, the auditor shall not include separate sections on Going Concern or Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern in the auditor's report.<sup>10</sup> (Ref: Para. A93–A94)

#### ***Use of Going Concern Basis of Accounting Is Inappropriate***

38. If the financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting but, in the auditor's professional judgment, management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is inappropriate: (Ref: Para. A95–A96)

- (a) The auditor shall express an adverse opinion; and
- (b) Unless required by law or regulation, the auditor shall not include separate sections on Going Concern or Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern in the auditor's report.

<sup>9</sup> HKSA 705 (Revised), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>10</sup> HKSA 705 (Revised), paragraph 29

**Written Representations**

39. The auditor shall request written representations from management<sup>11</sup> and, where appropriate, those charged with governance addressing: (Ref: Para. A97)
- (a) Whether management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate;
  - (b) Whether the method, significant assumptions and data used in management's assessment of going concern and any related disclosures are appropriate in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework;
  - (c) That management's assessment of going concern reflects all events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern that management is aware of, and all such events or conditions, if any, have been disclosed to the auditor; and
  - (d) That matters relevant to going concern have been adequately disclosed in the financial statements, including, when applicable, significant judgments made by management in concluding that there is no material uncertainty.
40. If events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern the written representations required by paragraph 39 shall also address: (Ref: Para. A97)
- (a) Management's plans for future actions and whether such plans mitigate the effects of the identified events or conditions;
  - (b) The feasibility of these plans; and
  - (c) Whether management has the intent to carry out specific courses of action and has the ability to do so.

**Communication with Those Charged with Governance**

41. Unless all those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity,<sup>12</sup> the auditor shall communicate on a timely basis with those charged with governance events or conditions identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. (Ref: Para. A98–A99)
42. If events or conditions are identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance: (Ref: Para. A100)
- (a) Whether the events or conditions constitute a material uncertainty;
  - (b) Whether management's use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate in the preparation of the financial statements;
  - (c) An overview of the audit procedures performed and the basis for the auditor's conclusions, including the auditor's evaluation of management's plans for future actions;
  - (d) The adequacy of related disclosures in the financial statements, including disclosures that describe the significant judgments made by management and the mitigating factors in

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<sup>11</sup> HKSA 580, *Written Representations*

<sup>12</sup> HKSA 260 (Revised), paragraph 13

management's plans that are of significance to overcoming the adverse effects of the events or conditions;

- (e) When applicable, management's unwillingness to make or extend its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern when requested; and
- (f) The implications for the audit or the auditor's report. (Ref: Para. A101)

### Reporting to an Appropriate Authority Outside of the Entity

- 43. When the auditor considers including a separate section under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern" in the auditor's report, or issuing a modified opinion in respect of matters related to going concern, the auditor shall determine whether law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements: (Ref: Para. A102–A105)
  - (a) Require the auditor to report to an appropriate authority outside the entity.
  - (b) Establish responsibilities or rights under which reporting to an appropriate authority outside the entity may be appropriate in the circumstances.

### Documentation

- 44. In applying HKSA 230,<sup>13</sup> the auditor shall include in the audit documentation significant professional judgments made relating to the auditor's:
  - (a) Conclusions on:
    - (i) The appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements; and
    - (ii) Whether or not a material uncertainty exists; and
  - (b) Determination of the adequacy of management's disclosures in the financial statements related to going concern.

### Conformity and Compliance with International Standards on Auditing

- 45. As of July 2025, this HKSA conforms with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*. Compliance with the requirements of this HKSA ensures compliance with ISA 570 (Revised 2024).
- 46. Additional local explanation and guidance is provided in the Appendix.

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### Application and Other Explanatory Material

#### Scope of this HKSA (Ref: Para. 1)

- A1. In addition to the matters addressed by this HKSA, HKSA 701<sup>14</sup> deals with the auditor's responsibility to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report. That HKSA acknowledges that, when HKSA 701 applies, the following are, by their nature key audit matters:<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> HKSA 230, *Audit Documentation*, paragraphs 8–11, A6–A7 and Appendix

<sup>14</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>15</sup> HKSA 701, paragraph 15



- A material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern; or
- When significant judgments were made by management in concluding that there is no material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

However, in such circumstances, the implications for the auditor's report are in accordance with this HKSA.

- A2. For audits of financial statements of listed entities, when the auditor concludes, based on the audit evidence obtained, that no material uncertainty exists, and significant judgments were made by management in concluding that there is no material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, this HKSA requires the auditor to disclose under the heading of "Going Concern" within the auditor's report how the auditor evaluated management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

### **Going Concern Basis of Accounting**

*Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities* (Ref: Para. 2)

- A3. Management's use of the going concern basis of accounting is also relevant to public sector entities. For example, International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) 1 addresses the issue of the ability of public sector entities to continue as going concerns.<sup>16</sup> Going concern risks may arise, but are not limited to, situations where public sector entities operate on a for-profit basis, where government support may be reduced or withdrawn, or in the case of privatization. Events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on an entity's ability to continue as a going concern in the public sector may include situations where the public sector entity lacks funding for its continued existence or when policy decisions are made that affect the services provided by the public sector entity.

### **Responsibility for Assessment of the Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern**

*Responsibilities of Management* (Ref: Para. 3)

- A4. The circumstances in which entities prepare financial statements on a going concern basis of accounting may vary. For example, HKAS 1 explains that those circumstances could range from when an entity has a history of profitable operations and ready access to financial resources, to when management may need to consider a wide range of factors relating to current and expected profitability, debt repayment schedules and potential sources of replacement financing before it can satisfy itself that the going concern basis is appropriate.<sup>17</sup>

**Definition** (Ref: Para. 10)

- A5. The applicable financial reporting framework may or may not explicitly use the term "material uncertainty" when describing the uncertainties that are required to be disclosed in the financial statements related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. For example, the term "material uncertainty" is used in HKAS 1 and IPSAS 1. In some other financial reporting frameworks, the term "significant uncertainty" is used in similar circumstances. The auditor is required by paragraph 31 to conclude whether a material

<sup>16</sup> IPSAS 1, *Presentation of Financial Statements*, paragraphs 38–41

<sup>17</sup> HKAS 1, paragraph 26

uncertainty exists regardless of whether or how the applicable financial reporting framework defines a “material uncertainty.” The applicable financial reporting framework may also not define or describe the term “may cast significant doubt” or may use other terms or phrases.

- A6. Plans for future actions may include, for example, that management realizes assets sooner than originally intended or obtains alternative or additional sources of liquidity to support the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern (also see paragraphs 26–28). In such circumstances, the timing of the events or conditions giving rise to the uncertainty may also be relevant. For example, the shorter the time period in which management must take action, the more significant the uncertainty may be about the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern.

### **Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities**

*Events or Conditions That May Cast Significant Doubt on the Entity’s Ability to Continue as a Going Concern* (Ref: Para. 11)

- A7. Some events or conditions may not cast significant doubt when considered individually, however when considered collectively with other events or conditions they may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern.

Examples:

The following are examples of identified events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. These examples are not all-inclusive.

Financial

- Net liability or net current liability position.
- Fixed-term borrowings approaching maturity without realistic prospects of renewal or repayment; or excessive reliance on short-term borrowings to finance long-term assets.
- Indications of withdrawal of financial support by creditors.
- Recurring negative cash flows from operations or inability to generate cash flows from operations indicated by historical or prospective financial statements.
- Adverse key financial ratios.
- Substantial operating losses or significant deterioration in the value of assets used to generate cash flows.
- Arrears or discontinuance of dividends.
- Inability to pay creditors on due dates.
- Non-compliance or marginal ability to meet debt repayment or other debt covenant requirements or comply with the terms of loan agreements.
- Change from credit to cash-on-delivery transactions with suppliers.
- Inability to obtain additional debt or equity financing to stay competitive, including for financing or major research and development, capital expenditures, essential new product development and other essential investments.
- Exposure to liquidity risk as a result of the maturity mismatch of financial assets and liabilities.

## Operating

- Management intentions to liquidate the entity or to cease operations.
- Loss of key personnel and management without replacement.
- Significant declines in customer demand.
- Loss of a major market, significant customer(s), franchise, license, or principal supplier(s).
- Labor difficulties.
- Shortages of important supplies.
- Emergence of a highly successful competitor.

## Other

- Significant or sustained business interruption due to a cyber attack (e.g., denial of access to information or inability to provide service).
- Non-compliance or marginal ability to meet capital or other statutory or regulatory requirements, such as solvency or liquidity requirements for financial institutions or exchange listing requirements.
- Pending litigation and contingent liabilities arising from matters such as sales warranties, financial guarantees and environmental remediation or regulatory proceedings against the entity that may, if successful, result in claims that the entity is unlikely to be able to satisfy.
- Changes in law or regulation or government policy expected to adversely affect the entity, including sustainability related matters.
- Substantial decrease in share price.
- Significant exposures to volatile markets, such as exchange rates, commodities (e.g., crude oil prices), equities or interest rates.
- Uninsured or underinsured catastrophes or business interruption losses when they occur (e.g., an earthquake).
- Changes in the environment such as war, civil unrest, outbreaks of disease expected to adversely affect the entity or physical risks related to climate change (e.g., extreme flooding).

- A8. In certain circumstances, the auditor may identify fraud risk factors arising from events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern that are relevant to the identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud in accordance with HKSA 240.<sup>18</sup>

## Examples:

- Recurring negative cash flows from operations or an inability to generate cash flows from operations may create a threat of bankruptcy, foreclosure, or hostile takeover that may indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud.
- Non-compliance or marginal ability to meet debt covenant requirements may threaten

<sup>18</sup> HKSA 240, *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements*, paragraph 24

the ability to renew borrowings and indicate an incentive or pressure to improve the business performance or to intentionally misstate the financial statements.

*Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities (Ref: Para. 11–12)*

- A9. HKSA 315 (Revised 2019) contains requirements and guidance regarding the auditor's responsibility to obtain an understanding of the entity and its environment, the applicable financial reporting framework, and the entity's system of internal control, and the identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement whether due to fraud or error. The requirements and guidance in this HKSA refer to, or expand on, what is required by HKSA 315 (Revised 2019) relevant to identifying events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
- A10. The risk assessment procedures and related activities assist the auditor in determining whether management's use of the going concern basis of accounting is likely to be an important issue and its impact on planning the audit. In particular, when performing risk assessment procedures, such as those required by paragraphs 11–12, the auditor may identify information about certain events or conditions that, when considered individually or collectively, indicate that there are events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. These procedures also allow for more timely discussions with management, including a discussion of management's plans for future actions and resolution of any identified going concern issues when events or conditions are identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. The auditor uses professional judgment to determine the nature and extent of the risk assessment procedures to be performed to meet the requirements of this HKSA.
- A11. HKSA 315 (Revised 2019)<sup>19</sup> requires the auditor to design and perform risk assessment procedures in a manner that is not biased towards obtaining audit evidence that may be corroborative or towards excluding audit evidence that may be contradictory. Designing and performing risk assessment procedures in an unbiased manner may assist the auditor in identifying potentially contradictory information. This may assist the auditor in maintaining professional skepticism when identifying whether the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern give rise to a risk of management bias in the preparation of the financial statements (also see paragraphs A68–A71).
- A12. The following are examples of risk assessment procedures that may be relevant:

Examples:

The Entity and its Environment

- Inquiries of financial planning and analysis personnel related to cash flow, profit and other relevant forecasts to understand the sensitivity analysis related to future earnings included in management's assessment of going concern.
- Inquiries of the entity's legal counsel about the existence of litigation and claims and the reasonableness of management's assessments of their outcome and the estimate of their financial implications.
- Review of previous forecasts (retrospective review) to obtain information regarding the effectiveness of management's process for assessing going concern.

<sup>19</sup> HKSA 315 (Revised 2019), paragraph 13

- Inspecting the terms of debentures and loan agreements and determining whether any have been breached.

#### The Applicable Financial Reporting Framework

- Review of disclosures about the significant judgments and assumptions management makes about the future included in the entity's latest available financial statements that may be indicative of events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### The Entity's System of Internal Control

- Inspecting the minutes of the meetings of shareholders, those charged with governance and relevant committees for reference to financing difficulties.

A13. The auditor may also use automated tools and techniques when designing and performing risk assessment procedures as required by paragraph 11.

#### Examples:

The auditor may use automated tools and techniques when:

- Performing analytical procedures to understand the trends of key financial ratios (e.g., the entity's key sources of earnings and their relationship to cash generation) or identify inconsistencies or unusual events.
- Applying predictive models to assess an entity's financial condition or to understand the impact of events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern (e.g., models for prediction of bankruptcy or insolvency).

Scalability (Ref: Para. 11–12)

A14. The nature and extent of the auditor's risk assessment procedures may vary based on the nature and circumstances of the entity.

#### Examples:

##### The Entity and its Environment

- The nature and extent of the auditor's risk assessment procedures to obtain an understanding of the measures used, internally and externally, to assess the entity's financial performance are likely to be more extensive for entities with a complex structure and business activities. Such entities may also have complex borrowing arrangements with lenders, suppliers or group entities. In contrast, for smaller or less complex entities whose business activities are simple with few lines of business and with uncomplicated borrowing arrangements, the auditor's risk assessment procedures are likely to be less extensive.

##### The Applicable Financial Reporting Framework

- When the entity's business activities are affected to a lesser degree by uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the related disclosures in the entity's financial statements may be straightforward and the applicable financial reporting requirements may be simpler to apply. In such circumstances, the auditor's procedures to obtain an

understanding of the basis for management's intended use of the going concern basis of accounting are likely to be less extensive.

#### The Entity's System of Internal Control

- The nature and extent of the auditor's risk assessment procedures may also depend on the extent to which certain matters apply in the circumstances. For example, those charged with governance in smaller or less complex entities may not include independent or outside members who exercise oversight over management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. In addition, the entity's risk assessment process may be undertaken through the direct involvement of the owner-manager.

A15. The following considerations may be relevant for smaller or less complex entities:

- The size of an entity may affect its ability to withstand adverse conditions. Smaller entities may be able to respond quickly to exploit opportunities, but may lack reserves to sustain operations.
- Conditions of particular relevance to smaller entities include the risk that banks and other lenders may cease to support the entity, as well as the possible loss of a principal supplier, major customer, key employee, or the right to operate under a license, franchise or other legal agreement.

#### *Obtaining an Understanding of the Entity and Its Environment, the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework and the Entity's System of Internal Control*

The Entity and Its Environment (Ref: Para. 12(a), 12(c))

A16. The entity's business model, objectives, strategies and related business risks may give rise to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. Some business risks may be so significant that they have implications for the conclusion as to the appropriateness of the entity's use of the going concern basis of accounting and whether a material uncertainty exists.

#### Examples:

- Industry developments, such as the lack of access to appropriate personnel or expertise to deal with the changes in the industry or loss of significant customers or market share.
- New products and services that may lead to increased product liability.
- Expansion of the entity's business, and demand that has not been accurately estimated.
- Regulatory requirements resulting in increased legal exposure or financial impacts or restrictions on business activities, including those arising from sustainability related matters.
- Current and prospective financing requirements, such as loss of financing due to the entity's inability to meet certain predetermined revenue metrics.
- Incentives and pressures on management, which may result in management bias, and therefore affect the reasonableness of assumptions used in management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

A17. Management will likely use information available about the future as well as historical information from internal and external sources when identifying events or conditions that may cast significant

doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. Obtaining an understanding of the measures used, internally or externally, may highlight unexpected results or trends that may be indicative of events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Examples:

- Internal performance measures may indicate an unusual deterioration in sales volume when compared to that of other entities in the same industry that may be indicative of a significant decline in market share or loss of customers.
- External information sources, such as pricing data, comparable data about competitors (benchmarking data) or macro-economic data may indicate competitive, industry, economic and other factors that are used in the entity's forecasts, future cash flow and budgeting processes.
- The analysis of the entity's financial performance by external parties, such as analysts, credit agencies or institutional investors, may highlight inconsistencies with management's performance measures.

The Applicable Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 12(d), 12(e))

A18. Obtaining an understanding of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework provides the auditor with information about the recognition, measurement and presentation criteria in the applicable financial reporting framework, and how they apply in the preparation of the financial statements under the going concern basis of accounting. The applicable financial reporting framework may also include disclosure requirements about the significant judgments and assumptions management makes in concluding whether or not there is a material uncertainty related to going concern. Law or regulation may also include disclosure and other detailed requirements when preparing financial statements on the going concern basis of accounting.

A19. The nature, extent, timing and frequency of management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern may vary from entity to entity. In some entities, management may make assessments of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern more frequently as part of ongoing monitoring, while in other entities it may be made on an annual basis. If such an assessment has not yet been performed, the auditor may obtain an understanding of the basis for the intended use of the going concern basis of accounting through discussion with management and inquire of management whether events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities (Ref: Para. 12(d), 12(e))

A20. In some jurisdictions the applicable financial reporting framework may include specific guidance for public sector entities in relation to going concern that is relevant to management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. For example, such guidance may recognize the relevance of considering the ongoing nature of government programs to certain public sector entities and the presumption of continuation of public services and associated government funding to deliver these programs.

The Entity's System of Internal Control (Ref: Para. 12(f), 12(h), 12(i))

A21. Obtaining an understanding of the oversight by those charged with governance may be particularly important when the assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern:

- Requires significant judgment by management to assess whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern; or
  - Is complex to make, for example, because of the use of multiple data sources or assumptions with complex interrelationships.
- A22. The effectiveness of management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern may be influenced by the oversight exercised by those charged with governance. The auditor may obtain an understanding of whether those charged with governance:
- Have the skills or knowledge to understand the appropriateness of the method used by management in assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
  - Have the skills or knowledge to understand whether management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern has been made in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.
  - Are independent from management, have the information required to evaluate on a timely basis how management made the assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, and the authority to call into question management's actions when those actions appear to be inadequate or inappropriate.
  - Oversee management's process for making the assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
- A23. Aspects that may be relevant to the auditor's understanding of how management determines the relevant method, significant assumptions and data may include:
- The basis for management's selection of the method, assumptions and data used in assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern; and
  - If alternative methods, assumptions or data were considered by management, including:
    - How management determines that the assumptions are relevant and complete.
    - How management determines the relevance, accuracy and completeness of the data used in the assessment.
- A24. If management has changed its method for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern from the prior period, considerations may include whether the new method is, for example, more appropriate, is itself a response to changes in the environment or circumstances affecting the entity, or to changes in the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework or regulatory environment, or whether management has another valid reason. If management has not changed its method for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, considerations may include whether the continued use of the previous method, significant assumptions and data is appropriate in view of the current environment or circumstances.
- A25. The disclosures related to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern may contain information that is obtained from other supporting records and information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers (e.g., information produced by an entity's risk management system about hedging strategies or sensitivity analysis derived from financial models that demonstrate management has considered alternative assumptions). As part of obtaining an understanding of the entity's system of internal control, the auditor may consider how management determines the appropriateness of such information used to develop the disclosures related to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.



*Remaining Alert Throughout the Audit for Information about Events or Conditions* (Ref: Para. 13)

- A26. As explained in HKSA 315 (Revised 2019),<sup>20</sup> obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, the applicable financial reporting framework and the entity's system of internal control is a dynamic and iterative process of gathering, updating and analyzing information and continues throughout the audit. Therefore, the auditor's determination of whether events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern may change as new information is obtained.

**Example:**

The auditor may identify a risk of a material misstatement associated with the valuation assertion for a lender of medium-term real estate backed loans because of a fall in real estate market values. The same event in combination with a severe economic downturn may have a longer-term consequence and a greater impact on the assessment of the risk of material misstatement that may also indicate an event or condition that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

- A27. HKSA 315 (Revised 2019) requires the auditor to revise the auditor's identification or assessment of the risks of material misstatement if the auditor obtains new information which is inconsistent with the audit evidence on which the auditor originally based the identification or assessment of risk.<sup>21</sup> If events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern are identified after the auditor's risk identification or assessments are made, in addition to performing the procedures in this HKSA, the auditor's identification or assessment of the risks of material misstatement may need to be revised.
- A28. The auditor may also become aware of events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern from:
- External information sources (e.g., publicly available information of the entity's financial performance by external parties, such as information about short-selling of shares, industry or macro-economic forward-looking information such as economic or earnings forecasts).
  - Other engagements performed for the entity (e.g., an agreed-upon procedures engagement).
  - The auditor's consideration of the other information in accordance with HKSA 720 (Revised).<sup>22</sup>

*Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities* (Ref: Para. 13)

- A29. In the public sector some entities may have broader responsibilities to publicly report beyond the preparation of the financial statements which may provide the auditor information about events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on an entity's ability to continue as a going concern. For example, in certain jurisdictions public sector entities may be required to report on long-term fiscal sustainability of a public sector entity's finances and the auditor may have additional responsibilities established by law or regulation with respect to such information. In such cases, the auditor may become aware of long-term fiscal sustainability concerns that may be indicative of events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

<sup>20</sup> HKSA 315 (Revised 2019), paragraph A48

<sup>21</sup> HKSA 315 (Revised 2019), paragraph 37

<sup>22</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*

*Events or Conditions not Previously Identified or Disclosed by Management* (Ref: Para. 14)

- A30. If the auditor identifies events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern that management failed to identify or disclose to the auditor, this may constitute a deficiency in internal control. HKSA 265<sup>23</sup> deals with the auditor's responsibility to communicate appropriately to those charged with governance and management deficiencies in internal control that the auditor has identified in an audit of financial statements.
- A31. When management has intentionally failed to identify or disclose to the auditor events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, this may raise doubts about their integrity and honesty, such as when the auditor suspects an intention to mislead. HKSA 240 provides further requirements and guidance in relation to the identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud.<sup>24</sup>

*Control Deficiencies Within the Entity's System of Internal Control* (Ref: Para. 15)

- A32. When the auditor identifies one or more control deficiencies with respect to management's assessment of going concern, HKSA 265 requires the auditor to determine whether, individually or in combination, the deficiencies in internal control constitute a significant deficiency. Matters the auditor may consider in determining whether a significant deficiency in internal control exists related to management's assessment of going concern may include:
- Absence of a process established by management to identify, assess and address events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
  - Ineffective oversight by those charged with governance over management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
  - Evidence that management has failed to identify or disclose events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

**Evaluating Management's Assessment***Requesting Management to Make an Assessment* (Ref: Para. 16)

- A33. When management is unwilling to make an assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, even when the financial reporting framework does not include an explicit requirement to do so, the auditor may consider management's lack of assessment as a limitation on the audit evidence the auditor has obtained. In accordance with HKSA 705 (Revised), when the possible effects on the financial statements of the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence are pervasive, the auditor disclaims an opinion.

*Management's Assessment and Supporting Analysis and the Auditor's Evaluation* (Ref: Para. 17)

- A34. Management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern is a key part of the auditor's evaluation whether:
- Management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate; and
  - A material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

<sup>23</sup> HKSA 265, *Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control to Those Charged with Governance and Management*

<sup>24</sup> HKSA 240, paragraphs 26-28

- A35. It is not the auditor's responsibility to rectify a lack of analysis by management. In some circumstances, however, a less extensive analysis by management to support its assessment may not prevent the auditor from concluding whether management's use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate in the circumstances. For example, when the entity has profitable operations and there are no liquidity concerns, and the entity's risk assessment process has not identified events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the method, assumptions and data used by management to make its assessment may be less extensive. However, in situations when, in the auditor's professional judgment, management has not performed an appropriate assessment based on the nature and circumstances of the entity, this may be an indicator of a deficiency in internal control in accordance with HKSA 265.

*Considerations Specific to Public Sector Entities* (Ref: Para. 17)

- A36. For certain public sector entities that are able to draw upon government assistance, management's assessment of going concern may not always be based on solvency or liquidity tests and other factors may be more relevant when the auditor evaluates the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. For example, the absence of a change in government policy in the assessment period may be more relevant when determining whether continued funding is likely to be secured to enable the entity to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business and continue its operations for the foreseeable future.

*Obtaining Audit Evidence in an Unbiased Manner* (Ref: Para. 18)

- A37. Obtaining audit evidence in an unbiased manner may involve obtaining evidence from multiple sources within and outside the entity. However, the auditor is not required to perform an exhaustive search to identify all possible sources of information to be used as audit evidence.

Examples:

Contradictory information may include:

- The results of the auditor's procedures to evaluate the assumptions used by management in a cash flow forecast highlight inconsistencies with assumptions used for other purposes, such as forecasts used to evaluate the recoverability of deferred tax assets or impairment of assets.
- Credit history information from external sources may indicate financial difficulties for significant customer(s) that has not been considered by management when assessing the recoverability of account receivable balances.
- The outcome of the analysis performed for other account balances is indicative of deteriorating financial performance (e.g., increased inventory obsolescence, delays in payments from customers, changes in customer base, increased borrowings or delays in payments to creditors) that is not adequately considered by management when making its assessment of going concern.

Corroborative information may include:

- Publicly available information from external sources, such as analysts' expectations or industry data that is consistent with forecasts and assumptions used by management in its assessment of going concern.

*Method, Significant Assumptions and Data Used in Management's Assessment* (Ref: Para. 19)

A38. The method, significant assumptions and data used by management in its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern support the judgments made by management about the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements and whether a material uncertainty exists.

## Method (Ref: Para. 19(a))

A39. "Method" refers to the approach taken by management to assess the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. A method may be based on using qualitative or quantitative information and involves applying assumptions and data, and taking into account a set of relationships between them.

## Examples:

- When the entity's business activities are more complex or susceptible to a greater degree by uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, management's method may require input from multiple sources of historical and forward-looking data. The method may also include significant judgments and assumptions with multiple interrelationships between them or from sources of data external to the entity. Supporting analysis may include the effects of adverse scenarios or may employ sensitivity and scenario analysis to consider alternative outcomes related to the entity's current and expected profitability, its liquidity sources, financial obligations and the funds necessary to maintain the entity's operations for the foreseeable future. Supporting analysis may also reflect the interdependencies between risk variables that impact liquidity, market and credit risks.
- When the entity's business activities are simple or the business is affected to a lesser degree by uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, management may determine that the most appropriate method is to prepare a simple cash flow forecast and budget or other equivalent analysis covering the appropriate assessment period.

A40. Matters that may be relevant to the auditor's evaluation of whether the method selected is appropriate in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework and, if applicable, the appropriateness of changes from the prior period may include:

- Whether management's rationale for the method selected is appropriate;
- When management has determined that different methods result in significantly different outcomes, how management has investigated the reasons for these differences; and
- Whether the changes are based on new circumstances or new information. When this is not the case, the changes may not be reasonable or may be an indicator of possible management bias (also see paragraphs A68–A71).

A41. Matters that may be relevant to the auditor's evaluation of whether calculations are mathematically accurate may include whether management has provided adequate explanations for advanced or complex calculations or processing steps (e.g., multiple formulas or macros).

## Significant Assumptions (Ref: Para. 19(b))

A42. Considerations for the auditor's evaluation regarding the significant assumptions on which management's assessment is based may include:

- Management's rationale for the selection of the assumptions;
- Whether the assumptions used are consistent with those used in other areas of the entity's business activities, for example, business prospects, assumptions in strategy documents and assumptions used in making accounting estimates;
- Whether the assumptions used by management in the prior period were reasonable, for example, by comparing the prior year assumptions to the actual outcomes in the current year.
- Whether management considered alternative assumptions to determine the effect of changes in the assumptions on the data used in making the assessment, for example, performing a sensitivity analysis including 'pessimistic' and 'optimistic' scenarios; and
- Whether a change from prior periods in selecting an assumption is based on new circumstances or new information. When this is not the case, the change may not be reasonable or may be an indicator of possible management bias (also see paragraphs A68–A71).

**Example:**

The use of automated tools and techniques may assist the auditor when performing sensitivity analysis of management's assessment of going concern to understand how outcomes are affected by changes in input variables such as discount or growth rates.

**Data (Ref: Para. 19(c))**

- A43. Matters that may be relevant to the auditor's evaluation of whether the data is relevant and reliable may include, for example, management's rationale for selection of the data, how management evaluated whether the data is appropriate, the source of the data, or whether and how the integrity of the data has been maintained through all stages of information processing.
- A44. When using information produced by the entity, HKSA 500<sup>25</sup> requires the auditor to evaluate whether the information is sufficiently reliable for the auditor's purposes, including as necessary in the circumstances, to obtain audit evidence about the accuracy and completeness of the information and evaluating whether the information is sufficiently precise and detailed for the auditor's purposes.
- A45. Considerations for the auditor's evaluation of whether the data is appropriate in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework, and, if applicable, the appropriateness of changes from the prior period, may include:
- Whether the data used is consistent with data used elsewhere by management in the preparation of the financial statements;
  - Whether modifications made to the data are appropriate and supported by management's rationale; and
  - Whether a change from prior periods in the sources or items of data selected is based on new circumstances or new information. When this is not the case, the change may not be reasonable or may be an indicator of possible management bias (also see paragraphs A68–A71).

<sup>25</sup> HKSA 500, *Audit Evidence*, paragraph 9

## Scalability (Ref: Para. 19)

A46. The nature and extent of the auditor's procedures may vary depending on the method, significant assumptions and data used by management to assess the entity's ability to continue as a going concern as well as the nature and circumstances of events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

## Examples:

## Method

- The greater the complexity of the method used by management to assess the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the more likely it is that management may need to apply specialized skills or knowledge in making its assessment. Also, the auditor's procedures to evaluate management's method will likely be more extensive. In such circumstances it may also be appropriate to involve members of the engagement team with specialized skills or knowledge to assist the auditor in applying the audit procedures or evaluating the results of those procedures.
- In contrast, the auditor's procedures may be less extensive when management's method is simpler, such as when the method used includes a simple budget, sales or cash flow forecast and an analysis of the entity's borrowing facilities and requirements.

## Significant Assumptions

- When the assumptions used by management inherently have a high level of subjectivity (e.g., assumptions based on internally developed plans for future restructuring of the entity's business units), the auditor's procedures are likely to be more extensive and may include consideration of forward-looking assumptions.
- In contrast, when management uses assumptions commonly used by other marketplace participants, the auditor's procedures to evaluate the assumptions used by management may be less extensive and may include the auditor comparing the assumptions to those obtained directly from the market or a third party.

## Data

- When management's assessment of going concern includes large volumes of data from multiple sources, there may be inherent complexity in evaluating the reliability of the data used and the auditor's procedures may employ automated tools and techniques to evaluate the reliability of the data used by management.
- In contrast, when the source of the data is derived from a reputable external information source (e.g., from a central bank or statistical reports from reputable, authoritative sources) the auditor's procedures to consider the reliability of the information may not be as extensive.

*Period Beyond Management's Assessment* (Ref: Para. 20)

A47. The auditor remains alert to the possibility that there may be known events, scheduled or otherwise, or conditions that will occur beyond the period of assessment used by management that may bring into question the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. The degree of uncertainty associated

with the outcome of an event or condition increases when the event or condition is further into the future.

- A48. Other than inquiry of management, the auditor does not have a responsibility to perform any other audit procedures to identify events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern beyond the period assessed by management, which, as required by paragraph 21, would be at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements.
- A49. When events or conditions have been identified in the period beyond management's assessment, depending on the nature and circumstances of such events or conditions, the auditor may consider requesting management to revise the period of assessment for example, by extending it beyond twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

*Requesting Management to Extend Its Assessment (Ref: Para. 21)*

- A50. Most financial reporting frameworks requiring an explicit management assessment about going concern specify the minimum period for which management is required to take into account all available information.<sup>26</sup> Paragraph 21 requires the auditor to request management to extend its assessment period if that period covers less than twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements. This requirement also applies when the applicable financial reporting framework does not specify the period to be covered by management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
- A51. The date of approval of the financial statements for purposes of the HKSAs is the date on which those with the recognized authority determine that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared and that those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for those financial statements.<sup>27</sup> The applicable financial reporting framework may use other terms to describe the "date of approval of the financial statements."<sup>28</sup>
- A52. The auditor may also wish to discuss with management at an early stage of the audit the expected date of approval of the financial statements to assist the auditor in complying with the requirement in paragraph 21. To avoid misunderstandings, the auditor may also include in the engagement letter reference to the expectation that management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern covers at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements.<sup>29</sup>
- A53. Certain entities, for example public sector entities, that are dependent on continued government funding will ordinarily not have certainty of funding beyond the annual budget cycle of governments. Management will therefore need to make assumptions about securing continued funding so that management's assessment covers a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. In such circumstances the absence of information

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<sup>26</sup> For example, HKAS 1 defines this as a period that should be at least, but is not limited to, twelve months from the end of the reporting period and IPSAS 1 defines this as a period that should be at least, but is not limited to, twelve months from the approval of the financial statements.

<sup>27</sup> HKSA 560, paragraph 5(b)

<sup>28</sup> For example, HKAS 10, *Events After the Reporting Period* uses the term "date the financial statements are authorized for issue" and explains that such date will vary depending upon the management structure, statutory requirements and procedures followed in preparing and finalizing the financial statements.

<sup>29</sup> HKSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*, paragraph A24

about a change of government policy may be relevant to the auditor's evaluation of the appropriateness of these assumptions.

*Management Unwilling to Extend its Assessment* (Ref: Para. 22–23)

- A54. An unwillingness by management to extend its assessment may be a limitation on the audit evidence the auditor is seeking to obtain about the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. Accordingly, the auditor is required to discuss the matter with management, and where appropriate, with those charged with governance, and inquire as to the reasons for management's decision.
- A55. Where management has chosen not to extend the period of assessment, management and those charged with governance may be able to provide additional information to support the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. For example, this may be the case when the entity has profitable operations and has no liquidity concerns, and management or those charged with governance have not identified any events or conditions that may cast significant doubt beyond the period of assessment they have chosen.
- A56. The level of detail and the formality of management's process to extend its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern to at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements may vary from entity to entity. In some entities, management may prepare an assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, supported by detailed analysis, more frequently as part of its ongoing monitoring. In other cases, management may update its assessment from the date of the financial statements to the date of approval of the financial statements through less formal means. As explained in paragraph A35 a less extensive analysis by management to support its assessment may not prevent the auditor from concluding whether management's use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate in the circumstances.
- A57. If the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that supports the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements, as a result of management's decision not to extend its assessment, the auditor may conclude that it is appropriate to:
- Revise the assessment of the risks of material misstatement and modify planned audit procedures in accordance with HKSA 315 (Revised 2019).<sup>30</sup> For example, if management's decision is unreasonable in the circumstances, this may indicate a fraud risk factor that requires evaluation in accordance with HKSA 240.
  - Consider management's unwillingness to extend its assessment as a limitation on the audit evidence the auditor has obtained. In accordance with HKSA 705 (Revised), when the possible effects on the financial statements of the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence are pervasive, the auditor disclaims an opinion.

*Information Used in Management's Assessment* (Ref: Para. 25)

- A58. Paragraphs 20, A27, A30–A31 and A66 describe circumstances that are relevant when it may be necessary for the auditor to request management to revise its assessment.

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<sup>30</sup> HKSA 315 (Revised 2019), paragraph 37



**Evaluating Management's Plans for Future Actions** (Ref: Para. 26–28)

A59. Management's plans for future actions may mitigate the significance of identified events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. Such plans for future actions, may include plans to liquidate assets, borrow money or restructure debt, reduce or delay expenditures, or increase capital.

**Examples:**

- The risk of an entity being unable to make its normal debt repayments may be counterbalanced by management's plans to maintain adequate cash flows by alternative means, such as by disposing of assets, rescheduling loan repayments, or obtaining additional capital.
- The loss of a principal supplier may be mitigated by management's actions to secure a suitable alternative source of supply.

A60. The nature and extent of audit evidence to be obtained about management's intent and ability is a matter of professional judgment. The auditor's procedures to evaluate management's plans for future actions may include:

- Inquiry of management about its reasons for a particular course of action.
- Evaluating responses to inquiries of management about the ability to carry out a particular course of action given the entity's economic circumstances, including the implications of its existing commitments and legal, regulatory or contractual restrictions that could affect the feasibility of management's actions.
- Evaluating responses to inquiries of management or those charged with governance with audit evidence from sources within or outside the entity.
- Inspecting information about management's history of carrying out its stated intentions.
- Inspecting written plans and other documentation, including, when applicable, formally approved budgets, authorizations or minutes.
- Inspecting records and documents for support of any planned disposals of assets.
- Inspecting reports of regulatory actions.
- Inspecting correspondence with lenders and finance providers that could affect the feasibility of management's plans to carry out further actions.
- Evaluating the consistency of significant assumptions in management's plans with those used in other accounting estimates, or with related assumptions used in other areas of the entity's business activities,
- Reviewing events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and up to the date of the auditor's report to identify those that either mitigate or otherwise affect the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
- Confirming the existence, legality and enforceability of arrangements to provide or maintain financial support with third parties or related parties, including the entity's owner-manager and evaluating the financial ability of such parties to provide additional funds.
- When prospective financial information is relevant, performing analytical procedures by comparing:
  - The prospective financial information for recent prior periods with historical results;

and

- The prospective financial information for the current period with results achieved to date.
- When management's plans for future actions are based on information from internal sources, comparing to information from reputable independent sources external to the entity.

A61. In certain circumstances the auditor may consider requesting an external confirmation<sup>31</sup> of the existence and terms of borrowing facilities between the entity and external finance providers.

Examples:

Requesting an external confirmation may be appropriate when:

- Borrowing facilities are being renewed in the assessment period.
- There are limited financial resources available to the entity beyond those required to continue its operations.
- The entity is dependent on borrowing facilities shortly due for renewal, for example within twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements.
- There is an indication that previous renewal of borrowing facilities was agreed with difficulty, or the lender has imposed additional conditions as a prerequisite for continued financing.
- There is a significant deterioration in projected cash flows.
- The value of assets granted as security for borrowing is declining.
- The entity has breached the terms of borrowing covenants, or there are indications of potential breaches.

A62. Some finance providers may be reluctant to confirm in writing to an entity or their auditor that borrowing facilities will be renewed. When management's plans for future actions are based on arrangements to maintain or secure borrowing facilities from external finance providers, the lack of an external confirmation may be a limitation on the audit evidence the auditor is seeking to obtain. In such circumstances, the auditor may consider making inquiries of external finance providers with respect to borrowing facilities, including information about the rationale for their reluctance to confirm in writing that borrowing facilities will be renewed and whether such rationale is specific to the circumstances of the entity. The auditor may also need to inquire of management as to whether there are alternative strategies or sources of financing that may mitigate the significance of identified events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If alternative strategies or sources of financing are not available, then a material uncertainty may exist.

*Financial Support by Third Parties or Related Parties, Including the Entity's Owner-Manager*

Intent (Ref: Para. 28)

A63. Where management's plans for future actions include financial support by third parties or related parties, including the entity's owner-manager, whether through the subordination of loans, commitments to maintain or provide additional funding, or guarantees, and such financial support

<sup>31</sup> HKSA 330, *The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks*, paragraph 19

is important to an entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor may need to consider requesting written confirmation from such parties to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about their intent to provide the necessary financial support. Such written confirmation may be in paper form, or by electronic or other medium<sup>32</sup> and may include:

- Terms and conditions of the commitment from those parties.
- When applicable, the legality and enforceability of the commitments.
- The period or the specific date to which the parties intend to provide the financial support.

#### Ability (Ref: Para. 28)

A64. The auditor's procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the ability of the third parties or related parties, including the entity's owner-manager, to provide the financial support may include:

- Inquiries about the business rationale for the financial support and the basis on which such support is established (e.g., entity's business plans or other forecasts).
- Inquiries about the ability to provide the financial support in a timely manner for the entity to meet its obligations.
- Inquiries of others, such as external or internal legal counsel, or the auditor of the financial statements of a related party in a group audit engagement who may have relevant knowledge and information about the ability of third parties or related parties, including the entity's owner-manager, to provide the financial support.
- Inspecting the records of past financial support provided by the parties when such support was needed.
- Inspecting the latest available audited financial statements or other supporting information to obtain audit evidence about the financial position of the parties to provide the necessary financial support to the entity.

#### Scalability (Ref: Para. 28)

A65. Financial support by an entity's owner-manager is often important to the ability of smaller or less complex entities to continue as a going concern. Where a smaller or less complex entity is largely financed by a loan from the owner-manager, it may be important that these funds are not withdrawn.

#### Example:

The continuance of a smaller or less complex entity in financial difficulty may be dependent on the owner-manager subordinating a loan to the entity in favor of banks or other creditors, or the owner-manager supporting a loan for the entity by providing a guarantee with the owner-manager's personal assets as collateral. In such circumstances, the auditor may obtain appropriate documentary evidence of the subordination of the owner-manager's loan or of the guarantee. Where an entity is dependent on additional support from the owner-manager, the auditor evaluates the owner-manager's ability to meet the obligation under the support arrangement. In addition, the auditor may request written confirmation of the terms and conditions attaching to such support and the owner-manager's intention or understanding.

<sup>32</sup> HKSA 505, *External Confirmations*, paragraph 6(a)

**Information Becomes Known After the Date of the Auditor's Report** (Ref: Para. 29)

A66. HKSA 560 requires the auditor to respond appropriately to facts that become known to the auditor after the date of the auditor's report but before the date the financial statements are issued, that, had they been known to the auditor at the date of the auditor's report, may have caused the auditor to amend the auditor's report.<sup>33</sup> For example, this may be the case when the auditor is aware of a significant delay between the date of the auditor's report and the date the financial statements will be issued, and the auditor determines that such delay is related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

**Evaluating the Audit Evidence Obtained and Concluding** (Ref: Para. 30–31)

A67. If the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements, in accordance with HKSA 705 (Revised) the auditor is required to consider the implications for the audit.

*Indicators of Possible Management Bias* (Ref: Para. 30(a))

A68. The susceptibility to management bias, whether intentional or unintentional, may increase with the degree of estimation uncertainty, complexity and subjectivity in management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

A69. When the auditor identifies indicators of possible management bias, the auditor may need a further discussion with management and may need to reconsider whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained that the method, assumptions and data used by management to make its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern were appropriate.

**Examples:**

- Management may tend to ignore observable marketplace assumptions or data and instead use their own internally-developed assumptions or select data that yields a more favorable outcome.
- There may be changes in the method, assumptions or data from period to period without a clear and appropriate reason for doing so. In contrast, management may not have made changes in the method, assumptions or data from period to period despite significant changes in economic conditions or when other circumstances indicate that a change may be necessary.
- There may be significant influence of an owner-manager or a related party over the determination of the source of the information used in management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
- Management may be overly optimistic or fail to consider trends and patterns in historical information when evaluating future outcomes about events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

A70. When such indicators are identified, this may also affect the auditor's conclusion as to whether the auditor's risk assessment and related responses remain appropriate. The auditor may also need to consider the implications for other aspects of the audit,<sup>34</sup> including the need to further

<sup>33</sup> HKSA 560, paragraphs 10-13

<sup>34</sup> HKSA 540 (Revised), *Auditing Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures*, paragraphs A133-A136

question the appropriateness of management's judgments in making its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. Further, indicators of possible management bias may affect the auditor's conclusion as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, as discussed in HKSA 700 (Revised).<sup>35</sup>

- A71. Indicators of possible management bias may also be fraud risk factors and may cause the auditor to reassess whether the auditor's risk assessment, in particular the assessment of the risks of material misstatement due to fraud, and related responses remain appropriate.<sup>36</sup> When there is intention to mislead, management bias is fraudulent in nature and the auditor may need to consider whether the bias may represent a material misstatement due to fraud.

*Concluding on Whether a Material Uncertainty Exists (Ref: Para. 31)*

- A72. When events or conditions are identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor's conclusion required by paragraph 31 is dependent on the auditor's evaluation of management's plans for future actions in accordance with paragraphs 26–28. For example, a material uncertainty exists when, based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor concludes that:

- The outcome of these plans is not likely to be sufficient to mitigate the effects of the identified events or conditions.
- Management's plans may not be feasible in the circumstances.
- Management may not have the intent or ability to carry out specific courses of action.
- Third parties or related parties, including the entity's owner-manager, may not have the intent or ability to provide necessary financial support.

When a material uncertainty exists, the auditor is required to determine whether the financial statements provide the disclosures required by paragraph 33.

### **Adequacy of Disclosures**

*Adequacy of Disclosures When No Material Uncertainty Exists (Ref: Para. 32, 34(b)(i))*

- A73. Some financial reporting frameworks may address disclosures about:

- Principal events or conditions;
- Management's evaluation of the significance of those events or conditions in relation to the entity's ability to meet its obligations;
- Management's plans that mitigate the effect of these events or conditions;
- The assumptions management makes about the future, and other sources of estimation uncertainty; or
- Significant judgments made by management as part of its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Example:

In assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, management considers all relevant information about events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's

<sup>35</sup> HKSA 700 (Revised), *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements*, paragraph 11

<sup>36</sup> HKSA 240, paragraph 25

ability to continue as a going concern. Having considered all relevant information, including the feasibility and effectiveness of any remedial actions to mitigate the effects of those events or conditions, management may conclude that there is no material uncertainty. For example, in response to declining customer demand and uncertainties faced in the broader economic environment, management may have started executing a turnaround strategy that is demonstrating some evidence of success (e.g., reducing costs, optimising cash flows and preserving liquidity, to support the entity's ability to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business and continue its operations for the foreseeable future). However, reaching the conclusion that there is no material uncertainty involved significant judgment by management in estimating the impact and the timing of the future cash flows.

- A74. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor's evaluation as to whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation includes the consideration of the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, and whether the financial statements, including the related notes, represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.<sup>37</sup>
- A75. When significant judgments are made by management in concluding that there is no material uncertainty, in applying paragraph 32 the auditor may determine, depending on the facts and circumstances, that additional disclosures are necessary for the financial statements to achieve fair presentation (for fair presentation frameworks) or for the financial statements not to be misleading (for compliance frameworks), as appropriate. Additional disclosures may be necessary, for example, when no disclosures are explicitly required by the applicable financial reporting framework regarding these circumstances.
- A76. In accordance with HKSA 705 (Revised),<sup>38</sup> the auditor is required to express a modified opinion in the auditor's report when the financial statements do not provide the additional disclosures necessary to achieve fair presentation beyond disclosures specifically required by the applicable financial reporting framework.

*Adequacy of Disclosure When a Material Uncertainty Exists (Ref: Para. 33, 35(a))*

- A77. Paragraph 33 requires the auditor to determine whether the financial statement disclosures address the matters set forth in that paragraph. This determination is in addition to the auditor determining whether disclosures about a material uncertainty, required by the applicable financial reporting framework, are adequate. Disclosures required by some financial reporting frameworks that are in addition to matters set forth in paragraph 33 may include disclosures about:
- Management's evaluation of the significance of the events or conditions relating to the entity's ability to meet its obligations and management's plans for future actions to address these events or conditions; or
  - Significant judgments made by management as part of its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Some financial reporting frameworks may provide additional guidance regarding management's consideration of disclosures about the magnitude of the potential impact of the principal events or conditions, and the likelihood and timing of their occurrence.

<sup>37</sup> HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraph 14

<sup>38</sup> HKSA 705 (Revised), paragraphs 6 and A7

**Implications for the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 34–38)**

- A78. The Appendix to this HKSA provides illustrations of the statements that are required to be included in the auditor's report on the financial statements when HKFRS Accounting Standards is the applicable financial reporting framework. If an applicable financial reporting framework other than HKFRS Accounting Standards is used, the illustrative statements presented in the Appendix to this HKSA may need to be adapted to reflect the application of the other financial reporting framework in the circumstances.
- A79. The statements required by paragraphs 34–36 represent the minimum information that is to be presented in the auditor's report in each of the circumstances described. The auditor may provide additional information to supplement the required statements, for example reference to where the respective responsibilities of those with responsibility for the financial statements and of the auditor in relation to going concern are described. The Appendix of HKSA 700 (Revised)<sup>39</sup> includes illustrative wording to be included in the auditor's report in relation to going concern to describe the respective responsibilities of those responsible for the financial statements and of the auditor.

***Use of Going Concern Basis of Accounting Is Appropriate – No Material Uncertainty Exists* (Ref: Para. 34)**

- A80. The auditor may provide additional information in the auditor's report that would supplement the statements required by paragraph 34(a) (e.g., to provide a reference to the relevant accounting policies or the notes in the financial statements).
- A81. Illustration 1 of the Appendix to this HKSA is an example of an auditor's report of an entity other than a listed entity when the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and has concluded that no material uncertainty exists.
- A82. For an audit of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity, law or regulation may require the auditor to provide the information required by paragraph 34(b). The auditor also may decide that providing the information required by paragraph 34(b) for an entity other than a listed entity would be appropriate to enhance transparency for intended users of financial statements in the auditor's report. For example, the auditor may decide to do so for other entities, including those that may be of significant public interest, for example, because they have a large number and wide range of stakeholders and considering the nature and size of the business. Such entities may include financial institutions (such as banks, insurance companies, and pension funds), and other entities such as charities.
- A83. There may be circumstances when, in the auditor's professional judgment, the disclosures of management's judgments relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern are fundamental to the intended users' understanding of the financial statements. Also, there may be circumstances when the auditor, in addition to including a reference to the disclosure(s) in the financial statements, would consider it appropriate to draw attention to key aspects of them. In such circumstances, the information required by paragraph 34(b) can be supplemented to include aspects of the identified events or conditions disclosed in the financial statements, such as substantial operating losses, available borrowing facilities and possible debt refinancing, or non-compliance with loan agreements, and related mitigating factors or to draw attention to aspects of the disclosures of management's judgments.

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<sup>39</sup> HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraphs 34 and 39.

*Description of How the Auditor Evaluated Management's Assessment of Going Concern* (Ref: Para. 34(b)(ii), 35(b))

- A84. The auditor may describe one or more of the following elements when providing the description of how the auditor evaluated management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern:
- A brief overview of procedures performed;
  - An indication of the outcome of the auditor's procedures;
  - Aspects of the auditor's response or approach that were most relevant to the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, including the evaluation of management's plans for future actions; or
  - Key observations with respect to the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
- A85. The amount of detail to be provided in the auditor's report to describe how the auditor evaluated management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern is a matter of professional judgment. When considering the amount of detail to provide in the auditor's report, the auditor may consider the following factors:
- The nature and extent of audit procedures performed to evaluate management's assessment to conclude that no material uncertainty exists.
  - The level of subjectivity, complexity and estimation uncertainty involved in management's assessment.
- A86. In order for intended users to understand the significance of the description in the context of the audit of the financial statements as a whole, care may be necessary so that language used in the description of how the auditor evaluated management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern:
- Relates the description directly to the specific circumstances of the entity, while avoiding generic or standardized language.
  - Takes into account how the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern are addressed in the related disclosure(s) in the financial statements.
  - Does not contain or imply discrete opinions on separate elements of the financial statements.
  - When applicable, does not obscure that a material uncertainty exists.
- A87. The nature and extent of the information provided by the auditor is intended to be balanced in the context of the responsibilities of the respective parties (i.e., for the auditor to provide useful information in a concise and understandable form, while not inappropriately being the provider of original information about the entity). Original information is any information about the entity that has not otherwise been made publicly available by the entity (e.g., has not been included in the financial statements or other information available at the date of the auditor's report, or addressed in other oral or written communications by management or those charged with governance, such as a preliminary announcement of financial information or investor briefings). Such information is the responsibility of the entity's management and those charged with governance.
- A88. It is appropriate for the auditor to seek to avoid inappropriately providing original information about the entity in the description of how the auditor evaluated management's assessment of the entity's



ability to continue as a going concern. The description of how the auditor evaluated management's assessment of the entity's ability of going concern is not usually of itself original information about the entity, as it describes the matter in the context of the audit. However, the auditor may consider it necessary to include additional information to explain aspects of the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern to enhance users' understanding. When such information is determined to be necessary by the auditor, the auditor may encourage management or those charged with governance to disclose additional information, rather than the auditor providing original information in the auditor's report. Management or those charged with governance may decide to include new or enhanced disclosures in the financial statements or elsewhere in the annual report relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in light of the fact that the auditor will communicate how they were addressed in the auditor's report.

A89. Illustration 2 of the Appendix to this HKSA is an example of an auditor's report of a listed entity when:

- The auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting;
- The auditor has concluded that no material uncertainty exists; and
- The financial statements adequately disclose the significant judgments made by management in concluding that there is no material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

*Use of the Going Concern Basis of Accounting Is Appropriate – A Material Uncertainty Exists* (Ref: Para. 35–36)

A90. The identification of a material uncertainty is a matter that is important to intended users' understanding of the financial statements. The use of a separate section with a heading that includes reference to the fact that a material uncertainty exists alerts intended users to this circumstance.

*Adequate Disclosure of a Material Uncertainty Is Made in the Financial Statements* (Ref: Para. 35)

A91. Illustrations 3 and 4 of the Appendix to this HKSA are examples of an auditor's report of an entity other than a listed entity and a listed entity, respectively, when the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting but a material uncertainty exists and disclosure is adequate in the financial statements.

*Adequate Disclosure of a Material Uncertainty Is Not Made in the Financial Statements* (Ref: Para. 36)

A92. Illustrations 5 and 6 of the Appendix to this HKSA are examples of auditor's reports for a listed entity and an entity other than a listed entity containing qualified and adverse opinions, respectively, when the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting but adequate disclosure of a material uncertainty is not made in the financial statements.

*Considerations When the Auditor Disclaims an Opinion on the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 37)*

- A93. In situations involving multiple uncertainties that are significant to the financial statements as a whole, the auditor may consider it appropriate, in extremely rare circumstances, to express a disclaimer of opinion. HKSA 705 (Revised) provides guidance on this issue.<sup>40</sup>
- A94. Paragraph 37 prohibits including separate sections on Going Concern or Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern in the auditor's report when the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, unless the auditor is otherwise required by law or regulation, as this would be inconsistent with the disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements as a whole and may suggest that the financial statements as a whole are more credible in relation to those matters. When the auditor disclaims an opinion, HKSA 705 (Revised)<sup>41</sup> requires the auditor to state in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section of the auditor's report that the auditor is unable to conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements and whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. Providing such a statement in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section of the auditor's report provides useful information to users that may guard against inappropriate reliance on the financial statements.

*Use of Going Concern Basis of Accounting is Inappropriate (Ref: Para. 38)*

- A95. If the financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting but, in the auditor's professional judgment, management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is inappropriate, the requirement in paragraph 38 for the auditor to express an adverse opinion applies regardless of whether or not the financial statements include disclosure of the inappropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting.
- A96. When the use of the going concern basis of accounting is not appropriate in the circumstances, management may be required, or may elect, to prepare the financial statements on another basis (e.g., liquidation basis). The auditor may be able to perform an audit of those financial statements provided that the auditor determines that the other basis of accounting is acceptable in the circumstances. The auditor may be able to express an unmodified opinion on those financial statements, provided there is adequate disclosure therein about the basis of accounting on which the financial statements are prepared, but may consider it appropriate or necessary to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in accordance with HKSA 706 (Revised)<sup>42</sup> in the auditor's report to draw the intended user's attention to that alternative basis of accounting and the reasons for its use.

**Written Representations (Ref: Para. 39–40)**

- A97. The auditor may consider it appropriate to obtain specific written representations in addition to those required in paragraphs 39 and 40. For example, if the auditor obtains written confirmation as described in paragraph A63 from a related party, including the entity's owner-manager, the auditor may still request written representations from management as to the validity of the written confirmation.

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<sup>40</sup> HKSA 705 (Revised), paragraph 10

<sup>41</sup> HKSA 705 (Revised), paragraph 19

<sup>42</sup> HKSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*

**Communication with Those Charged with Governance** (Ref: Para. 41–42)

A98. HKSA 260 (Revised)<sup>43</sup> explains that timely communication throughout the audit contributes to the achievement of robust two-way dialogue between those charged with governance and the auditor. The appropriate timing for communications will vary with the circumstances of the engagement, including the significance and nature of the matter, and the action expected to be taken by those charged with governance.

**Example:**

When events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, prompt communication with those charged with governance may provide them with an opportunity to provide further clarification where necessary. This also enables those charged with governance to consider whether new or enhanced disclosures may be necessary (e.g., in relation to the mitigating factors in management's plans for future actions that are of significance to overcoming the adverse effects of the events or conditions).

A99. The auditor's understanding of how those charged with governance exercise oversight over management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern required by paragraph 12(f), may also provide a useful basis to promote effective two-way communication between the auditor and those charged with governance.

A100. Communication with those charged with governance about the auditor's evaluation of management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern provides an opportunity for those charged with governance to understand the auditor's work that forms the basis for the auditor's conclusions, and where applicable, the implications for the auditor's report. Examples of matters the auditor may communicate with those charged with governance include:

**Examples:**

- The auditor's views about the appropriateness of the disclosures in the financial statements in view of the recognition, measurement and presentation requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- Whether management has applied appropriate specialized skills or knowledge or engaged appropriate experts in making its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
- Whether the method used by management to assess the entity's ability to continue as a going concern is appropriate in the context of the nature, conditions and circumstances of the entity or the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- The auditor's views about the reasonableness of assumptions on which management's assessment is based and the degree of subjectivity involved in the development of the assumptions.
- Whether assumptions are consistent with those used for other areas of the entity's business activities and whether management has considered alternative assumptions.
- Indicators of possible management bias in management's judgments and assumptions used in its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

<sup>43</sup> HKSA 260 (Revised), paragraph A49

- Significant deficiencies in internal control related to management's assessment of going concern (also see paragraphs A30, A32 and A35).

A101. In the case of an entity other than a listed entity, in addition to the required statements to be provided in the auditor's report, when appropriate, the auditor may also communicate with those charged with governance additional matters, for example, describing how the auditor evaluated management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### **Reporting to an Appropriate Authority Outside of the Entity (Ref: Para. 43)**

A102. When the auditor considers including a separate section with a heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern" in the auditor's report, or issuing a modified opinion in respect of going concern matters, the auditor may be required by law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements to communicate these matters. The reporting may be to an applicable regulatory, enforcement, supervisory or other appropriate authority outside of the entity. In addition, the auditor may be required by law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements to consider the timing of such reporting prior to the issuance of the auditor's report.

##### **Example:**

In some jurisdictions, statutory requirements exist that provide early warning procedures for the auditor to report to a supervisory authority when a material uncertainty exists to enable an appropriate authority outside of the entity to investigate the matter and take action. The early warning procedures may include reporting to a supervisory authority at the point in time when the auditor identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

A103. Law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements may not include requirements for the auditor to report to an appropriate authority outside the entity as described in paragraph A102. Nevertheless, law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements<sup>44</sup> may provide the auditor with the right to report the matter to an appropriate authority outside the entity, unless disclosure of the information is precluded by the auditor's duty of confidentiality under law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements. In such circumstances, the auditor may also decide to discuss the matter with those charged with governance.

##### **Examples:**

- When auditing the financial statements of a financial institution, the auditor may have the right under law or regulation to discuss with a supervisory authority when a material uncertainty exists.
- Relevant ethical requirements may require the auditor to consider whether further action is needed in the public interest. Such actions may include reporting the matter to an appropriate authority outside of the entity even when there is no legal or regulatory requirement to do so.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>44</sup> For example, paragraph R114.3(a) in Chapter A of the *Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) may permit the disclosure of confidential information when there is a legal or professional duty or right to disclose. Paragraph 114.3 A1(b)(iv) in Chapter A of the Code explains that there is a professional duty or right to disclose such information to comply with technical and professional standards.

<sup>45</sup> See, for example, paragraphs R360.19-R360.26 in Chapter A of the Code.

A104. Factors the auditor may consider in determining whether it is appropriate to report the matter to an appropriate authority outside the entity, may include:

- Any views expressed by the regulatory, enforcement, supervisory or other appropriate authority outside of the entity.
- Whether reporting the matter would be in the public interest.
- The adequacy and timeliness of actions by management and, where appropriate those charged with governance, to address or mitigate the situation.

A105. Reporting going concern matters to an appropriate authority outside of the entity may involve complex considerations and professional judgments. In those circumstances, the auditor may consider consulting internally (e.g., within the firm or a network firm) or on a confidential basis with a regulator or professional body (unless doing so is prohibited by law or regulation or would breach the duty of confidentiality). The auditor may also consider obtaining legal advice to understand the auditor's options and the professional or legal implications of taking any particular course of action.

**Appendix**

(Ref: Para. A78, A81, A89, A91–A92)

**Illustrations of Independent Auditor's Reports Related to Going Concern**

- Illustration 1: An auditor's report of an entity other than a listed entity incorporated in Hong Kong containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has concluded that no material uncertainty exists.
- Illustration 2: An auditor's report of a listed entity incorporated in Hong Kong containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has concluded that no material uncertainty exists and disclosure in the financial statements about the significant judgments made by management in concluding that there is no material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as going concern is adequate.
- Illustration 3: An auditor's report of an entity other than a listed entity incorporated in Hong Kong containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists and disclosure in the financial statements is adequate.
- Illustration 4: An auditor's report of a listed entity incorporated in Hong Kong containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists and disclosure in the financial statements is adequate.
- Illustration 5: An auditor's report of a listed entity incorporated in Hong Kong containing a qualified opinion when the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists and the financial statements are materially misstated due to inadequate disclosure.
- Illustration 6: An auditor's report of an entity other than a listed entity incorporated in Hong Kong containing an adverse opinion when the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists and the required disclosures relating to the material uncertainty are omitted in the financial statements.

**Illustration 1 – An Auditor’s Report of an Entity Other Than a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong Containing an Unmodified Opinion When No Material Uncertainty Exists**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised)<sup>46</sup> does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by the directors of the entity in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of director’s responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the HKICPA’s *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code).
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and has not yet identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law in addition to the Companies Ordinance.

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<sup>46</sup> HKSA 600 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>46a</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>47</sup>

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company ("the Company") set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 20X1, and [the statement of profit or loss and] <sup>47a</sup> the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Companies Ordinance.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") as issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Going Concern

##### *No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>48</sup>*

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

<sup>46a</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>47</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>47a</sup> HKAS 1, *Presentation of Financial Statements* allows entities to present comprehensive income using either a one statement approach (i.e. a single "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income") or a two-statement approach (i.e. a "statement of profit or loss" together with a "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income"). Different terms may be used as long as they are consistent with the titles of the corresponding statements.

<sup>48</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.



*[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of HKSA 720 (Revised).]*

**Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>49</sup>**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).<sup>50</sup>]*

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).]*

**Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).]*

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is *[name]* (practising certificate number: *[XXXXXX]*).

XYZ & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) or Certified Public Accountants

*[Auditor Address]*

*[Date]*

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<sup>49</sup> Throughout these illustrative auditor's reports, the terms directors and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>50</sup> Paragraphs 34 and 39 of HKSA 700 (Revised) require wording to be included in the auditor's report for all entities in relation to going concern to describe the respective responsibilities of those responsible for the financial statements and the auditor in relation to going concern.

**Illustration 2 – An Auditor’s Report of a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong Containing an Unmodified Opinion When No Material Uncertainty Exists and Disclosure in the Financial Statements About the Significant Judgments Made by Management in Concluding That There is No Material Uncertainty Is Adequate**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the HKICPA. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by the directors of the entity in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of director’s responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the Code. The Code includes independence requirements that are applicable to audits of financial statements of public interest entities. It also requires the auditor to publicly disclose that the independence requirements applicable to audits of financial statements of public interest entities were applied.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist.
- The directors have disclosed information about significant judgments made in concluding that there is no material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern and the disclosures are adequate.
- The auditor has chosen to supplement the required statements in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024) by referencing to the sections describing the respective responsibilities of the directors and of the auditor in relation to going concern.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and has not yet identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law in addition to the Companies Ordinance.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>50a</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>51</sup>

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company ("the Company") set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 20X1, and [the statement of profit or loss and] <sup>51a</sup> the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Companies Ordinance.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") as issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"), as applicable to audits of financial statements of public interest entities. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Going Concern

##### *No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>52</sup>*

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

We draw attention to Note X in the financial statements, which describes the uncertainties faced by the Company, the significant judgments made by the directors in assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern and the range of mitigating actions that have been deployed to address the effects on the Company's business activities.

<sup>50a</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>51</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>51a</sup> HKAS 1 allows entities to present comprehensive income using either a one statement approach (i.e. a single "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income") or a two-statement approach (i.e. a "statement of profit or loss" together with a "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income"). Different terms may be used as long as they are consistent with the titles of the corresponding statements.

<sup>52</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

*[Description of how the auditor evaluated the directors' assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).]*

Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the significant judgments made by the directors in concluding that there is no material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern referred to in the *Going Concern* section, we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

*[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with HKSA 701.]*

### **Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

*[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of HKSA 720 (Revised).]*

### **Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>53</sup>**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).<sup>54</sup>]*

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).]*

### **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).]*

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name] (practising certificate number: [XXXXX]).

<sup>53</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>54</sup> Paragraphs 34 and 39 of HKSA 700 (Revised) require wording to be included in the auditor's report for all entities in relation to going concern to describe the respective responsibilities of those responsible for the financial statements and the auditor in relation to going concern.

GOING CONCERN

XYZ & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) or Certified Public Accountants

*[Auditor Address]*

*[Date]*

**Illustration 3 – An Auditor’s Report of an Entity Other Than a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong Containing an Unmodified Opinion When a Material Uncertainty Exists and Disclosure in the Financial Statements Is Adequate**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the HKICPA. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by the directors of the entity in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the HKICPA (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of the directors’ responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the Code.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists. The disclosure of the material uncertainty in the financial statements is adequate.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and has not yet identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law in addition to the Companies Ordinance.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>54a</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>55</sup>

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company ("the Company") set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 20X1, and [the statement of profit or loss and] <sup>55a</sup> the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Companies Ordinance.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") as issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw attention to Note X in the financial statements, which indicates that the Company incurred a net loss of ZZZ during the year ended 31 December 20X1 and, as of that date, the Company's current liabilities exceeded its total assets by YYY. As stated in Note X, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note X, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

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<sup>54a</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>55</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>55a</sup> HKAS 1 allows entities to present comprehensive income using either a one statement approach (i.e. a single "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income") or a two-statement approach (i.e. a "statement of profit or loss" together with a "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income"). Different terms may be used as long as they are consistent with the titles of the corresponding statements.

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]**

*[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of HKSA 720 (Revised).]*

**Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>56</sup>**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).<sup>57</sup>]*

**Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).]*

**Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).]*

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor’s report is [name] (practising certificate number: [XXXXXX]).

XYZ & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) or Certified Public Accountants

*[Auditor Address]*

*[Date]*

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<sup>56</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>57</sup> Paragraphs 34 and 39 of HKSA 700 (Revised) require wording to be included in the auditor’s report for all entities in relation to going concern to describe the respective responsibilities of those responsible for the financial statements and the auditor in relation to going concern.



**Illustration 4 – An Auditor’s Report of a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong Containing an Unmodified Opinion When a Material Uncertainty Exists and Disclosure in the Financial Statements Is Adequate**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the HKICPA. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by the directors of the entity in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of the directors’ responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the Code. The Code includes independence requirements that are applicable to audits of financial statements of public interest entities. It also requires the auditor to publicly disclose that the independence requirements applicable to audits of financial statements of public interest entities were applied.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists. The disclosure of the material uncertainty in the financial statements is adequate.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and has not yet identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law in addition to the Companies Ordinance.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>57a</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>58</sup>

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company ("the Company") set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 20X1, and [the statement of profit or loss and] <sup>58a</sup> the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Companies Ordinance.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") as issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"), as applicable to audits of financial statements of public interest entities. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw attention to Note X in the financial statements, which indicates that the Company incurred a net loss of ZZZ during the year ended 31 December 20X1 and, as of that date, the Company's current liabilities exceeded its total assets by YYY.

*[Description of how the auditor evaluated the directors' assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).]*

As stated in Note X, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note X, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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<sup>57a</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>58</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>58a</sup> HKAS 1 allows entities to present comprehensive income using either a one statement approach (i.e. a single "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income") or a two-statement approach (i.e. a "statement of profit or loss" together with a "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income"). Different terms may be used as long as they are consistent with the titles of the corresponding statements

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

### **Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the *Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern* section, we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

*[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with HKSA 701.]*

### **Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

*[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of HKSA 720 (Revised).]*

### **Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>59</sup>**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).<sup>60</sup>]*

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).]*

### **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).]*

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name] (practising certificate number: [XXXXX]).

XYZ & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) or Certified Public Accountants

*[Auditor Address]*

*[Date]*

<sup>59</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>60</sup> Paragraphs 34 and 39 of HKSA 700 (Revised) require wording to be included in the auditor's report for all entities in relation to going concern to describe the respective responsibilities of those responsible for the financial statements and the auditor in relation to going concern.

**Illustration 5 – An Auditor’s Report of a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong Containing a Qualified Opinion When a Material Uncertainty Exists and the Financial Statements Are Materially Misstated Due to Inadequate Disclosure**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the HKICPA. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by the directors of the entity in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of the directors’ responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the Code. The Code includes independence requirements that are applicable to audits of financial statements of public interest entities. It also requires the auditor to publicly disclose that the independence requirements applicable to audits of financial statements of public interest entities were applied.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists. Note Y to the financial statements discusses the magnitude of financing arrangements, the expiration and the total financing arrangements; however the financial statements do not include discussion on the impact or the availability of refinancing or characterize this situation as a material uncertainty.
- The financial statements are materially misstated due to the inadequate disclosure of the material uncertainty. A qualified opinion is being expressed because the auditor concluded that the effects on the financial statements of this inadequate disclosure are material but not pervasive to the financial statements.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and the matter giving rise to the qualified opinion on the financial statements also affects the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law in addition to the Companies Ordinance.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>60a</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>61</sup>

#### Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company ("the Company") set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 20X1, and [the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, except for the incomplete disclosure of the information referred to in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the financial statements give a true and fair view of, the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Companies Ordinance.

#### Basis for Qualified Opinion

As discussed in Note Y, the Company's financing arrangements expire and amounts outstanding are payable on 19 March 20X2. The Company has been unable to conclude re-negotiations or obtain replacement financing. This situation indicates that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not adequately disclose this matter.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSA") as issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"), as applicable to audits of financial statements of public interest entities. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

#### Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

As described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, a material uncertainty exists that has not been adequately disclosed in the financial statements.

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

<sup>60a</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>61</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>61a</sup> HKAS 1 allows entities to present comprehensive income using either a one statement approach (i.e. a single "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income") or a two-statement approach (i.e. a "statement of profit or loss" together with a "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income"). Different terms may be used as long as they are consistent with the titles of the corresponding statements.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

*[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 6 in Appendix 2 of HKSA 720 (Revised). The last paragraph of the other information section in Illustration 6 would be customized to describe the specific matter giving rise to the qualified opinion that also affects the other information.]*

**Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section and in the *Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern* section, we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

*[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with HKSA 701.]*

**Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>62</sup>**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).<sup>63</sup>]*

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).]*

**Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).]*

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name] (practising certificate number: [XXXXX]).

XYZ & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) or Certified Public Accountants

*[Auditor Address]*

*[Date]*

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<sup>62</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction

<sup>63</sup> Paragraphs 34 and 39 of HKSA 700 (Revised) require wording to be included in the auditor's report for all entities in relation to going concern to describe the respective responsibilities of those responsible for the financial statements and the auditor in relation to going concern.

**Illustration 6 – An Auditor’s Report of an Entity Other Than a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong Containing an Adverse Opinion When a Material Uncertainty Exists and Is Not Disclosed in the Financial Statements**

For purposes of the illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the HKICPA. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by the directors of the entity in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of the directors’ responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the Code.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists. The financial statements omit the required disclosures relating to the material uncertainty. An adverse opinion is being expressed because the effects on the financial statements of such omission are material and pervasive.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and the matter giving rise to the adverse opinion on the financial statements also affects the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law in addition to the Companies Ordinance.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>63a</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>64</sup>

#### Adverse Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company ("the Company") set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 20X1, and [the statement of profit or loss and] <sup>64a</sup> the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, because of the omission of the information mentioned in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"). In all other respects, in our opinion the financial statements have been properly prepared in compliance with the Companies Ordinance.<sup>64b</sup>

#### Basis for Adverse Opinion

The Company's financing arrangements expired and the amount outstanding was payable on 31 December 20X1. The Company has been unable to conclude re-negotiations or obtain replacement financing. This situation indicates that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not adequately disclose this fact.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") as issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our adverse opinion.

#### Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

As described in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion* section of our report, a material uncertainty exists that has not been disclosed in the financial statements.

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation

<sup>63a</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>64</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>64a</sup> HKAS 1 allows entities to present comprehensive income using either a one statement approach (i.e. a single "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income") or a two-statement approach (i.e. a "statement of profit or loss" together with a "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income"). Different terms may be used as long as they are consistent with the titles of the corresponding statements.

<sup>64b</sup> Assumes the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Ordinance in all other respects.



of the financial statements is appropriate.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

*[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 7 in Appendix 2 of HKSA 720 (Revised). The last paragraph of the other information section in Illustration 7 would be customized to describe the specific matter giving rise to the adverse opinion that also affects the other information.]*

**Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>65</sup>**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).<sup>66</sup>]*

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).]*

**Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

*[Reporting in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in HKSA 700 (Revised).]*

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name] (practising certificate number: [XXXXX]).

XYZ & Co

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) or Certified Public Accountants

*[Auditor Address]*

*[Date]*

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<sup>65</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>66</sup> Paragraphs 34 and 39 of HKSA 700 (Revised) require wording to be included in the auditor's report for all entities in relation to going concern to describe the respective responsibilities of those responsible for the financial statements and the auditor in relation to going concern.

## CONFORMING AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS ARISING FROM HKSA 570 (REVISED 2024)

**Note:** The following are conforming amendments to other Hong Kong Standards on Auditing (HKSAs) as a result of the approval of HKSA 570 (Revised 2024). These amendments will become effective at the same time as HKSA 570 (Revised 2024) and are shown with marked changes from the latest approved versions of the HKSAs that are amended. The footnote numbers within these amendments do not align with the HKSAs that are amended, and reference should be made to those HKSAs.

### HKSA 200, OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR AND THE CONDUCT OF AN AUDIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH HONG KONG STANDARDS ON AUDITING

...

#### Application and Other Explanatory Material

...

#### Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence and Audit Risk (Ref: Para. 5 and 17)

...

#### *Inherent Limitations of an Audit*

...

#### Other Matters that Affect the Inherent Limitations of an Audit

A56. In the case of certain assertions or subject matters, the potential effects of the inherent limitations on the auditor's ability to detect material misstatements are particularly significant. Such assertions or subject matters include:

- Fraud, particularly fraud involving senior management or collusion. See HKSA 240 for further discussion.
- The existence and completeness of related party relationships and transactions. See HKSA 550<sup>1</sup> for further discussion.
- The occurrence of non-compliance with laws and regulations. See HKSA 250 (Revised)<sup>2</sup> for further discussion.
- Future events or conditions that may cause an entity to cease to continue as a going concern. See HKSA 570 (Revised 2024)<sup>3</sup> for further discussion.

Relevant HKSAs identify specific audit procedures to assist in mitigating the effect of the inherent limitations.

...

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<sup>1</sup> HKSA 550, *Related Parties*

<sup>2</sup> HKSA 250 (Revised), *Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements*

<sup>3</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

## HKSA 210, AGREEING THE TERMS OF AUDIT ENGAGEMENTS

...

### Application and Other Explanatory Material

...

#### Agreement on Audit Engagement Terms

...

*Audit Engagement Letter or Other Form of Written Agreement*<sup>4</sup> (Ref: Para. 10–11)

...

#### Form and Content of the Audit Engagement Letter

A24. The form and content of the audit engagement letter may vary for each entity. Information included in the audit engagement letter on the auditor's responsibilities may be based on HKSA 200.<sup>5</sup> Paragraphs 6(b) and 12 of this HKSA deal with the description of the responsibilities of management. In addition to including the matters required by paragraph 10, an audit engagement letter may make reference to, for example:

- Elaboration of the scope of the audit, including reference to applicable legislation, regulations, HKSAs, and ethical and other pronouncements of professional bodies to which the auditor adheres.
- The form of any other communication of results of the audit engagement.
- ~~The requirement for the auditor to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report in accordance with HKSA 701.~~<sup>6</sup>
- The fact that because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with HKSAs.
- Arrangements regarding the planning and performance of the audit, including the composition of the engagement team.
- The expectation that management will provide written representations (see also paragraph A13).
- The expectation that management will provide access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, including an expectation that management will provide access to information relevant to disclosures.
- The agreement of management to make available to the auditor draft financial statements, including all information relevant to their preparation, whether obtained from within or outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers (including all information relevant to the

<sup>4</sup> In the paragraphs that follow, any reference to an audit engagement letter is to be taken as a reference to an audit engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement.

<sup>5</sup> HKSA 200, paragraphs 3–9.

<sup>6</sup> ~~HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*~~

preparation of disclosures), and the other information,<sup>7</sup> if any, in time to allow the auditor to complete the audit in accordance with the proposed timetable.

- The agreement of management to inform the auditor of facts that may affect the financial statements, of which management may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor's report to the date the financial statements are issued.
- The basis on which fees are computed and any billing arrangements.
- A request for management to acknowledge receipt of the audit engagement letter and to agree to the terms of the engagement outlined therein.
- The expectation that management will provide a going concern assessment that covers a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements.<sup>8</sup>
- The requirements for the auditor to describe in the auditor's report how the auditor evaluated management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).<sup>9</sup>
- The requirement for the auditor to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report in accordance with HKSA 701.<sup>10</sup>

...

## Appendix 1

(Ref: Para. A24–A26)

### Example of an Audit Engagement Letter

...

#### Responsibilities of directors

2.1 Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand that you have responsibility:

a. ...

...

f. To provide us with:<sup>11</sup>

- (i) Access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the (consolidated)\* financial statements such as the Company's accounting records and all other relevant records and documentation, including minutes of all management and shareholders' meetings and other matters;
- (ii) Additional information that we may request from you for the purpose of the audit, such as a going concern assessment that covers a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements; and

<sup>7</sup> As defined in HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*

<sup>8</sup> See HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*, paragraph 21.

<sup>9</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), paragraphs 34(b)(ii) and 35(b).

<sup>10</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>11</sup> See paragraph A24 for examples of other matters relating to management's responsibilities that may be included.

- (iii) Unrestricted access to persons related to the Company (and its subsidiaries)\* from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence;

...

#### Scope of audit

- 4.1 Our audit will be conducted in accordance with HKSAs issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements. As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

...

- d. Conclude and report on the appropriateness of your use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

## HKSA 220 (REVISED), QUALITY MANAGEMENT FOR AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

...

### Application and Other Explanatory Material

...

#### Engagement Performance

...

Direction, Supervision and Review (Ref: Para. 30)

...

The Engagement Partner's Review (Ref: Para. 30-34)

...

A92. The engagement partner exercises professional judgment in identifying the areas of significant judgment made by the engagement team. The firm's policies or procedures may specify certain matters that are commonly expected to be significant judgments. Significant judgments in relation to the audit engagement may include matters related to the overall audit strategy and audit plan for undertaking the engagement, the execution of the engagement and the overall conclusions reached by the engagement team, for example:

- Matters related to planning the engagement, such as matters related to determining materiality.
- The composition of the engagement team, including:

- Personnel using expertise in a specialized area of accounting or auditing;
- The use of personnel from service delivery centers.
- The decision to involve an auditor's expert, including the decision to involve an external expert.
- The engagement team's consideration of information obtained in the acceptance and continuance process and proposed responses to that information.
- The engagement team's risk assessment process, including situations where consideration of inherent risk factors and the assessment of inherent risk requires significant judgment by the engagement team.
- The engagement team's consideration of related party relationships and transactions and disclosures.
- Results of the procedures performed by the engagement team on significant areas of the engagement, for example, conclusions in respect of certain accounting estimates, accounting policies or going concern considerations.
- The engagement team's evaluation of the work performed by experts and conclusions drawn therefrom.
- In group audit situations:
  - The proposed overall group audit strategy and group audit plan;
  - Decisions about the involvement of component auditors, including how to direct and supervise them and review their work ; and
  - The evaluation of work performed by component auditors and the conclusions drawn therefrom.
- How matters affecting the overall audit strategy and audit plan have been addressed.
- The significance and disposition of corrected and uncorrected misstatements identified during the engagement.
- The proposed audit opinion and matters to be communicated in the auditor's report, for example, key audit matters, or matters related to going concern. ~~a "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern" paragraph.~~

...

## HKSA 230, AUDIT DOCUMENTATION

...

### Application and Other Explanatory Material

...

#### Documentation of the Audit Procedures Performed and Audit Evidence Obtained

...

Documentation of Significant Matters and Related Significant Professional-Judgments (Ref: Para. 8(c))

...

A10. Some examples of circumstances in which, in accordance with paragraph 8, it is appropriate to prepare audit documentation relating to the use of professional judgment include, where the

matters and judgments are significant:

- The rationale for the auditor's conclusion when a requirement provides that the auditor "shall consider" certain information or factors, and that consideration is significant in the context of the particular engagement.
- The basis for the auditor's conclusion on the reasonableness of areas of subjective judgments made by management, for example management's judgments in relation to the going concern basis of accounting.<sup>12</sup>
- The basis for the auditor's evaluation of whether an accounting estimate and related disclosures are reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework, or are misstated.
- The basis for the auditor's conclusions about the authenticity of a document when further investigation (such as making appropriate use of an expert or of confirmation procedures) is undertaken in response to conditions identified during the audit that caused the auditor to believe that the document may not be authentic.
- When HKSA 701 applies,<sup>13</sup> the auditor's determination of the key audit matters or the determination that there are no key audit matters to be communicated.

...

## Appendix

(Ref: Para. 1)

### Specific Audit Documentation Requirements in Other HKSAs

This appendix identifies paragraphs in other HKSAs that contain specific documentation requirements. The list is not a substitute for considering the requirements and related application and other explanatory material in HKSAs.

- HKSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements* – paragraphs 10–12
- HKSA 220 (Revised), *Quality Management for an Audit of Financial Statements* – paragraph 41
- HKSA 240, *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements* – paragraphs 45–48
- HKSA 250 (Revised), *Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements* – paragraph 30
- HKSA 260 (Revised), *Communication with Those Charged with Governance* – paragraph 24
- HKSA 300, *Planning an Audit of Financial Statements* – paragraph 12
- HKSA 315 (Revised 2019), *Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement* – paragraph 38
- HKSA 320, *Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit* – paragraph 14
- HKSA 330, *The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks* – paragraphs 28–30
- HKSA 450, *Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit* – paragraph 15

<sup>12</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

<sup>13</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*

- HKSA 540 (Revised), *Auditing Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures* – paragraph 39
- HKSA 550, *Related Parties* – paragraph 28
- HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern* – paragraph 44
- HKSA 600 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)* – paragraph 59
- HKSA 610 (Revised 2013), *Using the Work of Internal Auditors* – paragraph 36–37
- HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information* – paragraph 25

## HKSA 250 (REVISED), CONSIDERATION OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

...

### Requirements

...

#### Communicating and Reporting Identified or Suspected Non-Compliance

...

##### *Reporting Identified or Suspected Non-Compliance to an Appropriate Authority outside the Entity*

29. If the auditor has identified or suspects non-compliance with laws and regulations, the auditor shall determine whether law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements: (Ref: Para. A28–A34)
- Require the auditor to report to an appropriate authority outside the entity.
  - Establish responsibilities or rights under which reporting to an appropriate authority outside the entity may be appropriate in the circumstances.

...

### Application and Other Explanatory Material

...

#### The Auditor’s Consideration of Compliance with Laws and Regulations

...

##### *Procedures to Identify Instances of Non-Compliance—Other Laws and Regulations* (Ref: Para. 6 and 15)

- A13. Certain other laws and regulations may need particular attention by the auditor because they have a fundamental effect on the operations of the entity (as described in paragraph 6(b)). Non-compliance with laws and regulations that have a fundamental effect on the operations of the entity may cause the entity to cease operations, or call into question the entity’s ability to continue ~~continuance~~ continue as a going concern.<sup>14</sup> For example, non-compliance with the requirements of the entity’s license or other entitlement to perform its operations could have such an impact (e.g., for a bank, non-compliance with capital or investment requirements). There are also many

<sup>14</sup> See HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*



laws and regulations relating principally to the operating aspects of the entity that typically do not affect the financial statements and are not captured by the entity's information systems relevant to financial reporting.

...

## **Communicating and Reporting Identified or Suspected Non-Compliance**

...

*Reporting Identified or Suspected Non-Compliance to an Appropriate Authority outside the Entity* (Ref: Para. 29)

A28. Reporting identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to an appropriate authority outside the entity may be required or appropriate in the circumstances because:

- (a) Law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements require the auditor to report (see paragraph A29);
- (b) The auditor has determined reporting is an appropriate action to respond to identified or suspected non-compliance in accordance with relevant ethical requirements (see paragraph A30); or
- (c) Law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements provide the auditor with the right to do so (see paragraph A31).

...

A31. Even if law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements do not include requirements that address reporting identified or suspected non-compliance, they may provide the auditor with the right to report identified or suspected non-compliance to an appropriate authority outside the entity. For example, when auditing the financial statements of financial institutions, the auditor may have the right under law or regulation to discuss matters such as identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations with a supervisory authority.

...

## **HKSA 260 (REVISED), COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE**

...

### **Application and Other Explanatory Material**

...

#### **Matters to Be Communicated**

...

*Significant Findings from the Audit* (Ref: Para. 16)

...

Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit (Ref: Para. 16(b))

A21. Significant difficulties encountered during the audit may include such matters as:

- Significant delays by management, the unavailability of entity personnel, or an unwillingness by management to provide information necessary for the auditor to perform the auditor's procedures.
- An unreasonably brief time within which to complete the audit.
- Extensive unexpected effort required to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.
- The unavailability of expected information.
- Restrictions imposed on the auditor by management.
- Management's unwillingness to make or extend its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern when requested.<sup>15</sup>

In some circumstances, such difficulties may constitute a scope limitation that leads to a modification of the auditor's opinion.<sup>16</sup>

...

#### Circumstances that Affect the Form and Content of the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para 16(d))

...

A24. Circumstances in which the auditor is required or may otherwise consider it necessary to include additional information in the auditor's report in accordance with the HKSAs, and for which communication with those charged with governance is required, include when, for example:

- The auditor expects to modify the opinion in the auditor's report in accordance with HKSA 705 (Revised).<sup>17</sup>
- A material uncertainty related to going concern is reported in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).<sup>18</sup>
- Key audit matters are communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.<sup>19</sup>
- The auditor considers it necessary to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or Other Matter paragraph in accordance with HKSA 706 (Revised)<sup>20</sup> or is required to do so by other HKSAs.
- The auditor has concluded that there is an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information in accordance with HKSA 720 (Revised).<sup>21</sup>

In such circumstances, the auditor may consider it useful to provide those charged with governance with a draft of the auditor's report to facilitate a discussion of how such matters will be addressed in the auditor's report.

...

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<sup>15</sup> See HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*, paragraph 42(e)

<sup>16</sup> HKSA 705 (Revised), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>17</sup> HKSA 705 (Revised), paragraph 30

<sup>18</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*, paragraph 42(f) 25(d)

<sup>19</sup> HKSA 701, paragraph 17

<sup>20</sup> HKSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*, paragraph 12

<sup>21</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*, paragraph 18(a)

**Appendix 1**

(Ref: Para. 3)

**Specific Requirements in HKSQM 1 and Other HKSA's that Refer to Communications with Those Charged With Governance**

This appendix identifies paragraphs in HKSQM 1<sup>22</sup> and other HKSA's that require communication of specific matters with those charged with governance. The list is not a substitute for considering the requirements and related application and other explanatory material in HKSA's.

- HKSQM 1, *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements* – paragraph 34(e)
- HKSA 240, *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements* – paragraphs 22, 39(c)(i) and 41–43
- HKSA 250 (Revised), *Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements* – paragraphs 15, 20 and 23–25
- HKSA 265, *Communicating Deficiencies in Internal Control to Those Charged with Governance and Management* – paragraph 9
- HKSA 450, *Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit* – paragraphs 12–13
- HKSA 505, *External Confirmations* – paragraph 9
- HKSA 510, *Initial Audit Engagements—Opening Balances* – paragraph 7
- HKSA 540 (Revised), *Auditing Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures* – paragraph 38
- HKSA 550, *Related Parties* – paragraph 27
- HKSA 560, *Subsequent Events* – paragraphs 7(b)–(c), 10(a), 13(b), 14(a) and 17
- HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern* – paragraphs 41–42 ~~25~~
- HKSA 600 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)* – paragraph 57
- HKSA 610 (Revised 2013), *Using the Work of Internal Auditors* – paragraphs 20 and 31
- HKSA 700 (Revised), *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements* – paragraph 46.
- HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report* – paragraph 17
- HKSA 705 (Revised), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report* – paragraphs 12, 14, 23 and 30
- HKSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report* – paragraph 12
- HKSA 710, *Comparative Information—Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements* – paragraph 18
- HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information* – paragraphs 17–19

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<sup>22</sup> HKSQM 1, *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*

...

## HKSA 315 (REVISED 2019), IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING THE RISKS OF MATERIAL MISSTATEMENT

...

### Application and Other Explanatory Material

...

#### Risk Assessment Procedures and Related Activities (Ref: Para. 13-18)

A11. The risks of material misstatement to be identified and assessed include both those due to fraud and those due to error, and both are covered by this HKSA. However, the significance of fraud is such that further requirements and guidance are included in HKSA 240 in relation to risk assessment procedures and related activities to obtain information that is used to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement due to fraud.<sup>23</sup> In addition, the following HKSAs provide further requirements and guidance on identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement regarding specific matters or circumstances:

- HKSA 540 (Revised)<sup>24</sup> in regard to accounting estimates;
- HKSA 550 in regard to related party relationships and transactions;
- HKSA 570 (Revised 2024)<sup>25</sup> in regard to going concern; and
- HKSA 600 (Revised)<sup>26</sup> in regard to group financial statements.

...

Evaluating the control environment (Ref: Para. 21(b))

...

Information obtained from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers

A138. Financial statements may contain information that is obtained from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers. Examples of such information that the auditor may consider include:

- Information obtained from lease agreements relevant to disclosures in the financial statements.
- Information disclosed in the financial statements that is produced by an entity's risk management system.
- Fair value information produced by management's experts and disclosed in the financial statements.
- Information disclosed in the financial statements that has been obtained from models, or from other calculations used to develop accounting estimates recognized or disclosed in

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<sup>23</sup> HKSA 240, paragraphs 12–27

<sup>24</sup> HKSA 540 (Revised), *Auditing Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures*

<sup>25</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

<sup>26</sup> HKSA 600 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

the financial statements, including information relating to the underlying data and assumptions used in those models, such as:

- Assumptions developed internally that may affect an asset's useful life; or
- Data such as interest rates that are affected by factors outside the control of the entity.
- Information disclosed in the financial statements about sensitivity analyses derived from financial models that demonstrates that management has considered alternative assumptions.
- Information recognized or disclosed in the financial statements that has been obtained from an entity's tax returns and records.
- Information disclosed in the financial statements that has been obtained from analyses prepared to support management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, such as disclosures, if any, related to events or conditions that have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.<sup>27</sup>

...

#### Identifying and Assessing Risks of Material Misstatement at the Financial Statement Level

A195. Risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level refer to risks that relate pervasively to the financial statements as a whole, and potentially affect many assertions. Risks of this nature are not necessarily risks identifiable with specific assertions at the class of transactions, account balance or disclosure level (e.g., risk of management override of controls). Rather, they represent circumstances that may pervasively increase the risks of material misstatement at the assertion level. The auditor's evaluation of whether risks identified relate pervasively to the financial statements supports the auditor's assessment of the risks of material misstatement at the financial statement level. In other cases, a number of assertions may also be identified as susceptible to the risk, and may therefore affect the auditor's risk identification and assessment of risks of material misstatement at the assertion level.

#### **Example:**

The entity faces operating losses and liquidity issues and is reliant on funding that has not yet been secured. In such a circumstance, the auditor may ~~determine~~ conclude that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting gives rise to a risk of material misstatement at the financial statement level. In this situation, the accounting framework may need to be applied using a liquidation basis, which would likely affect all assertions pervasively.

...

## **Appendix 1**

(Ref: Para. A61-A67)

### **Considerations for Understanding the Entity and its Business Model**

...

<sup>27</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), paragraphs A25 19-20

## Objectives and Scope of an Entity's Business Model

...

4. A business risk may have an immediate consequence for the risk of material misstatement for classes of transactions, account balances, and disclosures at the assertion level or the financial statement level. For example, the business risk arising from a significant fall in real estate market values may increase the risk of material misstatement associated with the valuation assertion for a lender of medium-term real estate backed loans. However, the same risk, particularly in combination with a severe economic downturn that concurrently increases the underlying risk of lifetime credit losses on its loans, may also have a longer-term consequence. The resulting net exposure to credit losses may indicate an event or condition that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If so, this could have implications for management's, and the auditor's, conclusion as to the appropriateness of the entity's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and ~~determination~~ conclusion as to whether a material uncertainty exists. Whether a business risk may result in a risk of material misstatement is, therefore, considered in light of the entity's circumstances. Examples of events and conditions that may give rise to the existence of risks of material misstatement are indicated in **Appendix 2**.

...

## HKSA 450, EVALUATION OF MISSTATEMENTS IDENTIFIED DURING THE AUDIT

...

### Application and Other Explanatory Material

...

#### Evaluating the Effect of Uncorrected Misstatements (Ref: Para. 10–11)

...

- A17. In addition, each individual misstatement of a qualitative disclosure is considered to evaluate its effect on the relevant disclosure(s), as well as its overall effect on the financial statements as a whole. The determination of whether a misstatement(s) in a qualitative disclosure is material, in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework and the specific circumstances of the entity, is a matter that involves the exercise of professional judgment. Examples where such misstatements may be material include:
- Inaccurate or incomplete descriptions of information about the objectives, policies and processes for managing capital for entities with insurance and banking activities.
  - The omission of information about the events or circumstances that have led to an impairment loss (e.g., a significant long-term decline in the demand for a metal or commodity) in an entity with mining operations.
  - Inadequate disclosures about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.<sup>28</sup>
  - The incorrect description of an accounting policy relating to a significant item in the statement of financial position, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity or the statement of cash flows.

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<sup>28</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*, paragraphs 32-33

- The inadequate description of the sensitivity of an exchange rate in an entity that undertakes international trading activities.

...

## HKSA 500, AUDIT EVIDENCE

### Introduction

#### Scope of this HKSA

1. This Hong Kong Standard on Auditing (HKSA) explains what constitutes audit evidence in an audit of financial statements, and deals with the auditor's responsibility to design and perform audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to be able to draw reasonable conclusions on which to base the auditor's opinion.
2. This HKSA is applicable to all the audit evidence obtained during the course of the audit. Other HKSAs deal with specific aspects of the audit (for example, HKSA 315 (Revised 2019)<sup>29</sup>), the audit evidence to be obtained in relation to a particular topic (for example, HKSA 570 (Revised 2024)<sup>30</sup>), specific procedures to obtain audit evidence (for example, HKSA 520<sup>31</sup>), and the evaluation of whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained (HKSA 200<sup>32</sup> and HKSA 330<sup>33</sup>).

...

## HKSA 510, INITIAL AUDIT ENGAGEMENTS – OPENING BALANCES

...

### Application and Other Explanatory Material

...

### Appendix

(Ref: Para. A8)

## Illustrations of Independent Auditors' Reports with Modified Opinions

### Illustration 1:

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public

<sup>29</sup> HKSA 315 (Revised 2019), *Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement*

<sup>30</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

<sup>31</sup> HKSA 520, *Analytical Procedures*

<sup>32</sup> HKSA 200, *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing*

<sup>33</sup> HKSA 330, *The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks*

Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised)<sup>34</sup> does not apply).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).<sup>35</sup>

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>36</sup>

#### Qualified Opinion

...

#### Basis for Qualified Opinion

...

#### Going Concern

##### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>37</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### Other Matter

...

#### Illustration 2:

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).

<sup>34</sup> HKSA 600 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

<sup>35</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

<sup>36</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>37</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.



...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>38</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinions

...

#### Basis for Opinions, Including Basis for Qualified Opinion on the Financial Performance and Cash Flows

...

#### Going Concern

##### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>39</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

#### Other Matter

...

## HKSA 540 (REVISED), AUDITING ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND RELATED DISCLOSURES

...

### Application and Other Explanatory Material

...

#### Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement (Ref: Para. 4, 16)

<sup>38</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>39</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

...

*Estimation Uncertainty* (Ref: Para. 16(a))

...

A75. In some cases, the estimation uncertainty relating to an accounting estimate may affect the auditor's professional judgment as to whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. HKSA 570 (Revised 2024)<sup>40</sup> establishes requirements and provides guidance in such circumstances.

...

**Indicators of Possible Management Bias** (Ref: Para. 32)

...

A135. Indicators of possible management bias may affect the auditor's conclusion as to whether the auditor's risk assessment and related responses remain appropriate. The auditor may also need to consider the implications for other aspects of the audit,<sup>41</sup> including the need to further question the appropriateness of management's judgments in making accounting estimates. Further, indicators of possible management bias may affect the auditor's conclusion as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, as discussed in HKSA 700 (Revised).<sup>42</sup>

...

**HKSA 560, SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

...

**Application and Other Explanatory Material**

...

**Events Occurring between the Date of the Financial Statements and the Date of the Auditor's Report** (Ref: Para. 6–9)

...

*Inquiry* (Ref: Para. 7(b))

A9. In inquiring of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, as to whether any subsequent events have occurred that might affect the financial statements, the auditor may inquire as to the current status of items that were accounted for on the basis of preliminary or inconclusive data and may make specific inquiries about the following matters:

- Whether new commitments, borrowings or guarantees have been entered into.
- Whether sales or acquisitions of assets have occurred or are planned.

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<sup>40</sup> HKSA 570; (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

<sup>41</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), paragraphs A68-A71

<sup>42</sup> HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraph 11

- Whether there have been increases in capital or issuance of debt instruments, such as the issue of new shares or debentures, or an agreement to merge or liquidate has been made or is planned.
- Whether any assets have been appropriated by government or destroyed, for example, by fire or flood.
- Whether there have been any developments regarding contingencies.
- Whether any unusual accounting adjustments have been made or are contemplated.
- Whether any events have occurred or are likely to occur that will bring into question the appropriateness of accounting policies used in the financial statements, as would be the case, for example, if such events call into question the appropriateness of management's use of the validity of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements assumption.
- Whether any events have occurred that are relevant to the measurement of estimates or provisions made in the financial statements.
- Whether any events have occurred that are relevant to the recoverability of assets.

...

## HKSA 580, WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS

...

### Appendix 1

(Ref: Para. 2)

### List of HKSAs Containing Requirements for Written Representations

This appendix identifies paragraphs in other HKSAs that require subject-matter specific written representations. The list is not a substitute for considering the requirements and related application and other explanatory material in HKSAs.

- HKSA 240, *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements* – paragraph 40
- HKSA 250 (Revised), *Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements* – paragraph 17
- HKSA 450, *Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit* – paragraph 14
- HKSA 501, *Audit Evidence—Specific Considerations for Selected Items* – paragraph 12
- HKSA 540 (Revised), *Auditing Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures* – paragraph 37
- HKSA 550, *Related Parties* – paragraph 26
- HKSA 560, *Subsequent Events* – paragraph 9
- HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern* – paragraphs 39–40 ~~46(e)~~
- HKSA 710, *Comparative Information—Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements* – paragraph 9
- HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information* – paragraph 13(c)

...

**Appendix 2**

(Ref: Para. A21)

**Illustrative Representation Letter**

The following illustrative letter includes written representations that are required by this and other HKSAs. It is assumed in this illustration that the applicable financial reporting framework is HKFRS Accounting Standards; the requirement of HKSA 570 (Revised 2024)<sup>43</sup> to obtain a written representation is not relevant; and that there are no exceptions to the requested written representations. If there were exceptions, the representations would need to be modified to reflect the exceptions.

...

**HKSA 600 (REVISED), SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS—AUDITS OF GROUP  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (INCLUDING THE WORK OF COMPONENT  
AUDITORS)**

...

**Requirements**

...

**Understanding the Group and its Environment, the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework  
and the Group's System of Internal Control**

...

*Considerations When Component Auditors Are Involved*

31. The group auditor shall communicate to component auditors on a timely basis: (Ref: Para. A106)
- (a) Matters that the group auditor determines to be relevant to the component auditor's design or performance of risk assessment procedures for the purposes of the group audit;
  - (b) In applying HKSA 550,<sup>44</sup> related party relationships or transactions identified by group management, and any other related parties of which the group auditor is aware, that are relevant to the work of the component auditor; and (Ref: Para. A107)
  - (c) In applying HKSA 570 (Revised 2024),<sup>45</sup> events or conditions identified by group management or the group auditor, that may cast significant doubt on the group's ability to continue as a going concern that are relevant to the work of the component auditor.

...

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<sup>43</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

<sup>44</sup> HKSA 550, *Related Parties*, paragraph 17

<sup>45</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

**Appendix 1**

(Ref: Para. A45)

**Illustration of Independent Auditor's Report When the Group Auditor Is Not Able to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence on Which to Base the Group Audit Opinion**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) applies).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.<sup>46</sup>

...

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>47</sup>

**Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements<sup>48</sup>****Qualified Opinion**

...

**Basis for Qualified Opinion**

...

**Going Concern****No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>49</sup>**

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have

<sup>46</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>47</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>48</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>49</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

...

## **HKSA 610 (REVISED 2013), USING THE WORK OF INTERNAL AUDITORS**

...

### **Application and Other Explanatory Material**

...

*Determining the Nature and Extent of Work of the Internal Audit Function that Can Be Used*

Factors Affecting the Determination of the Nature and Extent of the Work of the Internal Audit Function that Can Be Used (Ref: Para. 17–19)

...

Judgments in planning and performing audit procedures and evaluating results (Ref: Para. 18(a), 30(a))

...

A19. Since the external auditor has sole responsibility for the audit opinion expressed, the external auditor needs to make the significant judgments in the audit engagement in accordance with paragraph 18. Significant judgments include the following:

- Assessing the risks of material misstatement;
- Evaluating the sufficiency of tests performed;
- Evaluating the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern ~~assumption~~ basis of accounting;
- Evaluating significant accounting estimates; and
- Evaluating the adequacy of disclosures in the financial statements, and other matters affecting the auditor's report.

...

## **HKSA 700 (REVISED), FORMING AN OPINION AND REPORTING ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

...

### **Requirements**

...

### **Auditor's Report**

...

*Auditor's Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing*

...

## Going Concern

29. ~~Where applicable, the~~ The auditor shall report in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).<sup>50</sup>

...

## Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

...

34. This section of the auditor's report shall describe management's responsibility for: (Ref: Para. A46–A49)
- (a) Preparing the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
  - (b) Assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern<sup>51</sup> and whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate as well as disclosing, if applicable, matters relating to going concern. The explanation of management's responsibility for this assessment shall include a description of when the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. (Ref: Para. A49)

...

*Auditor's Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation*

50. If the auditor is required by law or regulation of a specific jurisdiction to use a specific layout, or wording of the auditor's report, the auditor's report shall refer to Hong Kong Standards on Auditing only if the auditor's report includes, at a minimum, each of the following elements: (Ref: Para. A71–A72)
- (a) A title.
  - (b) An addressee, as required by the circumstances of the engagement.
  - (c) An Opinion section containing an expression of opinion on the financial statements and a reference to the applicable financial reporting framework used to prepare the financial statements (including identifying the jurisdiction of origin of the financial reporting framework that is not Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards, see paragraph 27).
  - (d) An identification of the entity's financial statements that have been audited.
  - (e) A statement that the auditor is independent of the entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit, and has fulfilled the auditor's other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

<sup>50</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*, paragraphs 34-38 ~~21-23~~

<sup>51</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), paragraph 2

- (i) The statement shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the relevant ethical requirements or refer to the Code.
- (ii) If the relevant ethical requirements require the auditor to publicly disclose when the auditor applied independence requirements specific to audits of financial statements of certain entities, the statement shall indicate that the auditor is independent of the entity in accordance with the independence requirements applicable to the audits of those entities.
- (f) ~~Where applicable, a~~ A section that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the reporting requirements in paragraphs ~~34–35 and 36(c)~~ 22 of HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- (g) Where applicable, a Basis for Qualified (~~or~~ Adverse) Opinion section that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the reporting requirements in paragraph ~~35(b)~~ 23 of HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- (h) Where applicable, a section that includes the information required by HKSA 701, or additional information about the audit that is prescribed by law or regulation and that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the reporting requirements in that HKSA.<sup>52</sup> (Ref: Para. A73–A76)
- (i) Where applicable, a section that addresses the reporting requirements in paragraph 24 of HKSA 720 (Revised).
- (j) A description of management’s responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements and an identification of those responsible for the oversight of the financial reporting process that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the requirements in paragraphs 33–36.
- (k) A reference to Hong Kong Standards on Auditing and the law or regulation, and a description of the auditor’s responsibilities for an audit of the financial statements that addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the requirements in paragraphs 37–40. (Ref: Para. A51–A54)
- (l) For audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities, the name of the engagement partner unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant personal security threat.
- (m) The auditor’s signature.
- (n) The auditor’s address.
- (o) The date of the auditor’s report.

...

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<sup>52</sup> HKSA 701, paragraphs 11-16



**Appendix**

(Ref: Para. A19)

**Illustrations of Independent Auditor's Reports on Financial Statements**

...

**Illustration 1 – Auditor's Report for a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong and where the Financial Statements are Prepared in Accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).

- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>53</sup>

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>54</sup>****Opinion**

...

**Basis for Opinion**

...

**Going Concern****No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>55</sup>**

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

<sup>53</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>54</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>55</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

## Key Audit Matters

...

### Illustration 2 – Auditor's Report for a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong submitting Consolidated Financial Statements and where the Consolidated Financial Statements are Prepared in Accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the HKICPA. The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) applies).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>56</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements<sup>57</sup>

#### Opinion

...

#### Basis for Opinion

...

#### Going Concern

##### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>58</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have

<sup>56</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>57</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>58</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

## Key Audit Matters

...

### Illustration 3 – Auditor's Report for an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong and where the Financial Statements are Prepared in Accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the HKICPA. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>59</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>60</sup>

#### Opinion

...

#### Basis for Opinion

...

#### Going Concern

#### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>61</sup>

<sup>59</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>60</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>61</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

...

**Illustration 4 – Auditor's Report for an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong submitting Consolidated Financial Statements and where the Consolidated Financial Statements are Prepared in Accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the HKICPA. The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) applies).
- ...
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>62</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements<sup>63</sup>

#### Opinion

...

#### Basis for Opinion

...

<sup>62</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>63</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

**Going Concern****No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>64</sup>**

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

...

**Illustration 5 – Auditor's Report for an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong and where the Financial Statements are Prepared in Accordance with Hong Kong Small and Medium-Sized Entity Financial Reporting Standard**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using Hong Kong Small and Medium-Sized Entity Financial Reporting Standard (SME-FRS). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of SME Limited

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>65</sup>

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>66</sup>****Opinion**

<sup>64</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

<sup>65</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>66</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

...

**Basis for Opinion**

...

**Going Concern****No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>67</sup>**

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

...

**Illustration 6 – Auditor's Report for a Listed Entity Incorporated Overseas and reporting in Hong Kong**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the HKICPA. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

(incorporated in [country or place] with limited liability)<sup>68</sup>

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>69</sup>**

<sup>67</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

<sup>68</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>69</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

**Opinion**

...

**Basis for Opinion**

...

**Going Concern****No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern**<sup>70</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

**Key Audit Matters**

...

**Illustration 7 – Auditor's Report for an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong and where the Financial Statements are Prepared in Accordance with HKFRS for Private Entities Accounting Standard**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using the HKFRS for Private Entities Accounting Standard as issued by the HKICPA. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>71</sup>

<sup>70</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

<sup>71</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

## Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>72</sup>

### Opinion

...

### Basis for Opinion

...

### Going Concern

#### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>73</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

### Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

...

#### Illustration 8 – Auditor's Report for an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Incorporated in Hong Kong submitting Consolidated Financial Statements and where the Consolidated Financial Statements are Prepared in Accordance with HKFRS for Private Entities Accounting Standard

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS for Private Entities Accounting Standard as issued by the HKICPA. The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) applies).
- ...
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

<sup>72</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>73</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.



To the Members of ABC Company  
(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>74</sup>

## Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements<sup>75</sup>

### Opinion

...

### Basis for Opinion

...

### Going Concern

#### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>76</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

...

## HKSA 701, COMMUNICATING KEY AUDIT MATTERS IN THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Introduction

#### Scope of this HKSA

...

4. Communicating key audit matters in the auditor's report is in the context of the auditor having formed an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. Communicating key audit matters in the auditor's report is not:
  - (a) A substitute for disclosures in the financial statements that the applicable financial reporting framework requires management to make, or that are otherwise necessary to achieve fair presentation;

<sup>74</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>75</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>76</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

- (b) A substitute for the auditor expressing a modified opinion when required by the circumstances of a specific audit engagement in accordance with HKSA 705 (Revised);<sup>77</sup>
- (c) A substitute for reporting in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024);<sup>78</sup> ~~when a material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on an entity's ability to continue as a going concern;~~
- (d) A separate opinion on individual matters. (Ref: Para. A5-A8)

...

## Requirements

...

### Communicating Key Audit Matters

...

#### *Interaction between Descriptions of Key Audit Matters and Other Elements Required to Be Included in the Auditor's Report*

15. ~~The following are, by their nature, key audit matters: Aa matter giving rise to a modified opinion in accordance with HKSA 705 (Revised), or, in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), or a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern or when significant judgments were made by management in concluding that there is no material uncertainty, in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised), are by their nature key audit matters.~~ However, in such circumstances, these matters shall not be described in the Key Audit Matters section of the auditor's report and the requirements in paragraphs 13–14 do not apply. Rather, the auditor shall:
- (a) Report on these matter(s) in accordance with the applicable HKSA(s); and
  - (b) Include a reference to the Basis for Qualified (Adverse) Opinion<sub>1</sub> or the Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern or the Going Concern section(s) in the Key Audit Matters section. (Ref: Para. A6–A7)

...

## Application and Other Explanatory Material

### Scope of this HKSA (Ref: Para. 2)

...

- A6. When the auditor expresses a qualified or adverse opinion in accordance with HKSA 705 (Revised), presenting the description of a matter giving rise to a modified opinion in the Basis for Qualified (Adverse) Opinion section helps to promote intended users' understanding and to identify such circumstances when they occur. Separating the communication of this matter from other key audit matters described in the Key Audit Matters section therefore gives it the appropriate prominence in the auditor's report (see paragraph 15). The Appendix in HKSA 705 (Revised) includes illustrative examples of how the introductory language in the Key Audit Matters section is affected when the auditor expresses a qualified or adverse opinion and other key audit matters are communicated in the auditor's report. Paragraph A58 of this HKSA illustrates how

<sup>77</sup> HKSA 705 (Revised), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>78</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*, paragraphs 34-38 ~~22-23~~

the Key Audit Matters section is presented when the auditor has determined that there are no other key audit matters to be communicated in the auditor's report beyond matters addressed in the Basis for Qualified (Adverse) Opinion section or Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

...

## Communicating Key Audit Matters

...

### Reference to Where the Matter is Disclosed in the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 13)

...

A41. In addition to referring to related disclosure(s), the auditor may draw attention to key aspects of them. The extent of disclosure by management about specific aspects or factors in relation to how a particular matter is affecting the financial statements of the current period may help the auditor in pinpointing particular aspects of how the matter was addressed in the audit such that intended users can understand why the matter is a key audit matter. For example: ~~When an entity includes robust disclosure about accounting estimates, the auditor may draw attention to the disclosure of key assumptions, the disclosure of the range of possible outcomes, and other qualitative and quantitative disclosures relating to key sources of estimation uncertainty or critical accounting estimates, as part of addressing why the matter was one of most significance in the audit and how the matter was addressed in the audit.~~

- ~~When the auditor concludes in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised) that no material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the auditor may nevertheless determine that one or more matters relating to this conclusion arising from the auditor's work effort under HKSA 570 (Revised) are key audit matters. In such circumstances, the auditor's description of such key audit matters in the auditor's report could include aspects of the identified events or conditions disclosed in the financial statements, such as substantial operating losses, available borrowing facilities and possible debt refinancing, or non-compliance with loan agreements, and related mitigating factors.~~<sup>79</sup>

...

### How the Matter Was Addressed in the Audit (Ref: Para. 13(b))

...

### Form and Content of the Key Audit Matters Section in Other Circumstances (Ref: Para. 16)

...

A58. The following illustrates the presentation in the auditor's report if the auditor has determined there are no key audit matters to communicate:

#### Key Audit Matters

[Except for the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified (Adverse) Opinion* section or *Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern* section,] We have determined that there are no [other] key audit matters to communicate in our report.

<sup>79</sup> See paragraph A3 of HKSA 570 (Revised).

...

## HKSA 705 (REVISED), MODIFICATIONS TO THE OPINION IN THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

...

### Requirements

...

#### Form and Content of the Auditor's Report When the Opinion Is Modified

##### *Auditor's Opinion*

...

##### Disclaimer of Opinion

19. When the auditor disclaims an opinion due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall:
- (a) State that the auditor does not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements;
  - (b) State that, because of the significance of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section, the auditor has not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements; and
  - (c) Amend the statement required by paragraph 24(b) of HKSA 700 (Revised), which indicates that the financial statements have been audited, to state that the auditor was engaged to audit the financial statements.
  - (d) State in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section that the auditor is unable to conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements and whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

##### *Considerations When the Auditor Disclaims an Opinion on the Financial Statements*

29. Unless required by law or regulation, when the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor's report shall not include a section on:
- (a) ~~a Key Audit Matters section~~ in accordance with HKSA 701;<sup>80</sup>
  - (b) Going Concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024);<sup>81</sup>
  - (c) Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024);<sup>82</sup> and

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<sup>80</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*, paragraphs 11–13

<sup>81</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*, paragraph 34

<sup>82</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), paragraphs 35–36

(d) ~~An Other Information section~~ in accordance with HKSA 720 (Revised).<sup>83</sup>~~84~~ (Ref: Para. A26)

...

## Application and Other Explanatory Material

...

### Form and Content of the Auditor's Report When the Opinion Is Modified

#### *Illustrative Auditor's Reports* (Ref: Para. 16)

- A17. Illustrations 1 and 2 in the Appendix contain auditor's reports with qualified and adverse opinions, respectively, as the financial statements are materially misstated.
- A18. Illustration 3 in the Appendix contains an auditor's report with a qualified opinion as the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. Illustration 4 contains a disclaimer of opinion due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about a single element of the financial statements. Illustration 5 contains a disclaimer of opinion due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about multiple elements of the financial statements. In each of the latter two cases, the possible effects on the financial statements of the inability are both material and pervasive. The Appendices to other HKSAs that include reporting requirements, including HKSA 570 (Revised 2024),<sup>85</sup> also include illustrations of auditor's reports with modified opinions.

...

#### *Considerations When the Auditor Disclaims an Opinion on the Financial Statements* (Ref: Para. 29)

- A26. Providing the reasons for the auditor's inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence within the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section of the auditor's report provides useful information to users in understanding why the auditor has disclaimed an opinion on the financial statements and may further guard against inappropriate reliance on them. However, communication of any key audit matters other than the matter(s) giving rise to the disclaimer of opinion may suggest that the financial statements as a whole are more credible in relation to those matters than would be appropriate in the circumstances, and would be inconsistent with the disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements as a whole. Similarly, it would not be appropriate to include an Other Information section in accordance with HKSA 720 (Revised) addressing the auditor's consideration of the consistency of the other information with the financial statements. Accordingly, paragraph 29 of this HKSA prohibits ~~a Key Audit Matters section or an Other Information section~~ certain sections from being included in the auditor's report when the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, unless the auditor is otherwise required by law or regulation to communicate key audit matters or to report on other information.

...

<sup>83</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*, paragraphs 11–13

<sup>84</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*, paragraph A54

<sup>85</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised), *Going Concern*

**Appendix**

(Ref: Para. A17-A18, A25)

**Illustrations of Independent Auditor's Reports with Modifications to the Opinion**

...

**Illustration 1 – Qualified Opinion due to a Material Misstatement of the Financial Statements**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised)<sup>86</sup> does not apply).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>87</sup>

**Report on the Audit of Financial Statements<sup>88</sup>****Qualified Opinion**

...

**Basis for Qualified Opinion**

...

**Going Concern****No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>89</sup>**

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

<sup>86</sup> HKSA 600 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

<sup>87</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>88</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>89</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

**Other Information [or other title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

...

### **Key Audit Matters**

...

#### Illustration 2 – Adverse Opinion due to a Material Misstatement of the Consolidated Financial Statements

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) applies).
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- HKSA 701 applies; however, the auditor has determined that there are no key audit matters other than the matter described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section.

...

...

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>90</sup>

### **Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements<sup>91</sup>**

#### **Adverse Opinion**

...

#### **Basis for Adverse Opinion**

...

#### **Going Concern**

<sup>90</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>91</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

**No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>92</sup>**

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

**Other Information [or other title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

...

**Key Audit Matters**

...

**Illustration 3 – Qualified Opinion due to the Auditor's Inability to Obtain Sufficient Audit Evidence Regarding a Foreign Associate**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) applies).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>93</sup>

**Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements<sup>94</sup>****Qualified Opinion**

...

<sup>92</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

<sup>93</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>94</sup> Not used.



**Basis for Qualified Opinion**

...

**Going Concern****No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>95</sup>**

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

**Other Information [or other title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

...

**Key Audit Matters**

...

**Illustration 4 – Disclaimer of Opinion due to the Auditor's Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence about a Single Element of the Consolidated Financial Statements**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) applies).

...

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>96</sup>

**Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements<sup>97</sup>****Disclaimer of Opinion**

...

**Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion**

<sup>95</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

<sup>96</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>97</sup> Not used.

The Group's investment in its joint venture DEF Company is carried at xxx on the Group's consolidated statement of financial position, which represents over 90% of the Group's net assets as at 31 December 20X1. We were not allowed access to the management and the auditors of DEF Company, including DEF Company's auditors' audit documentation. As a result, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments were necessary in respect of the Group's proportional share of DEF Company's assets that it controls jointly, its proportional share of DEF Company's liabilities for which it is jointly responsible, its proportional share of DEF's income and expenses for the year, and the elements making up the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated cash flow statement.

We are unable to conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements and whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

#### Illustration 5 – Disclaimer of Opinion due to the Auditor's Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence about Multiple Elements of the Financial Statements

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised), does not apply).

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>98</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>99</sup>

#### Disclaimer of Opinion

...

#### Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

We were not appointed as auditors of the Company until after 31 December 20X1 and thus did not observe the counting of physical inventories at the beginning and end of the year. We were unable to satisfy ourselves by alternative means concerning the inventory quantities held at 31 December 20X0 and 20X1, which are stated in the statements of financial position at xxx and xxx, respectively. In addition, the introduction of a new computerized accounts receivable system in September 20X1 resulted in numerous errors in accounts receivable. As of the date of our report, management was still in the process of rectifying the system deficiencies and correcting the errors. We were unable to confirm or verify by alternative means accounts receivable included in the statement of financial position at a total amount of xxx as at 31 December 20X1. As a result of these matters, we were unable to determine

<sup>98</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>99</sup> Not used.

whether any adjustments might have been found necessary in respect of recorded or unrecorded inventories and accounts receivable, and the elements making up the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows.

We are unable to conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements and whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

## **HKSA 706 (REVISED), EMPHASIS OF MATTER PARAGRAPHS AND OTHER MATTER PARAGRAPHS IN THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

### **Introduction**

#### **Scope of this HKSA**

...

3. HKSA 570 (Revised 2024)<sup>100</sup> and HKSA 720 (Revised)<sup>101</sup> establishes requirements and provides guidance about communication in the auditor's report relating to going concern and other information respectively.

...

### **Application and Other Explanatory Material**

...

#### **Circumstances in Which an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph May Be Necessary** (Ref: Para. 4, 8)

...

- A5. Examples of circumstances where the auditor may consider it necessary to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph are:
  - An uncertainty relating to the future outcome of exceptional litigation or regulatory action, that is not an event or condition that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
  - A significant subsequent event that occurs between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report.<sup>102</sup>
  - Early application (where permitted) of a new accounting standard that has a material effect on the financial statements.
  - A major catastrophe that has had, or continues to have, a significant effect on the entity's financial position.

...

---

<sup>100</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

<sup>101</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*

<sup>102</sup> HKSA 560, paragraph 6

**Including an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph in the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 9)**

...

- A7. The inclusion of an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in the auditor's report does not affect the auditor's opinion. An Emphasis of Matter paragraph is not a substitute for:
- (a) A modified opinion in accordance with HKSA 705 (Revised) when required by the circumstances of a specific audit engagement;
  - (b) Disclosures in the financial statements that the applicable financial reporting framework requires management to make, or that are otherwise necessary to achieve fair presentation; or
  - (c) Reporting in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).<sup>103</sup> ~~when a material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on an entity's ability to continue as a going concern.~~

...

**Placement of Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 9, 11)**

- A16. The placement of an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report depends on the nature of the information to be communicated, and the auditor's judgment as to the relative significance of such information to intended users compared to other elements required to be reported in accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised). For example:

*Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs*

- When the Emphasis of Matter paragraph relates to the applicable financial reporting framework, including circumstances where the auditor determines that the financial reporting framework prescribed by law or regulation would otherwise be unacceptable,<sup>104</sup> the auditor may consider it necessary to place the paragraph immediately following the ~~Basis for Opinion~~ Going Concern or Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern section to provide appropriate context to the auditor's opinion.
- When a Key Audit Matters section is presented in the auditor's report, an Emphasis of Matter paragraph may be presented either directly before or after the Key Audit Matters section, based on the auditor's judgment as to the relative significance of the information included in the Emphasis of Matter paragraph. The auditor may also add further context to the heading "Emphasis of Matter", such as "Emphasis of Matter – Subsequent Event", to differentiate the Emphasis of Matter paragraph from the individual matters described in the Key Audit Matters section.

*Other Matter Paragraphs*

...

<sup>103</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), paragraphs ~~34-38~~ 22-23

<sup>104</sup> For example, as required by HKSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*, paragraph 19 and HKSA 800 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks*, paragraph 14

**Appendix 3**

(Ref: Para. A17)

**Illustration of an Independent Auditor's Report that Includes a Key Audit Matters Section, an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph, and an Other Matter Paragraph**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised)<sup>105</sup> does not apply).
- ...
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- ...
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.
- ...

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>106</sup>

**Report on the Audit of Financial Statements<sup>107</sup>****Opinion**

...

**Basis for Opinion**

...

**Going Concern****No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>108</sup>**

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

<sup>105</sup> HKSA 600 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

<sup>106</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>107</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>108</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

#### **Emphasis of Matter<sup>109</sup>**

...

#### **Key Audit Matters**

...

#### **Other Matter**

...

## **Appendix 4**

(Ref: Para. A8)

### **Illustration of an Independent Auditor's Report Containing a Qualified Opinion Due to a Departure from the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework and that Includes an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).

...

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>110</sup>

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>111</sup>**

#### **Qualified Opinion**

...

<sup>109</sup> As noted in paragraph A16, an Emphasis of Matter paragraph may be presented either directly before or after the Key Audit Matter section based on the auditor's judgement as to the relative significance of the information included in the Emphasis of Matter paragraph.

<sup>110</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>111</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

**Basis for Qualified Opinion**

...

**Going Concern****No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern**<sup>112</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

**Emphasis of Matter – Effects of a Fire**

...

## **HKSA 710, COMPARATIVE INFORMATION—CORRESPONDING FIGURES AND COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

...

**Appendix**

(Ref: Para. A5, A7, A10)

**Illustrations of Independent Auditors' Reports****Illustration 1 – Corresponding Figures**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised)<sup>113</sup> does not apply).
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).<sup>114</sup>
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.

<sup>112</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

<sup>113</sup> HKSA 600 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

<sup>114</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>115</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>116</sup>

#### Qualified Opinion

...

#### Basis for Qualified Opinion

...

#### Going Concern

##### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>117</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

#### Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>118</sup>

...

#### Illustration 2 – Corresponding Figures

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).

...

<sup>115</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>116</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>117</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

<sup>118</sup> Throughout these illustrative auditor's reports, the terms management and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.



- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>119</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>120</sup>

#### Qualified Opinion

...

#### Basis for Qualified Opinion

...

#### Going Concern

##### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>121</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

### Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>122</sup>

...

#### Illustration 3 – Corresponding Figures

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

<sup>119</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>120</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>121</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

<sup>122</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).
- ...
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.
- ...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>123</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>124</sup>

#### Opinion

...

#### Basis for Opinion

...

#### Going Concern

##### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>125</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

#### Other Matter

...

### Illustration 4 – Comparative Financial Statements

<sup>123</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>124</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>125</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).
- ...
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.
- ...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>126</sup>

#### Qualified Opinion

...

#### Basis for Qualified Opinion

...

#### Going Concern

##### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>127</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>128</sup>

...

<sup>126</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is "unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>127</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

<sup>128</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

## HKSA 720 (REVISED), THE AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO OTHER INFORMATION

...

### Application and Other Explanatory Material

...

#### Reading and Considering the Other Information (Ref: Para. 14-15)

...

*Considering Whether There Is a Material Inconsistency between the Other Information and the Auditor's Knowledge Obtained in the Audit* (Ref: Para. 14(b))

...

A32. 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 assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.<sup>129</sup>

...

## Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. 21-22, A53)

### Illustration of Independent Auditor's Reports Relating to Other Information

...

Illustration 1 – An auditor's report of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised)<sup>130</sup> does not apply).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).<sup>131</sup>

<sup>129</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

<sup>130</sup> HKSA 600 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

<sup>131</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.<sup>132</sup>

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>133</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>134</sup>

#### Opinion

...

#### Basis for Opinion

...

#### Going Concern

##### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>135</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

#### [Key Audit Matters]<sup>136</sup>

...

Illustration 2 – An auditor's report of a listed entity containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained part of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report, has not identified a material misstatement of the other information, and expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor's report.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

<sup>132</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*. The Key Audit Matters section is required for listed entities only.

<sup>133</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>134</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>135</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

<sup>136</sup> The Key Audit Matters section is required for listed entities only.

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).
- ...
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.
- ...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>137</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>138</sup>

#### Opinion

...

#### Basis for Opinion

...

#### Going Concern

##### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>139</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

#### Key Audit Matters

...

Illustration 3 – An auditor's report of an entity other than a listed entity containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained part of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's

<sup>137</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>138</sup> The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

<sup>139</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

report, has not identified a material misstatement of the other information, and expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor's report.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).

- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>140</sup>

### Opinion

...

### Basis for Opinion

...

### Going Concern

#### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>141</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

### Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

...

<sup>140</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>141</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

Illustration 4 – An auditor’s report of a listed entity containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained no other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report but expects to obtain other information after the date of the auditor’s report.<sup>142</sup>

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).

- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements<sup>143</sup>

#### Opinion

...

#### Basis for Opinion

...

#### Going Concern

##### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>144</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report and are not a guarantee as to the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern.

...

<sup>142</sup> For a company incorporated in Hong Kong, its auditor is required to comply with section 406(2) of the Companies Ordinance and therefore it is normally expected the auditor should have obtained the director’s report of the company prior to the date of the auditor’s report. Therefore, this illustration is generally not applicable for a company incorporated in Hong Kong.

<sup>143</sup> The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

<sup>144</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users’ understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor’s report.



## Key Audit Matters

...

Illustration 5 – An auditor’s report of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, containing an unmodified opinion when the auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and has concluded that a material misstatement of the other information exists.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) does not apply).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>145</sup>

### Opinion

...

### Basis for Opinion

...

### Going Concern

#### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>146</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors’ use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report and are not a guarantee as to the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern.

...

<sup>145</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>146</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users’ understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor’s report.

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]**

...

Illustration 6 – An auditor’s report of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, containing an qualified opinion when the auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and there is a limitation of scope with respect to a material item in the consolidated financial statements which also affects the other information.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) applies).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>147</sup>

### Qualified Opinion

...

### Basis for Qualified Opinion

...

### Going Concern

#### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>148</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors’ use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group’s ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report and are not a guarantee as to the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern.

<sup>147</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>148</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users’ understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor’s report.

...

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]**

...

Illustration 7 – An auditor’s report of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, containing an adverse opinion when the auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and the adverse opinion on the consolidated financial statements also affects the other information.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of any entity, whether listed or other than listed, using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). The audit is a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised) applies).

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Members of ABC Company

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)<sup>149</sup>

### Adverse Opinion

...

### Basis for Adverse Opinion

...

### Going Concern

#### No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>150</sup>

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that the directors’ use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group’s ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report and are

<sup>149</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

<sup>150</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users’ understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor’s report.

not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

...

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as “Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon”]**

...

## **HKSA 800 (REVISED), SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS—AUDITS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIAL PURPOSE FRAMEWORKS**

...

### **Application and Other Explanatory Material**

...

#### **Forming an Opinion and Reporting Considerations (Ref: Para. 11)**

A13. The Appendix to this HKSA contains illustrations of independent auditor’s reports on special purpose financial statements. Other illustrations of auditor’s reports may be relevant to reporting on special purpose financial statements (see for example, the Appendices to HKSA 700 (Revised), HKSA 705 (Revised),<sup>151</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024),<sup>152</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised),<sup>153</sup> and HKSA 706 (Revised)).<sup>154</sup>

#### *Application of HKSA 700 (Revised) When Reporting on Special Purpose Financial Statements*

...

#### **Going Concern**

A15. Special purpose financial statements may or may not be prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework for which the going concern basis of accounting is relevant (e.g., the going concern basis of accounting is not relevant for some financial statements prepared on a tax basis in particular jurisdictions).<sup>155</sup> Depending on the applicable financial reporting framework used in the preparation of the special purpose financial statements, the description in the auditor’s report of management’s responsibilities<sup>156</sup> relating to going concern may need to be adapted as necessary. The description in the auditor’s report of the auditor’s responsibilities<sup>157</sup> may also need to be adapted as necessary depending on how HKSA 570 (Revised 2024) applies in the circumstances of the engagement.

...

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<sup>151</sup> HKSA 705 (Revised), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report*

<sup>152</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*

<sup>153</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*

<sup>154</sup> HKSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor’s Report*

<sup>155</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), paragraph 2

<sup>156</sup> See HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraphs 34(b) and A48.

<sup>157</sup> See HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraph 39(b)(iv).

**Appendix**

(Ref: Para. A13 and A21)

**Illustrations of Independent Auditor's Reports on Special Purpose Financial Statements**

...

Illustration 1: An auditor's report on a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity prepared in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of a contract (for purposes of this illustration, a compliance framework) and reporting in Hong Kong.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- The financial statements have been prepared by management of the entity in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of a contract (that is, a special purpose framework). Management does not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).

...

- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

[Appropriate Addressee]

**Opinion**

...

**Basis for Opinion**

...

**Going Concern****No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>158</sup>**

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

<sup>158</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

**Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use**

We draw attention to Note X to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared to assist the Company in complying with the financial reporting provisions of the contract referred to above. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Company and DEF Company and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Company or DEF Company. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>159</sup>**

...

Illustration 2: An auditor's report on a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity prepared in accordance with the tax basis of accounting in Jurisdiction X (for purposes of this illustration, a compliance framework).

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements that have been prepared by management of a partnership in accordance with the tax basis of accounting in Jurisdiction X (that is, a special purpose framework) to assist the partners in preparing their individual income tax return. Management does not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.

...

- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).

...

- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.

...

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

[Appropriate Addressee]

**Opinion**

...

**Basis for Opinion**

...

**Going Concern****No Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern<sup>160</sup>**

<sup>159</sup> Throughout these illustrative auditor's reports, the terms management and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>160</sup> This additional sub-title may be useful to enhance intended users' understanding about the nature of the matters addressed in the Going Concern section of the auditor's report.

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the audit evidence obtained, we have not identified a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

### **Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution**

We draw attention to Note X to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared to assist the partners of the Partnership in preparing their individual income tax returns. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Partnership and its partners and should not be distributed to parties other than the Partnership or its partners. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>161</sup>**

...

Illustration 3: An auditor's report on a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity prepared in accordance with the financial reporting provisions established by a regulator (for purposes of this illustration, a fair presentation framework) and reporting in Hong Kong.

#### **For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:**

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity that have been prepared by management of the entity in accordance with the financial reporting provisions established by a regulator (that is, a special purpose framework) to meet the requirements of that regulator. Management does not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.
- ...
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024). The disclosure of the material uncertainty in the financial statements is adequate.
- ...
- The auditor is required by the regulator to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.
- ...

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

[To the Shareholders of ABC Company or Appropriate Addressee]

### **Opinion**

...

### **Basis for Opinion**

<sup>161</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction

...

**Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note ~~Y~~X to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared to assist the Company to meet the requirements of Regulator DEF. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.<sup>162</sup> Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern**

We draw attention to Note ~~6~~X in the financial statements, which indicates that the Company incurred a net loss of ZZZ during the year ended 31 December 20X1 and, as of that date, the Company's current liabilities exceeded its total assets by YYY. ~~As stated in Note 6, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note 6, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.~~

*[Description of how the auditor evaluated management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).]*

As stated in Note X, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note ~~6~~X, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that managements' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

**Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern section above, we have determined the matters described below to be key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

*[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with HKSA 701 as applied to this audit.]*

**Other Matter**

...

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<sup>162</sup> Auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report".



## HKSA 805 (REVISED), SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS—AUDITS OF SINGLE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SPECIFIC ELEMENTS, ACCOUNTS OR ITEMS OF A FINANCIAL STATEMENT

...

### Requirements

...

### Forming an Opinion and Reporting Considerations

...

#### *Reporting on the Entity's Complete Set of Financial Statements and on a Single Financial Statement or on a Specific Element of Those Financial Statements*

...

14. If the auditor's report on an entity's complete set of financial statements includes:

- (a) A modified opinion in accordance with HKSA 705 (Revised); <sup>163</sup>
- (b) An Emphasis of Matter paragraph or an Other Matter paragraph in accordance with HKSA 706 (Revised); <sup>164</sup>
- (c) A Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern section in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024); <sup>165</sup>
- (d) Communication of key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701; <sup>166</sup> or
- (e) A statement that describes an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information in accordance with HKSA 720 (Revised); <sup>167</sup>

the auditor shall consider the implications, if any, that these matters have for the audit of the single financial statement or of the specific element of a financial statement and for the auditor's report thereon. (Ref: Para. A23–A27)

...

### Application and Other Explanatory Material

...

### Considerations When Accepting the Engagement

#### *Application of HKSAs (Ref: Para. 7)*

...

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<sup>163</sup> HKSA 705 (Revised), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>164</sup> HKSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>165</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), *Going Concern*, paragraphs 35-36 22

<sup>166</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*, paragraph 13

<sup>167</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*, paragraph 22(e)(ii)

- A6. Compliance with the requirements of HKSAs relevant to the audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element of a financial statement may not be practicable when the auditor is not also engaged to audit the entity's complete set of financial statements. In such cases, the auditor often does not have the same understanding of the entity and its environment, including its internal control, as an auditor who also audits the entity's complete set of financial statements. The auditor also does not have the audit evidence about the general quality of the accounting records or other accounting information that would be acquired in an audit of the entity's complete set of financial statements. Accordingly, the auditor may need further evidence to corroborate audit evidence acquired from the accounting records. In the case of an audit of a specific element of a financial statement, certain HKSAs require audit work that may be disproportionate to the element being audited. For example, although the requirements of HKSA 570 (Revised 2024) are likely to be relevant in the circumstances of an audit of a schedule of accounts receivable, complying with those requirements may not be practicable because of the audit effort required. If the auditor concludes that an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element of a financial statement in accordance with HKSAs may not be practicable, the auditor may discuss with management whether another type of engagement might be more practicable.

...

#### **Considerations When Planning and Performing the Audit** (Ref: Para. 10)

- A10. The relevance of each of the HKSAs requires careful consideration. Even when only a specific element of a financial statement is the subject of the audit, HKSAs such as HKSA 240,<sup>168</sup> HKSA 550<sup>169</sup> and HKSA 570 (Revised 2024) are, in principle, relevant. This is because the element could be misstated as a result of fraud, the effect of related party transactions, or the incorrect application of the going concern basis of accounting under the applicable financial reporting framework.

#### **Forming an Opinion and Reporting Considerations** (Ref: Para. 11)

...

- A17. Appendix 2 contains illustrations of independent auditor's reports on a single financial statement and on a specific element of a financial statement. Other illustrations of auditor's reports may be relevant to reporting on a single financial statement or on a specific element of a financial statement (see, for example, the Appendices to HKSA 700 (Revised), HKSA 705 (Revised), HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), HKSA 720 (Revised), and HKSA 706 (Revised)).

#### *Application of HKSA 700 (Revised) When Reporting on a Single Financial Statement or on a Specific Element of a Financial Statement*

...

#### **Going Concern**

- A19. Depending on the applicable financial reporting framework used in the preparation of the single financial statement or the specific element of a financial statement, the description in the auditor's report of management's responsibilities<sup>170</sup> relating to going concern may need to be adapted as

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<sup>168</sup> HKSA 240, *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements*

<sup>169</sup> HKSA 550, *Related Parties*

<sup>170</sup> See HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraphs 34(b) and A48.

necessary. The description in the auditor's report of the auditor's responsibilities<sup>171</sup> may also need to be adapted as necessary depending on how HKSA 570 (Revised 2024) applies in the circumstances of the engagement.

...

## Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. A17)

### Illustrations of Independent Auditor's Reports on a Single Financial Statement and on a Specific Element of a Financial Statement

...

Illustration 1: An auditor's report on a single financial statement of an entity other than a listed entity prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework (for purposes of this illustration, a fair presentation framework).

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a balance sheet (that is, a single financial statement) of an entity other than a listed entity.
- ...
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users.
- ...
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty exists ~~related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern~~ in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024). The disclosure of the material uncertainty in the single financial statement is adequate.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701 in the context of the audit of the balance sheet.
- ...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

### Opinion

...

### Basis for Opinion

...

### Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

<sup>171</sup> See HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraphs 39(b)(iv).

We draw attention to Note 6X in the financial statement, which indicates that the Company incurred a net loss of ZZZ during the year ended 31 December 20X1 and, as of that date, the Company's current liabilities exceeded its total assets by YYY. As stated in Note 6X, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note 6X, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

In the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, we have concluded that managements' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statement is appropriate.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

## **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statement<sup>172</sup>**

...

Illustration 2: An auditor's report on a single financial statement of an entity other than a listed entity reporting in Hong Kong, prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework (for purposes of this illustration, a fair presentation framework).

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a statement of cash receipts and disbursements (that is, a single financial statement) of an entity other than a listed entity.
- ...
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users.<sup>173</sup>
- ...
- The going concern basis of accounting is not relevant in the preparation of the statement of cash receipts and disbursements. Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised).
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701 in the context of the audit of the statement of cash receipts and disbursements.

...

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

[Appropriate Addressee]

<sup>172</sup> Throughout these illustrative auditor's reports, the terms management and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>173</sup> HKSA 800 (Revised) contains requirements and guidance on the form and content of financial statements prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework.

**Opinion**

...

**Basis for Opinion**

...

**Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note X to the financial statement, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statement is prepared to provide information to XYZ Creditor. As a result, the statement may not be suitable for another purpose<sup>174</sup>. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statement<sup>175</sup>**

Management is responsible for preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note X; this includes determining that the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

~~In preparing the financial statement, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.~~

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSA's will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial statement.

Paragraph 41(b) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report. Paragraph 41(c) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that when law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSA's, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain

<sup>174</sup> Auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report".

<sup>175</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.<sup>176</sup>
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, and related disclosures made by management.
- ~~Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statement or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.~~
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statement, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statement represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

...

Illustration 3: An auditor's report on a specific element of a financial statement of a listed entity reporting in Hong Kong, prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework (for purposes of this illustration, a compliance framework).

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of an accounts receivable schedule (that is, element, account or item of a financial statement).
- ...
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a compliance framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users.<sup>177</sup>
- ...
- The going concern basis of accounting is not relevant in the preparation of the accounts receivable schedule. Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant

<sup>176</sup> This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statement.

<sup>177</sup> HKSA 800 (Revised) contains requirements and guidance on the form and content of financial statements prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework.

~~doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised).~~

- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701 in the context of the audit of the accounts receivable schedule.

...

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

[To the Shareholders of ABC Company or Other Appropriate Addressee]

### Opinion

...

### Basis for Opinion

...

### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

We draw attention to Note X to the schedule, which describes the basis of accounting. The schedule is prepared to assist the Company to meet the requirements of Regulator DEF. As a result, the schedule may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Company and Regulator DEF and should not be distributed to parties other than the Company or Regulator DEF<sup>178</sup>. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Schedule<sup>179</sup>

Management is responsible for the preparation of the schedule in accordance with [describe the financial reporting provisions established by the regulator], and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

~~In preparing the schedule, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.~~

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedule is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could

<sup>178</sup> Auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report".

<sup>179</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this schedule.

Paragraph 41(b) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report. Paragraph 41(c) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that when law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the schedule, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.<sup>180</sup>
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, and related disclosures made by management.
- ~~Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.~~

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

...

## HKSA 810 (REVISED), ENGAGEMENTS TO REPORT ON SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

...

### Requirements

<sup>180</sup> This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the schedule.



...

**Auditor's Report on Summary Financial Statements**

...

*Reference to the Auditor's Report on the Audited Financial Statements (Ref: Para. A23)*

19. When the auditor's report on the audited financial statements includes:

- (a) A qualified opinion in accordance with HKSA 705 (Revised);<sup>181</sup>
- (b) An Emphasis of Matter paragraph or an Other Matter paragraph in accordance with HKSA 706 (Revised);<sup>182</sup>
- (c) A *Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern* section in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024);<sup>183</sup>
- (d) A *Going Concern* section in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised 2024) when significant judgments are made by management in concluding that there is no material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern;<sup>184</sup>
- (e) Communication of key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701;<sup>185</sup> or
- (f) A statement that describes an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information in accordance with HKSA 720 (Revised);<sup>186</sup>

and the auditor is satisfied that the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with or are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with the applied criteria, the auditor's report on the summary financial statements shall, in addition to the elements in paragraph 16:

- (i) State that the auditor's report on the audited financial statements includes a qualified opinion, an Emphasis of Matter paragraph, an Other Matter paragraph, a *Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern* section, or a *Going Concern* section that refers to significant judgments made by management in concluding that there is no material uncertainty, communication of key audit matters, or a statement that describes an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information; and (Ref: Para. A21)
- (ii) Describe: (Ref: Para. A22)
  - a. The basis for the qualified opinion on the audited financial statements and the effect thereof, if any, on the summary financial statements;
  - b. The matter referred to in the Emphasis of Matter paragraph, the Other Matter paragraph, ~~or the *Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern* section,~~ or the *Going Concern* section that refers to significant judgments made by management in concluding that there is no material uncertainty, in the auditor's report on the audited

<sup>181</sup> HKSA 705 (Revised), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>182</sup> HKSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>183</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), ~~*Going Concern*~~, paragraphs 35-36 22

<sup>184</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised 2024), paragraph 34(b)

<sup>185</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>186</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Related to Other Information*

financial statements and the effect(s) thereof, if any, on the summary financial statements; or

- c. The uncorrected material misstatement of the other information and the effect(s) thereof, if any, on the information included in a document containing the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. (Ref: Para. A15)

...

## Appendix

(Ref: Para. A23)

### Illustrations of Independent Auditor's Reports on Summary Financial Statements

- Illustration 1: An auditor's report on summary financial statements prepared in accordance with established criteria. An unmodified opinion is expressed on the audited financial statements. The auditor's report on the summary financial statements is dated later than the date of the auditor's report on the financial statements from which summary financial statements are derived. The auditor's report on the audited financial statements includes a *Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern* section and communication of other key audit matters.

...

#### Illustration 1:

Circumstances include the following:

- An unmodified opinion is expressed on the audited financial statements of a listed entity.
- ...
- The auditor's report on the audited financial statements includes a *Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern* section.
- The auditor's report on the audited financial statements includes communication of other key audit matters.<sup>187</sup>

### REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of ABC Company [Appropriate Addressee]

(incorporated in [country or place] with limited liability)<sup>188</sup>

#### Opinion

...

#### Summary Financial Statements

...

<sup>187</sup> As explained in paragraph 15 of HKSA 701, a material uncertainty related to going concern is, by its nature, a key audit matter but is required to be reported in a separate section of the auditor's report in accordance with paragraphs 35-36.22 of HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).

<sup>188</sup> In Hong Kong, it is a common practice to disclose the place of incorporation of the company.

## The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 15 February 20X2. That report also includes:

- A *Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern* section that draws attention to Note 6X in the audited financial statements. Note 6X of the audited financial statements indicates that ABC Company incurred a net loss of ZZZ during the year ended 31 December 20X1 and, as of that date, ABC Company's current liabilities exceeded its total assets by YYY. These events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note 6X of the audited financial statements, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on ABC Company's ability to continue as a going concern. These matters are addressed in Note 5Y of the summary financial statements.<sup>189</sup>
- The communication of other <sup>190</sup> key audit matters. [Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period.]<sup>191</sup>

...

## HKAPG 1000, SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN AUDITING FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

...

### Appendix

(Ref: Para. A14)

## Examples of Controls Relating to Financial Instruments

...

17. Financial instruments may have the associated risk that a loss might exceed the amount, if any, of the value of the financial instrument recognized on the balance sheet. For example, a sudden fall in the market price of a commodity may force an entity to realize losses to close a forward position in that commodity due to collateral, or margin, requirements. In some cases, the potential losses may ~~be enough to indicate an event or condition that may~~ cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. The entity may perform sensitivity analyses or value-at-risk analyses to assess the future hypothetical effects on financial instruments subject to market risks. However, value-at-risk analysis does not fully reflect the extent of the risks that may affect the entity; sensitivity and scenario analyses.

...

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<sup>189</sup> The auditor may include additional description about how the auditor evaluated management's assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, in accordance with paragraph 35(b) of HKSA 570 (Revised 2024).

<sup>190</sup> In the circumstances where there is no material uncertainty related to going concern, inclusion of the word "other" in the statement for the communication of key audit matters would not be necessary.

<sup>191</sup> The auditor may include additional explanation about key audit matters considered helpful to users of the auditor's report on the summary financial statements.