



**30 April 2025**

**To: Members of the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs  
All other interested parties**

**INVITATION TO COMMENT ON INTERNATIONAL AUDITING AND ASSURANCE  
STANDARDS BOARD (IAASB) EXPOSURE DRAFT**

**Proposed Narrow-Scope Amendments to IAASB Standards Arising from the IESBA's  
Using the Work of an External Expert Project**

***Comments to be received by 24 June 2025***

The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' (Institute) Auditing and Assurance Standards Committee (AASC) is seeking comments on the IAASB's Exposure Draft (ED) on Proposed Narrow-Scope Amendments to IAASB Standards Arising from the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' (IESBA) Using the Work of an External Expert Project.

These proposed narrow-scope amendments are aimed at maintaining interoperability between IAASB standards and the IESBA's International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA Code), and address recent revisions to the IESBA Code related to using the work of an external expert.

The new provisions in the IESBA Code relate primarily to:

- Evaluating the competence, capabilities and objectivity (CCO) of the external expert, including, in connection with agreeing the terms of engagement with the external expert, the provision of certain information in writing by the expert to assist the PA in evaluating the external expert's objectivity; and
- Concluding on the external expert's CCO, including circumstances in which the PA would be unable to use the work of the external expert.

ISA 620 addresses using the work of an auditor's expert and therefore the IAASB determined that it would be an appropriate starting point for determining the narrow-scope amendments that may be needed to maintain interoperability with the provisions in the IESBA Code.

The IAASB also considered references to "expert" in the International Standards on Review Engagements (ISREs), International Standards on Assurance Engagements (ISAEs) and International Standards on Related Services (ISRSs) series, and determined that targeted amendments would be appropriate in ISRE 2400 (Revised), ISAE 3000 (Revised) and ISRS 4400 (Revised).

Accordingly, the targeted amendments focus on the following IAASB standards:

- ISA 620, *Using the Work of an Auditor's Expert*
- ISRE 2400 (Revised), *Engagements to Review Historical Financial Statements*
- ISAE 3000 (Revised), *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information*
- ISRS 4400 (Revised), *Agreed-upon Procedures Engagements*



The ED should be read along with the Explanatory Memorandum (EM) that accompanies it which have been posted on the Institute's website at:

<https://www.hkicpa.org.hk/en/Standards-setting/Standards/Open-for-comment-documents/Auditing-and-Assurance>

Questions for respondents have been included in Section 2 "Questions for Respondents" of the EM to solicit specific feedback on the proposed amendments.

In accordance with the Institute's due process, comments are invited from any interested party and the Institute would like to hear from both those who do agree and those who do not agree with the contents of the ED.

Comments should be supported by specific reasoning and should be submitted in written form. To allow your comments to be considered, comments are requested by the due date shown above.

Comments may be sent by mail, fax or e-mail to:

Standard Setting Department  
Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants  
37/F., Wu Chung House  
213 Queen's Road East  
Hong Kong

Fax number (+852) 2865 6603

E-mail: [commentletters@hkicpa.org.hk](mailto:commentletters@hkicpa.org.hk)

Comments will be acknowledged and may be made available for public review unless otherwise requested by the contributor.