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Effective for audits for periods
ending on or after 15 December 2016

Hong Kong Standard on Auditing 805 (Revised)

Special Considerations—Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement



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

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HONG KONG STANDARD ON AUDITING 805 (REVISED)

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS—AUDITS OF SINGLE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SPECIFIC ELEMENTS, ACCOUNTS OR ITEMS OF A FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Effective for audits for periods ending on or after 15 December 2016)

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Hong Kong Standard on Auditing (HKSA) 805 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement*, should be read in conjunction with HKSA 200, *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing*.

Introduction

Scope of this HKSA

1. The Hong Kong Standards on Auditing (HKSA) in the 100-700 series apply to an audit of financial statements and are to be adapted as necessary in the circumstances when applied to audits of other historical financial information. This HKSA deals with special considerations in the application of those HKSA to an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement. The single financial statement or the specific element, account or item of a financial statement may be prepared in accordance with a general or special purpose framework. If prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework, HKSA 800 (Revised)¹ also applies to the audit. (Ref: Para. A1-A4)
2. This HKSA does not apply to the report of a component auditor, issued as a result of work performed on the financial information of a component at the request of a group engagement team for purposes of an audit of group financial statements (see HKSA 600²).
3. This HKSA does not override the requirements of the other HKSA; nor does it purport to deal with all special considerations that may be relevant in the circumstances of the engagement.

Effective Date

4. This HKSA is effective for audits of single financial statements or of specific elements, accounts or items for periods ending on or after 15 December 2016. In the case of audits of single financial statements or of specific elements, accounts or items of a financial statement as at a specific date, this HKSA is effective for audits of such information as at a date on or after 15 December 2016.

Objective

5. The objective of the auditor, when applying HKSA in an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement, is to address appropriately the special considerations that are relevant to:
 - (a) The acceptance of the engagement;
 - (b) The planning and performance of that engagement; and
 - (c) Forming an opinion and reporting on the single financial statement or on the specific element, account or item of a financial statement.

Definitions

6. For purposes of this HKSA, reference to:
 - (a) “Element of a financial statement” or “element” means an “element, account or item of a financial statement;”

¹ HKSA 800 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks*

² HKSA 600, *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

- (b) “Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards” means the Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (HKFRSs) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants; and
- (c) A single financial statement or to a specific element of a financial statement includes the related disclosures. The related disclosures ordinarily comprise explanatory or other descriptive information relevant to the financial statement or to the element. (Ref: Para. A2)

Requirements

Considerations When Accepting the Engagement

Application of HKSAs

7. HKSA 200 requires the auditor to comply with all HKSAs relevant to the audit.³ In the case of an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element of a financial statement, this requirement applies irrespective of whether the auditor is also engaged to audit the entity’s complete set of financial statements. If the auditor is not also engaged to audit the entity’s complete set of financial statements, the auditor shall determine whether the audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element of those financial statements in accordance with HKSAs is practicable. (Ref: Para. A5-A6)

Acceptability of the Financial Reporting Framework

8. HKSA 210 requires the auditor to determine the acceptability of the financial reporting framework applied in the preparation of the financial statements.⁴ In the case of an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element of a financial statement, this shall include whether application of the financial reporting framework will result in a presentation that provides adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the information conveyed in the financial statement or the element, and the effect of material transactions and events on the information conveyed in the financial statement or the element. (Ref: Para. A7)

Form of Opinion

9. HKSA 210 requires that the agreed terms of the audit engagement include the expected form of any reports to be issued by the auditor.⁵ In the case of an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element of a financial statement, the auditor shall consider whether the expected form of opinion is appropriate in the circumstances. (Ref: Para. A8-A9)

Considerations When Planning and Performing the Audit

10. HKSA 200 states that HKSAs are written in the context of an audit of financial statements; they are to be adapted as necessary in the circumstances when applied to audits of other historical financial information.^{6, 7} In planning and performing the audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element of a financial statement, the auditor shall adapt all HKSAs

³ HKSA 200, *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing*, paragraph 18

⁴ HKSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*, paragraph 6(a)

⁵ HKSA 210, paragraph 10(e)

⁶ HKSA 200, paragraph 2

⁷ HKSA 200, paragraph 13(f), explains that the term “financial statements” ordinarily refers to a complete set of financial statements as determined by the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.

relevant to the audit as necessary in the circumstances of the engagement. (Ref: Para. A10-A15)

Forming an Opinion and Reporting Considerations

11. When forming an opinion and reporting on a single financial statement or on a specific element of a financial statement, the auditor shall apply the requirements in HKSA 700 (Revised),⁸ and, when applicable, HKSA 800 (Revised) adapted as necessary in the circumstances of the engagement. (Ref: Para. A16-A22)

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

12. If the auditor undertakes an engagement to report on a single financial statement or on a specific element of a financial statement in conjunction with an engagement to audit the entity's complete set of financial statements, the auditor shall express a separate opinion for each engagement.
13. The audited single financial statement or the audited specific element of a financial statement may be published together with the entity's audited complete set of financial statements. If the auditor concludes that the presentation of the single financial statement or of the specific element of a financial statement does not differentiate it sufficiently from the complete set of financial statements, the auditor shall ask management to rectify the situation. Subject to paragraphs 15 and 16, the auditor shall also differentiate the opinion on the single financial statement or on the specific element of a financial statement from the opinion on the complete set of financial statements. The auditor shall not issue the auditor's report containing the opinion on the single financial statement or on the specific element of a financial statement until satisfied with the differentiation.

Considering the Implications of Certain Matters Included in the Auditor's Report on the Entity's Complete Set of Financial Statements for the Audit of the Single Financial Statement or the Specific Element of a Financial Statement and for the Auditor's Report Thereon

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);⁹
 - (b) An Emphasis of Matter paragraph or an Other Matter paragraph in accordance with HKSA 706 (Revised);¹⁰
 - (c) A Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern section in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised);¹¹
 - (d) Communication of key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701;¹² or

⁸ HKSA 700 (Revised), *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements*

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

¹⁰ HKSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*

¹¹ HKSA 570 (Revised), *Going Concern*, paragraph 22

¹² HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*, paragraph 13

- (e) A statement that describes an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information in accordance with HKSA 720 (Revised);¹³

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)

Adverse Opinion or Disclaimer of Opinion in the Auditor's Report on the Entity's Complete Set of Financial Statements

15. If the auditor concludes that it is necessary to express an adverse opinion or disclaim an opinion on the entity's complete set of financial statements as a whole, HKSA 705 (Revised) does not permit the auditor to include in the same auditor's report an unmodified opinion on a single financial statement that forms part of those financial statements or on a specific element of those financial statements.¹⁴ This is because such an unmodified opinion would contradict the adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion on the entity's complete set of financial statements as a whole. (Ref: Para. A28)
16. If the auditor concludes that it is necessary to express an adverse opinion or disclaim an opinion on the entity's complete set of financial statements as a whole but, in the context of a separate audit of a specific element of those financial statements, the auditor nevertheless considers it appropriate to express an unmodified opinion on that element, the auditor shall only do so if:
- (a) The auditor is not prohibited by law or regulation from doing so;
 - (b) That opinion is expressed in an auditor's report that is not published together with the auditor's report containing the adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion; and
 - (c) The element does not constitute a major portion of the entity's complete set of financial statements.
17. The auditor shall not express an unmodified opinion on a single financial statement of a complete set of financial statements if the auditor has expressed an adverse opinion or disclaimed an opinion on the complete set of financial statements as a whole. This is the case even if the auditor's report on the single financial statement is not published together with the auditor's report containing the adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion. This is because a single financial statement is deemed to constitute a major portion of those financial statements.

Conformity and Compliance with International Standards on Auditing

18. As of January 2024, this HKSA conforms with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 805 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement*. Compliance with the requirements of this HKSA ensures compliance with ISA 805 (Revised).
19. Additional local guidance is provided in Appendix 2.

¹³ HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*, paragraph 22(e)(ii)

¹⁴ HKSA 705 (Revised), paragraph 15

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Scope of this HKSA (Ref: Para. 1, 6(c))

- A1. HKSA 200 defines the term “historical financial information” as information expressed in financial terms in relation to a particular entity, derived primarily from that entity’s accounting system, about economic events occurring in past time periods or about economic conditions or circumstances at points in time in the past.¹⁵
- A2. HKSA 200 defines the term “financial statements” as a structured representation of historical financial information, including disclosures, intended to communicate an entity’s economic resources or obligations at a point in time or the changes therein for a period of time in accordance with a financial reporting framework. The term “financial statements” ordinarily refers to a complete set of financial statements as determined by the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, but can also refer to a single financial statement. Disclosures comprise explanatory or descriptive information, set out as required, expressly permitted or otherwise allowed by the applicable financial reporting framework, on the face of a financial statement, or in the notes, or incorporated therein by cross-reference.¹⁶ As noted in paragraph 6(c), reference to a single financial statement or specific element of a financial statement includes the related disclosures.
- A3. HKSAs are written in the context of an audit of financial statements;¹⁷ they are to be adapted as necessary in the circumstances when applied to an audit of other historical financial information, such as a single financial statement or a specific element of a financial statement. This HKSA assists in this regard. (Appendix 1 lists examples of such other historical financial information.)
- A4. A reasonable assurance engagement other than an audit of historical financial information is performed in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Assurance Engagements (HKSAE) 3000 (Revised).¹⁸

Considerations When Accepting the Engagement

Application of HKSAs (Ref: Para. 7)

- A5. HKSA 200 requires the auditor to comply with (a) relevant ethical requirements, including those related to independence, relating to financial statement audit engagements, and (b) all HKSAs relevant to the audit. It also requires the auditor to comply with each requirement of an HKSA unless, in the circumstances of the audit, the entire HKSA is not relevant or the requirement is not relevant because it is conditional and the condition does not exist. In exceptional circumstances, the auditor may judge it necessary to depart from a relevant requirement in an HKSA by performing alternative audit procedures to achieve the aim of that requirement.¹⁹

¹⁵ HKSA 200, paragraph 13(g)

¹⁶ HKSA 200, paragraph 13(f)

¹⁷ HKSA 200, paragraph 2

¹⁸ HKSAE 3000 (Revised), *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information*

¹⁹ HKSA 200, paragraphs 14, 18, and 22-23

- 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) 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.

Acceptability of the Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 8)

- A7. A single financial statement or a specific element of a financial statement may be prepared in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework that is based on a financial reporting framework established by an authorized or recognized standards setting organization for the preparation of a complete set of financial statements (for example, HKFRSs). If this is the case, determination of the acceptability of the applicable framework may involve considering whether that framework includes all the requirements of the framework on which it is based that are relevant to the presentation of a single financial statement or of a specific element of a financial statement that provides adequate disclosures.

Form of Opinion (Ref: Para. 9)

- A8. The form of opinion to be expressed by the auditor depends on the applicable financial reporting framework and any applicable laws or regulations.²⁰ In accordance with HKSA 700 (Revised):²¹
- (a) When expressing an unmodified opinion on a complete set of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor's opinion, unless otherwise required by law or regulation, uses one of the following phrases:
 - (i) the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]; or
 - (ii) the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]; and
 - (b) When expressing an unmodified opinion on a complete set of financial statements prepared in accordance with a compliance framework, the auditor's opinion states that the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework].

²⁰ HKSA 200, paragraph 8

²¹ HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraphs 25-26

- A9. In the case of a single financial statement or of a specific element of a financial statement, the applicable financial reporting framework may not explicitly address the presentation of the financial statement or of the specific element of the financial statement. This may be the case when the applicable financial reporting framework is based on a financial reporting framework established by an authorized or recognized standards setting organization for the preparation of a complete set of financial statements (for example, HKFRSs). The auditor therefore considers whether the expected form of opinion is appropriate in the light of the applicable financial reporting framework. Factors that may affect the auditor’s consideration as to whether to use the phrases “presents fairly, in all material respects,” or “gives a true and fair view” in the auditor’s opinion include:
- Whether the applicable financial reporting framework is explicitly or implicitly restricted to the preparation of a complete set of financial statements.
 - Whether the single financial statement or the specific element of a financial statement will:
 - Comply fully with each of those requirements of the framework relevant to the particular financial statement or the particular element, and the presentation of the financial statement or the specific element of a financial statement include the related disclosures.
 - If necessary to achieve fair presentation, provide disclosures beyond those specifically required by the framework or, in exceptional circumstances, depart from a requirement of the framework.

The auditor’s decision as to the expected form of opinion is a matter of professional judgment. It may be affected by whether use of the phrases “presents fairly, in all material respects,” or “gives a true and fair view” in the auditor’s opinion on a single financial statement or on a specific element of a financial statement prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework is generally accepted in the particular jurisdiction.

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 240,²² HKSA 550²³ and HKSA 570 (Revised) 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.
- A11. HKSA 260 (Revised) requires the auditor to determine the appropriate person(s) within the entity’s governance structure with whom to communicate.²⁴ HKSA 260 (Revised) notes that, in some cases, all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, and the application of communication requirements is modified to recognize this position.²⁵ When a complete set of financial statements is also prepared by the entity, those person(s) responsible for the oversight of the preparation of the single financial statement or the element may not be the same as those charged with governance responsible for the oversight of the preparation of the complete set of financial statements.

²² HKSA 240, *The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements*

²³ HKSA 550, *Related Parties*

²⁴ HKSA 260 (Revised), *Communication with Those Charged with Governance*, paragraph 11

²⁵ HKSA 260 (Revised), paragraph 10(b), 13, A1 (third bullet), A2 and A8

- A12. Furthermore, HKSAAs are written in the context of an audit of financial statements; they are to be adapted as necessary in the circumstances when applied to the audit of a single financial statement²⁶ or of a specific element of a financial statement. For example, written representations from management about the complete set of financial statements would be replaced by written representations about the presentation of the financial statement or the element in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
- A13. Matters included in the auditor's report on the complete set of financial statements may have implications for the audit of a single financial statement or of an element of a financial statement (see paragraph 14). When planning and performing an audit of a single financial statement or a specific element of a financial statement in conjunction with the audit of the entity's complete set of financial statements, the auditor may be able to use audit evidence obtained as part of the audit of the entity's complete set of financial statements in the audit of the financial statement or the element. HKSAAs, however, require the auditor to plan and perform the audit of the financial statement or element to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the opinion on the financial statement or on the element.
- A14. The individual financial statements that comprise a complete set of financial statements, and many of the specific elements of those financial statements, including their related disclosures, are interrelated. Accordingly, when auditing a single financial statement or a specific element of a financial statement, the auditor may not be able to consider the financial statement or the element in isolation. Consequently, the auditor may need to perform procedures in relation to the interrelated items to meet the objective of the audit.
- A15. Furthermore, the materiality determined for a single financial statement or for a specific element of a financial statement may be lower than the materiality determined for the entity's complete set of financial statements; this will affect the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures and the evaluation of uncorrected misstatements.

Forming an Opinion and Reporting Considerations (Ref: Para. 11)

- A16. HKSA 700 (Revised) requires the auditor, in forming an opinion, to evaluate whether the financial statements provide adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the information conveyed in the financial statements.²⁷ In the case of a single financial statement or of a specific element of a financial statement, it is important that the financial statement or the element, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, provides adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the information conveyed in the financial statement or the element, and the effect of material transactions and events on the information conveyed in the financial statement or the element.
- 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), HKSA 720 (Revised), and HKSA 706 (Revised)).

²⁶ HKSA 200, paragraph 2

²⁷ HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraph 13(e)

Application of HKSA 700 (Revised) When Reporting on a Single Financial Statement or on a Specific Element of a Financial Statement

A18. Paragraph 11 of this HKSA explains that the auditor is required to apply the requirements in HKSA 700 (Revised), adapted as necessary in the circumstances of the engagement, when forming an opinion and reporting on a single financial statement or on a specific element of a financial statement. In doing so, the auditor is also required to apply the reporting requirements in other HKSAs adapted as necessary in the circumstances of the engagement, and may find the considerations addressed in paragraphs A19–A21 below helpful.

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 responsibilities²⁸ relating to going concern may need to be adapted as necessary. The description in the auditor's report of the auditor's responsibilities²⁹ may also need to be adapted as necessary depending on how HKSA 570 (Revised) applies in the circumstances of the engagement.

Key Audit Matters

A20. HKSA 700 (Revised) requires the auditor to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701 for audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities.³⁰ For audits of a single financial statement or a specific element of a financial statement, HKSA 701 only applies when communication of key audit matters in the auditor's report on such financial statements or elements is required by law or regulation, or the auditor otherwise decides to communicate key audit matters. When key audit matters are communicated in the auditor's report on a single financial statement or a specific element of a financial statement, HKSA 701 applies in its entirety.³¹

Other Information

A21. HKSA 720 (Revised) deals with the auditor's responsibilities relating to other information. In the context of this HKSA, reports containing or accompanying the single financial statement or specific element of a financial statement—the purpose of which is to provide owners (or similar stakeholders) with information on matters presented in the single financial statement or the specific element of a financial statement—are considered to be annual reports for purposes of HKSA 720 (Revised). When the auditor determines that the entity plans to issue such a report, the requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised) apply to the audit of the single financial statement or the element.

²⁸ See HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraphs 34(b) and A48

²⁹ See HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraphs 39(b)(iv)

³⁰ HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraph 30

³¹ HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraph 31

Name of the Engagement Partner

A22. The requirement in HKSA 700 (Revised) for the auditor to include the name of the engagement partner in the auditor's report also applies to audits of single financial statements of listed entities or specific elements of financial statements of listed entities.³² The auditor may be required by law or regulation to include the name of the engagement partner in the auditor's report or may otherwise decide to do so when reporting on a single financial statement or on an element of a financial statement of entities other than listed entities.

Reporting on the Entity's Complete Set of Financial Statements and on a Single Financial Statement or on a Specific Element of a Financial Statement (Ref: Para. 14)

Considering the Implications of Certain Matters Included in the Auditor's Report on the Entity's Complete Set of Financial Statements for the Audit of the Single Financial Statement or the Specific Element of a Financial Statement and for the Auditor's Report Thereon

A23. Paragraph 14 requires the auditor to consider the implications, if any, of certain matters included in the auditor's report on the complete set of financial statements for the audit of the single financial statement or the specific element of a financial statement and for the auditor's report thereon. Considering whether a matter included in the auditor's report on the complete set of financial statements is relevant in the context of an engagement to report on a single financial statement or a specific element of a financial statement involves professional judgment.

A24. Factors that may be relevant in considering those implications include:

- The nature of the matter(s) being described in the auditor's report on the complete set of financial statements and the extent to which it relates to what is included in the single financial statement or a specific element of a financial statement.
- The pervasiveness of the matter(s) described in the auditor's report on the complete set of financial statements.
- The nature and extent of the differences between the applicable financial reporting frameworks.
- The extent of the difference between the period(s) covered by the complete set of the financial statements compared to the period(s) or dates of the single financial statement or the element of a financial statement.
- The time elapsed since the date of the auditor's report on the complete set of the financial statements.

A25. For example, in the case when there is a qualification of the auditor's opinion in relation to accounts receivable in the auditor's report on the complete set of financial statements, and the single financial statement includes accounts receivable, or the specific element of a financial statement relates to accounts receivable, it is likely that there would be implications for the audit. On the other hand, if the qualification of the auditor's opinion on the complete set of financial statements relates to classification of long-term debt, then it is less likely that there would be implications for an audit of the single financial statement that is the income statement, or if the specific element of the financial statement relates to accounts receivable.

³² See HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraphs 46 and A61–A63

- A26. Key audit matters that are communicated in the auditor’s report on the complete set of financial statements may have implications for an audit of a single financial statement or the specific element of the financial statement. The information included in the Key Audit Matters section about how the matter was addressed in the audit of the complete set of financial statements may be useful to the auditor’s determination of how to address the matter when it is relevant to the audit of the single financial statement or the specific element of the financial statement.

Inclusion of a reference to the auditor’s report on the complete set of financial statements

- A27. Even when certain matters included in the auditor’s report on the complete set of financial statements do not have implications for the audit of, or for the auditor’s report on, the single financial statement or the specific element of a financial statement, the auditor may deem it appropriate to refer to the matter(s) in an Other Matter paragraph in an auditor’s report on the single financial statement or on the specific element of a financial statement (see HKSA 706 (Revised)).³³ For example, the auditor may consider it appropriate to refer in the auditor’s report on the single financial statement or a specific element of the financial statement to a Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern section included in the auditor’s report on the complete set of financial statements.

Adverse Opinion or Disclaimer of Opinion in the Auditor’s Report on the Entity’s Complete Set of Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 15)

- A28. In the auditor’s report on an entity’s complete set of financial statements, the expression of a disclaimer of opinion regarding the results of operations and cash flows, where relevant, and an unmodified opinion regarding the financial position is permitted since the disclaimer of opinion is being issued in respect of the results of operations and cash flows only and not in respect of the financial statements as a whole.³⁴

³³ HKSA 706 (Revised), paragraphs 10-11

³⁴ HKSA 510, *Initial Audit Engagements—Opening Balances*, paragraph A8, and HKSA 705 (Revised), paragraph A16

Appendix 1

(Ref: Para. A3)

Examples of Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement

- Accounts receivable, allowance for doubtful accounts receivable, inventory, the liability for accrued benefits of a private pension plan, the recorded value of identified intangible assets, or the liability for “incurred but not reported” claims in an insurance portfolio, including related notes.
- A schedule of externally managed assets and income of a private pension plan, including related notes.
- A schedule of net tangible assets, including related notes.
- A schedule of disbursements in relation to a lease property, including explanatory notes.
- A schedule of profit participation or employee bonuses, including explanatory notes.

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).
- Illustration 2: An auditor's report on a single financial statement of an entity other than a listed entity prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework (for purposes of this illustration, a fair presentation framework).
- Illustration 3: An auditor's report on a specific element of a financial statement of a listed entity prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework (for purposes of this illustration, a compliance framework).

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 balance sheet has been prepared by management of the entity in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Reporting Framework in Jurisdiction X relevant to preparing a balance sheet.
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210.
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users.
- The auditor has determined that it is appropriate to use the phrase “presents fairly, in all material respects,” in the auditor’s opinion.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants’ *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.
- 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). 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.
- The auditor has determined that there is no other information (i.e., the requirements of HKSA 720 (Revised) do not apply).
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statement differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statement.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law or regulation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

Opinion

We have audited the [balance sheet][statement of financial position]^{1a} of ABC Company (“the Company”) as at 31 December 20X1 and notes to the financial statement, including a summary of significant accounting policies (together “the financial statement”).

^{1a} Delete as appropriate, different term may be used as long as it is consistent with the title of the corresponding statement.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1 in accordance with those requirements of the Financial Reporting Framework in Jurisdiction X relevant to preparing such a financial statement.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing (“HKSA”) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement* 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 6 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 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. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statement¹

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with those requirements of the Financial Reporting Framework in Jurisdiction X relevant to preparing such a financial statement, 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.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company’s financial reporting process.

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.^{1b} Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that

¹ 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.

^{1b} 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”.

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 HKSA's 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 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.²
- 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.
- 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.

XYZ & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]

[Auditor address]

[Date]

² 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.

Illustration 2: An auditor’s report on a single financial statement of an entity other than a listed entity 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.
- An auditor’s report on the complete set of financial statements was not issued.
- The financial statement has been prepared by management of the entity in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting to respond to a request for cash flow information received from a creditor. Management has a choice of financial reporting frameworks.
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users³
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The auditor has determined that it is appropriate to use the phrase “presents fairly, in all material respects,” in the auditor’s opinion.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants’ *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.
- Distribution or use of the auditor’s report is not restricted.
- 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.
- The auditor has determined that there is no other information (i.e., the requirements of HKSA 720 (Revised) do not apply).
- Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statement and oversight of the financial reporting process to prepare this financial statement.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law or regulation.

³ HKSA 800 (Revised) contains requirements and guidance on the form and content of financial statements prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

Opinion

We have audited the statement of cash receipts and disbursements of ABC Company (“the Company”) for the year ended 31 December 20X1 and notes to the statement of cash receipts and disbursements, including a summary of significant accounting policies (together “the financial statement”).

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash receipts and disbursements of the Company for the year ended 31 December 20X1 in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note X.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing (“HKSA”) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement* 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.

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^{3a}. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statement⁴

Management is responsible for the 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.

^{3a} 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”.

⁴ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

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 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 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 HKSAs 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 financial statement, 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.⁵
- 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.

⁵ 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.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS—AUDITS OF SINGLE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SPECIFIC ELEMENTS, ACCOUNTS
OR ITEMS OF A FINANCIAL STATEMENT

XYZ & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]

[Auditor address]

[Date]

Illustration 3: An auditor's report on a specific element of a financial statement of a listed entity 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 financial information has been prepared by management of the entity in accordance with the financial reporting provisions established by a regulator to meet the requirements of that regulator. Management does not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a compliance framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users.⁶
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management'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 Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.
- Distribution of the auditor's report is restricted.
- 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 accounts receivable schedule.
- The auditor has determined that there is no other information (i.e., the requirements of HKSA 720 (Revised) do not apply).
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statement differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statement.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law or regulation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

Opinion

We have audited the accounts receivable schedule of ABC Company ("the Company") as at 31 December 20X1 ("the schedule").

⁶ HKSA 800 (Revised) contains requirements and guidance on the form and content of financial statements prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework.

In our opinion, the financial information in the schedule of the Company as at 31 December 20X1 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [describe the financial reporting provisions established by the regulator].

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing (“HKSA”) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule* 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.

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^{6a}. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Schedule⁷

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 HKSA 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 schedule.

^{6a} 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”.

⁷ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS—AUDITS OF SINGLE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SPECIFIC ELEMENTS, ACCOUNTS OR ITEMS OF A 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 HKSAs 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.⁸
- 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 schedule 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.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [*name*].

XYZ & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]

[Auditor address]

[Date]

⁸ 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.