

HKSA 800 (Revised)  
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Effective for audits of financial statements  
for periods ending on or after 15 December 2016

*Hong Kong Standard on Auditing 800 (Revised)*

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# **Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks**



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

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**HONG KONG STANDARD ON AUDITING 800 (REVISED)**  
**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS—AUDITS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIAL PURPOSE FRAMEWORKS**

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

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Hong Kong Standard on Auditing (HKSA) 800 (Revised), <i>Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks</i> , should be read in conjunction with HKSA 200, <i>Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing</i> .
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## 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. This HKSA deals with special considerations in the application of those HKSA to an audit of financial statements prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework.
2. This HKSA is written in the context of a complete set of financial statements prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework. HKSA 805 (Revised)<sup>1</sup> deals with special considerations relevant to an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement.
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 financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2016.

### Objective

5. The objective of the auditor, when applying HKSA in an audit of financial statements prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework, 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 financial statements.

### Definitions

6. For purposes of the HKSA, the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
  - (a) Special purpose financial statements – Financial statements prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework.<sup>1a</sup> (Ref: Para. A4)
  - (b) Special purpose framework – A financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users. The financial reporting framework may be a fair presentation framework or a compliance framework.<sup>2</sup> (Ref: Para. A1-A4)

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<sup>1</sup> HKSA 805 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement*

<sup>1a</sup> Special purpose financial statements are prepared in accordance with a framework other than a general purpose framework.

<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*, paragraph 13(a)

7. Reference to “financial statements” in this HKSA means “a complete set of special purpose financial statements.” The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework determine the presentation, structure, and content of the financial statements, and what constitutes a complete set of financial statements. Reference to “special purpose financial statements” includes the related disclosures.

## Requirements

### Considerations When Accepting the Engagement

#### *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.<sup>3</sup> In an audit of special purpose financial statements, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of: (Ref: Para. A5-A8)
- (a) The purpose for which the financial statements are prepared;
  - (b) The intended users; and
  - (c) The steps taken by management to determine that the applicable financial reporting framework is acceptable in the circumstances.

### Considerations When Planning and Performing the Audit

9. HKSA 200 requires the auditor to comply with all HKSAs relevant to the audit.<sup>4</sup> In planning and performing an audit of special purpose financial statements, the auditor shall determine whether application of the HKSAs requires special consideration in the circumstances of the engagement. (Ref: Para. A9-A12)
10. HKSA 315 (Revised 2019) requires the auditor to obtain an understanding of the applicable financial reporting framework and the entity’s accounting policies and the reasons for any changes thereto.<sup>5</sup> In the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with the provisions of a contract, the auditor shall obtain an understanding of any significant interpretations of the contract that management made in the preparation of those financial statements. An interpretation is significant when adoption of another reasonable interpretation would have produced a material difference in the information presented in the financial statements.

### Forming an Opinion and Reporting Considerations

11. When forming an opinion and reporting on special purpose financial statements, the auditor shall apply the requirements in HKSA 700 (Revised).<sup>6</sup> (Ref: Para. A13–A19)

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<sup>3</sup> HKSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*, paragraph 6(a)

<sup>4</sup> HKSA 200, paragraph 18

<sup>5</sup> HKSA 315 (Revised 2019), *Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement*, paragraph 19(b)

<sup>6</sup> HKSA 700 (Revised), *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements*

### *Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework*

12. HKSA 700 (Revised) requires the auditor to evaluate whether the financial statements adequately refer to or describe the applicable financial reporting framework.<sup>7</sup> In the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with the provisions of a contract, the auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements adequately describe any significant interpretations of the contract on which the financial statements are based.
13. HKSA 700 (Revised) deals with the form and content of the auditor's report, including the specific ordering for certain elements. In the case of an auditor's report on special purpose financial statements:
  - (a) The auditor's report shall also describe the purpose for which the financial statements are prepared and, if necessary, the intended users, or refer to a note in the special purpose financial statements that contains that information; and
  - (b) If management has a choice of financial reporting frameworks in the preparation of such financial statements, the explanation of management's<sup>8</sup> responsibility for the financial statements shall also make reference to its responsibility for determining that the applicable financial reporting framework is acceptable in the circumstances.

### *Alerting Readers that the Financial Statements Are Prepared in Accordance with a Special Purpose Framework*

14. The auditor's report on special purpose financial statements shall include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph alerting users of the auditor's report that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework and that, as a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. (Ref: Para. A20-A21)

## **Conformity and Compliance with International Standards on Auditing**

15. As of January 2024, this HKSA conforms with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 800 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks*. Compliance with the requirements of this HKSA ensures compliance with ISA 800 (Revised).
16. Additional local explanations and guidance are provided in footnote 1a and Appendix.

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## **Application and Other Explanatory Material**

### **Definition of Special Purpose Framework** (Ref: Para. 6)

- A1. Examples of special purpose frameworks are:
  - A tax basis of accounting for a set of financial statements that accompany an entity's tax return;
  - The cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting for cash flow information that an entity may be requested to prepare for creditors;

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<sup>7</sup> HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraph 15

<sup>8</sup> Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction

- The financial reporting provisions established by a regulator to meet the requirements of that regulator; or
  - The financial reporting provisions of a contract, such as a bond indenture, a loan agreement, or a project grant.
- A2. There may be circumstances where a special purpose framework is based on a financial reporting framework established by an authorized or recognized standards setting organization or by law or regulation, but does not comply with all the requirements of that framework. An example is a contract that requires financial statements to be prepared in accordance with most, but not all, of the Financial Reporting Standards of Jurisdiction X. When this is acceptable in the circumstances of the engagement, it is inappropriate for the description of the applicable financial reporting framework in the special purpose financial statements to imply full compliance with the financial reporting framework established by the authorized or recognized standards setting organization or by law or regulation. In the above example of the contract, the description of the applicable financial reporting framework may refer to the financial reporting provisions of the contract, rather than make any reference to the Financial Reporting Standards of Jurisdiction X.
- A3. In the circumstances described in paragraph A2, the special purpose framework may not be a fair presentation framework even if the financial reporting framework on which it is based is a fair presentation framework. This is because the special purpose framework may not comply with all the requirements of the financial reporting framework established by the authorized or recognized standards setting organization or by law or regulation that are necessary to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements.
- A4. Financial statements prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework may be the only financial statements an entity prepares. In such circumstances, those financial statements may be used by users other than those for whom the financial reporting framework is designed. Despite the broad distribution of the financial statements in those circumstances, the financial statements are still considered to be special purpose financial statements for purposes of the HKSAs. The requirements in paragraphs 13-14 are designed to avoid misunderstandings about the purpose for which the financial statements are prepared. 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 financial statements, or in the notes, or incorporated therein by cross-reference.<sup>9</sup>

### **Considerations When Accepting the Engagement**

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

- A5. In the case of special purpose financial statements, the financial information needs of the intended users are a key factor in determining the acceptability of the financial reporting framework applied in the preparation of the financial statements.
- A6. The applicable financial reporting framework may encompass the financial reporting standards established by an organization that is authorized or recognized to promulgate standards for special purpose financial statements. In that case, those standards will be presumed acceptable for that purpose if the organization follows an established and transparent process involving deliberation and consideration of the views of relevant

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<sup>9</sup> HKSA 200, paragraph 13(f)

stakeholders. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation may prescribe the financial reporting framework to be used by management in the preparation of special purpose financial statements for a certain type of entity. For example, a regulator may establish financial reporting provisions to meet the requirements of that regulator. In the absence of indications to the contrary, such a financial reporting framework is presumed acceptable for special purpose financial statements prepared by such entity.

- A7. Where the financial reporting standards referred to in paragraph A6 are supplemented by legislative or regulatory requirements, HKSA 210 requires the auditor to determine whether any conflicts between the financial reporting standards and the additional requirements exist, and prescribes actions to be taken by the auditor if such conflicts exist.<sup>10</sup>
- A8. The applicable financial reporting framework may encompass the financial reporting provisions of a contract, or sources other than those described in paragraphs A6 and A7. In that case, the acceptability of the financial reporting framework in the circumstances of the engagement is determined by considering whether the framework exhibits attributes normally exhibited by acceptable financial reporting frameworks as described in Appendix 2 of HKSA 210. In the case of a special purpose framework, the relative importance to a particular engagement of each of the attributes normally exhibited by acceptable financial reporting frameworks is a matter of professional judgment. For example, for purposes of establishing the value of net assets of an entity at the date of its sale, the vendor and the purchaser may have agreed that very prudent estimates of allowances for uncollectible accounts receivable are appropriate for their needs, even though such financial information is not neutral when compared with financial information prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework.

#### **Considerations When Planning and Performing the Audit (Ref: Para. 9)**

- A9. HKSA 200 requires the auditor to comply with (a) relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining 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.<sup>11</sup>
- A10. Application of some of the requirements of the HKSAs in an audit of special purpose financial statements may require special consideration by the auditor. For example, in HKSA 320, judgments about matters that are material to users of the financial statements are based on a consideration of the common financial information needs of users as a group.<sup>12</sup> In the case of an audit of special purpose financial statements, however, those judgments are based on a consideration of the financial information needs of the intended users.
- A11. In the case of special purpose financial statements, such as those prepared in accordance with the requirements of a contract, management may agree with the intended users on a threshold below which misstatements identified during the audit will not be corrected or otherwise adjusted. The existence of such a threshold does not relieve the auditor from the requirement to determine materiality in accordance with HKSA 320 for purposes of planning and performing the audit of the special purpose financial statements.

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<sup>10</sup> HKSA 210, paragraph 18

<sup>11</sup> HKSA 200, paragraphs 14, 18, and 22-23

<sup>12</sup> HKSA 320, *Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit*, paragraph 2



- A12. HKSA 260 (Revised) requires the auditor to determine the appropriate person(s) within the entity's governance structure with whom to communicate.<sup>13</sup> HKSA 260 (Revised) notes that, in some cases, all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity, and the application of the communication requirements is modified to recognize this position.<sup>14</sup> When a complete set of general purpose financial statements is also prepared by the entity, those person(s) responsible for the oversight of the preparation of the special purpose financial statements may not be the same as those charged with governance responsible for the oversight of the preparation of those general purpose financial statements.

#### **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>15</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised),<sup>16</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised),<sup>17</sup> and HKSA 706 (Revised)).<sup>18</sup>

#### *Application of HKSA 700 (Revised) When Reporting on Special Purpose Financial Statements*

- A14. Paragraph 11 of this HKSA explains that the auditor is required to apply HKSA 700 (Revised) when forming an opinion and reporting on special purpose financial statements. In doing so, the auditor is also required to apply the reporting requirements in other HKSAs and may find the special considerations addressed in paragraphs A15–A19 below helpful.

#### **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>19</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>20</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>21</sup> may also need to be adapted as necessary depending on how HKSA 570 (Revised) applies in the circumstances of the engagement.

#### **Key Audit Matters**

- A16. HKSA 700 (Revised) requires the auditor to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701<sup>22</sup> for audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of listed entities. For audits of special purpose financial statements, HKSA 701 only applies when

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

<sup>14</sup> HKSA 260 (Revised), paragraph A8

<sup>15</sup> HKSA 705 (Revised), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>16</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised), *Going Concern*

<sup>17</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*

<sup>18</sup> HKSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>19</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised), paragraph 2

<sup>20</sup> See HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraphs 34(b) and A48.

<sup>21</sup> See HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraph 39(b)(iv).

<sup>22</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*

communication of key audit matters in the auditor's report on the special purpose financial statements 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 special purpose financial statements, HKSA 701 applies in its entirety.<sup>23</sup>

#### Other Information

A17. HKSA 720 (Revised) deals with the auditor's responsibilities relating to other information. In the context of this HKSA, reports containing or accompanying the special purpose financial statements—the purpose of which is to provide owners (or similar stakeholders) with information on matters presented in the special purpose financial statements—are considered to be annual reports for the purpose of HKSA 720 (Revised). In the case of financial statements prepared using a special purpose framework, the term “similar stakeholders” includes the specific users whose financial information needs are met by the design of the special purpose framework used to prepare the special purpose financial statements. 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 special purpose financial statements.

#### Name of the Engagement Partner

A18. 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 special purpose financial statements of listed entities.<sup>24</sup> 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 special purpose financial statements of entities other than listed entities.

#### *Inclusion of a Reference to the Auditor's Report on the Complete Set of General Purpose Financial Statements*

A19. The auditor may deem it appropriate to refer, in an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report on the special purpose financial statements, to the auditor's report on the complete set of general purpose financial statements or to matter(s) reported therein (see HKSA 706 (Revised)).<sup>25</sup> For example, the auditor may consider it appropriate to refer in the auditor's report on the special purpose financial statements to a Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern section included in the auditor's report on the complete set of general purpose financial statements.

#### *Alerting Readers that the Financial Statements Are Prepared in Accordance with a Special Purpose Framework (Ref: Para. 14)*

A20. The special purpose financial statements may be used for purposes other than those for which they were intended. For example, a regulator may require certain entities to place the special purpose financial statements on public record. To avoid misunderstandings, the auditor alerts users of the auditor's report by including an Emphasis of Matter paragraph explaining that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework and, therefore, may not be suitable for another purpose. HKSA 706 (Revised) requires this paragraph to be included within a separate section of the auditor's report with an appropriate heading that includes the term “Emphasis of Matter”.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraph 31

<sup>24</sup> See HKSA 700 (Revised), paragraphs 46 and A56–A58.

<sup>25</sup> See HKSA 706 (Revised), paragraphs 10–11.

<sup>26</sup> See paragraph 9(a) of HKSA 706 (Revised).

*Restriction on Distribution or Use* (Ref: Para. 14)

- A21. In addition to the alert required by paragraph 14, the auditor may consider it appropriate to indicate that the auditor's report is intended solely for the specific users. Depending on the law or regulation of the particular jurisdiction, this may be achieved by restricting the distribution or use of the auditor's report. In these circumstances, the paragraph referred to in paragraph 14 may be expanded to include these other matters, and the heading modified accordingly (see illustrations in the Appendix to this HKSA).

## Appendix

(Ref: Para. A14)

### 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).
- 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).
- 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).

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).

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.
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a compliance framework.
- An auditor’s report on the complete set of general purpose financial statements was not issued.
- 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*.
- 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).
- Distribution and use of the auditor’s report are restricted.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.
- 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 reporting process differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law or regulation.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (“the Company”) set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprise the [balance sheet][statement of financial position]<sup>1a</sup> as at 31December 20X1, and the [income statement][statement of comprehensive income]<sup>1a</sup>, statement of changes in equity and [cash flow statement][statement of cash flows]<sup>1a</sup> for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

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<sup>1a</sup> Delete as appropriate, different terms may be used as long as they are consistent with the titles of the corresponding statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 December 20X1 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Section Z of the contract dated 1 January 20X1 between the Company and DEF Company (“the contract”).

### **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 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.

### **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.<sup>1b</sup> Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>1</sup>**

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Section Z of the contract 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.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are 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 these financial statements.

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<sup>1b</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>1</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.

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 statements, 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>2</sup>
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates 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.

XYZ & Co.

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

[Auditor address]

[Date]

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<sup>2</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 statements.

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 returns. Management does not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a compliance framework.
- 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*.
- 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 partnership’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised).
- Distribution of the auditor’s report is restricted.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.
- 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 statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law or regulation.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Partnership (“the Partnership”) set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprise the [balance sheet][statement of financial position]<sup>2a</sup> as at 31 December 20X1 and the [income statement][statement of comprehensive income]<sup>2a</sup> for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

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<sup>2a</sup> Delete as appropriate, different terms may be used as long as they are consistent with the titles of the corresponding statements.



In our opinion, the financial statements of the Partnership for the year ended 31 December 20X1 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [describe the applicable income tax law] of Jurisdiction 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 Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Partnership 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 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.<sup>2b</sup> Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>3</sup>**

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the tax basis of accounting in Jurisdiction X 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Partnership’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 Partnership or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

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

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are 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 these financial statements.

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<sup>2b</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>3</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

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 statements, 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 Partnership's internal control.<sup>4</sup>
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates 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 Partnership'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 Partnership 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.

XYZ & Co.

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

[Auditor address]

[Date]

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<sup>4</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 statements.

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).

**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.
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework.
- 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*.
- 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 financial statements is adequate.
- Distribution or use of the auditor's report is not restricted.
- The auditor is required by the regulator to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.
- The Other Matter paragraph refers to the fact that the auditor has also issued an auditor's report on financial statements prepared by ABC Company for the same period in accordance with a general purpose framework.
- 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 statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law or regulation.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

[To the Shareholders of ABC Company or Appropriate Addressee]

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (“the Company”) set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprise the [balance sheet][statement of financial position]<sup>4a</sup> as at 31 December 20X1, and the [income statement][statement of comprehensive income]<sup>4a</sup>, statement of changes in equity and [cash flow statement][statement of cash flows]<sup>4a</sup> for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *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 the financial reporting provisions of Section Y of Regulation Z.

### 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 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.

### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

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 to meet the requirements of Regulator DEF. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.<sup>4b</sup> Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw attention to Note 6 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. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### 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.]

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<sup>4a</sup> Delete as appropriate, different terms may be used as long as they are consistent with the titles of the corresponding statements.

<sup>4b</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”.

## Other Matter

The Company has prepared a separate set of financial statements for the year ended 31 December 20X1 in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards on which we issued a separate auditor's report to the shareholders of the Company dated 31 March 20X2.

## Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>5</sup>

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Section Y of Regulation Z<sup>6</sup> 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.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are 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 these financial statements.

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 statements, 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.

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<sup>5</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>6</sup> Where management's responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: "Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of section Y of Regulation Z, and for such ..."

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to 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>7</sup>
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates 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 statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent 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.

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.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

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]

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<sup>7</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 statements.