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Effective for compilation engagement  
reports dated on or after 1 July 2013

*Hong Kong Standard on Related Services 4410 (Revised)*

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# Compilation Engagements



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

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**HONG KONG STANDARD ON RELATED SERVICES 4410 (REVISED)**

**COMPILATION ENGAGEMENTS**

(Effective for compilation engagement reports dated on or after 1 July 2013)

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Hong Kong Standard on Related Services (HKSRS) 4410 (Revised), *Compilation Engagements*, should be read in conjunction with the *Preface to the Hong Kong Quality Management, Auditing, Review, Other Assurance, and Related Services Pronouncements*.

## Introduction

### Scope of this HKSRS

1. This Hong Kong Standard on Related Services (HKSRS) deals with the practitioner's responsibilities when engaged to assist management with the preparation and presentation of historical financial information without obtaining any assurance on that information, and to report on the engagement in accordance with this HKSRS. (Ref: Para. A1–A2)
2. This HKSRS applies to compilation engagements for historical financial information. The HKSRS may be applied, adapted as necessary, to compilation engagements for financial information other than historical financial information, and to compilation engagements for non-financial information. Hereinafter in this HKSRS, reference to "financial information" means "historical financial information." (Ref: Para. A3–A4)
3. When the practitioner is requested to assist management with the preparation and presentation of financial information, appropriate consideration may need to be given to whether the engagement should be undertaken in accordance with this HKSRS. Factors that indicate that it may be appropriate to apply this HKSRS, including reporting under this HKSRS, include whether:
  - The financial information is required under provisions of applicable law or regulation, and whether it is required to be publicly filed.
  - External parties other than the intended users of the compiled financial information are likely to associate the practitioner with the financial information, and there is a risk that the level of the practitioner's involvement with the information may be misunderstood, for example:
    - If the financial information is intended for use by parties other than management or those charged with governance, or may be provided to, or obtained by, parties who are not the intended users of the information; and
    - If the practitioner's name is identified with the financial information. (Ref: Para. A5)

### *Relationship with HKSQM 1<sup>1</sup>*

4. The systems of quality management and policies or procedures are the responsibility of the firm. HKSQM 1 applies to firms in respect of a firm's compilation engagements.<sup>2</sup> The provisions of this HKSRS regarding quality management at the level of individual compilation engagements are premised on the basis that the firm is subject to HKSQM 1 or requirements that are at least as demanding. (Ref: Para. A6–A11)

### The Compilation Engagement

5. Management may request a professional accountant in public practice to assist with the preparation and presentation of financial information of an entity. The value of a compilation engagement performed in accordance with this HKSRS to users of financial information results from the application of the practitioner's professional expertise in accounting and financial reporting and compliance with professional standards, including relevant ethical requirements, and the clear communication of the nature and extent of the practitioner's involvement with the compiled financial information. (Ref: Para. A12–A15)

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<sup>1</sup> Hong Kong Standard on Quality Management (HKSQM) 1, *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*

<sup>2</sup> HKSQM 1, paragraph 5

6. Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, a compilation engagement does not require the practitioner to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management for the compilation, or otherwise to gather evidence to express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on the preparation of the financial information.
7. Management retains responsibility for the financial information and the basis on which it is prepared and presented. That responsibility includes application by management of the judgment required for the preparation and presentation of the financial information, including the selection and application of appropriate accounting policies and, where needed, developing reasonable accounting estimates. (Ref: Para. A12–A13)
8. This HKSRS does not impose responsibilities on management or those charged with governance, or override laws and regulations that govern their responsibilities. An engagement performed in accordance with this HKSRS is conducted on the premise that management, or those charged with governance where appropriate, have agreed certain responsibilities that are fundamental to the performance of the compilation engagement. (Ref: Para. A12–A13)
9. Financial information that is the subject of a compilation engagement may be required for various purposes including:
  - (a) To comply with mandatory periodic financial reporting requirements established in law or regulation; or
  - (b) For purposes unrelated to mandatory financial reporting under relevant law or regulation, including for example:
    - For management or those charged with governance, prepared on a basis appropriate for their particular purposes (such as preparation of financial information for internal use).
    - For periodic financial reporting undertaken for external parties under a contract or other form of agreement (such as financial information provided to a funding body to support provision or continuation of a grant).
    - For transactional purposes, for example to support a transaction involving changes to the entity’s ownership or financing structure (such as for a merger or acquisition).
10. Different financial reporting frameworks can be used to prepare and present financial information, ranging from a simple entity-specific basis of accounting to established financial reporting standards. The financial reporting framework adopted by management to prepare and present the financial information will depend on the nature of the entity and the intended use of the information. (Ref: Para. A16–A18)

**Authority of this HKSRS**

11. This HKSRS contains the objectives of the practitioner in following the HKSRS which provide the context in which the requirements of this HKSRS are set, and are intended to assist the practitioner in understanding what needs to be accomplished in a compilation engagement.
12. This HKSRS contains requirements, expressed using “shall,” that are designed to enable the practitioner to meet the stated objectives.
13. In addition, this HKSRS contains introductory material, definitions, and application and other explanatory material, that provide context relevant to a proper understanding of the HKSRS.

14. The application and other explanatory material provides further explanation of the requirements and guidance for carrying them out. While such guidance does not in itself impose a requirement, it is relevant to the proper application of the requirements. The application and other explanatory material may also provide background information on matters addressed in this HKSRS that assists in the application of the requirements.

#### Effective Date

15. This HKSRS is effective for compilation engagement reports dated on or after 1 July 2013.

#### Objectives

16. The practitioner's objectives in a compilation engagement under this HKSRS are to:
- (a) Apply accounting and financial reporting expertise to assist management in the preparation and presentation of financial information in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework based on information provided by management; and
  - (b) Report in accordance with the requirements of this HKSRS.

#### Definitions

17. The Members' Handbook's Glossary of Terms<sup>3</sup> (the Glossary) includes the terms defined in this HKSRS and also includes descriptions of other terms found in this HKSRS, to assist in consistent interpretation. The following terms have the meanings attributed below for the purposes of this HKSRS:
- (a) *Applicable financial reporting framework* – The financial reporting framework adopted by management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance in the preparation of the financial information that is acceptable in view of the nature of the entity and the objective of the financial information, or that is required by law or regulation. (Ref: Para. A35-A37)
  - (b) *Compilation engagement* – An engagement in which a practitioner applies accounting and financial reporting expertise to assist management in the preparation and presentation of financial information of an entity in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework, and reports as required by this HKSRS. Throughout this HKSRS, the words “compile”, “compiling” and “compiled” are used in this context.
  - (c) *Engagement partner* – The partner or other individual, appointed by the firm, who is responsible for the engagement and its performance, and for the compilation report that is issued on behalf of the firm, and who, where required, has the appropriate authority from a professional, legal or regulatory body.
  - (d) *Engagement team* – All partners and staff performing the engagement, and any other individuals who perform procedures on the engagement excluding a practitioner's external expert engaged by the firm or a network firm.
  - (e) *Misstatement* – A difference between the amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure of a reported item in the financial information, and the amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure that is required for the item to be in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Misstatements can arise from error or fraud.

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<sup>3</sup> The *Glossary of Terms Relating to Hong Kong Standards on Quality Management, Auditing, Review, Other Assurance and Related Services* issued by the HKICPA in Volume III of the Members' Handbook

Where the financial information is prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, misstatements also include those adjustments of amounts, classifications, presentation, or disclosures that, in the practitioner’s judgment, are necessary for the financial information to be presented fairly, in all material respects, or to give a true and fair view.

- (f) *Practitioner* – A professional accountant in public practice who conducts the compilation engagement. The term includes the engagement partner or other members of the engagement team, or, as applicable, the firm. Where this HKSRS expressly intends that a requirement or responsibility be fulfilled by the engagement partner, the term “engagement partner” rather than “practitioner” is used. “Engagement partner” and “firm” are to be read as referring to their public sector equivalents where relevant.
- (g) *Relevant ethical requirements* – Principles of professional ethics and ethical requirements that are applicable to the engagement team when undertaking compilation engagements. Relevant ethical requirements ordinarily comprise the provisions of the HKICPA’s *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code), together with local requirements that are more restrictive. (Ref: Para. A21)

## Requirements

### Conduct of a Compilation Engagement in Accordance with this HKSRS

- 18. The practitioner shall have an understanding of the entire text of this HKSRS, including its application and other explanatory material, to understand its objectives and to apply its requirements properly.

#### *Complying with Relevant Requirements*

- 19. The practitioner shall comply with each requirement of this HKSRS unless a particular requirement is not relevant to the compilation engagement, for example if the circumstances addressed by the requirement do not exist in the engagement.
- 20. The practitioner shall not represent compliance with this HKSRS unless the practitioner has complied with all requirements of this HKSRS relevant to the compilation engagement.

### Ethical Requirements

- 21. The practitioner shall comply with relevant ethical requirements. (Ref: Para. A19–A26)

### Professional Judgment

- 22. The practitioner shall exercise professional judgment in conducting a compilation engagement. (Ref: Para. A27–A29)

### Managing and Achieving Quality on Compilation Engagements

- 23. The engagement partner shall take overall responsibility for:
  - (a) Managing and achieving quality on each compilation engagement to which that partner is assigned and being sufficiently and appropriately involved throughout the engagement; and
  - (b) The engagement being performed in accordance with the firm’s quality management policies or procedures, by: (Ref: Para. A30)



- (i) Following the firm's policies or procedures regarding the acceptance and continuance of client relationships and compilation engagements; (Ref: Para. A31)
- (ii) Determining that sufficient and appropriate resources to perform the engagement are assigned or made available to the engagement team in a timely manner, taking into account the nature and circumstances of the engagement, the firm's policies or procedures, and any changes that may arise during the engagement;
- (iii) Being satisfied that the engagement team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities, including having sufficient time, to perform the compilation engagement;
- (iv) Being alert for indications of breaches of relevant ethical requirements by members of the engagement team, and determining the appropriate action if matters come to the engagement partner's attention indicating that members of the engagement team have breached relevant ethical requirements; (Ref: Para. A32)
- (v) Directing and supervising engagement team members, reviewing their work, and performing the engagement in compliance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements;
- (vi) Taking responsibility for appropriate engagement documentation being assembled, appropriately maintained and retained; and
- (vii) When an engagement quality review is required in accordance with HKSQM 1 or the firm's policies or procedures, not dating the report until the completion of the engagement quality review.<sup>4</sup>

### **Engagement Acceptance and Continuance**

#### *Continuance of Client Relationships, Engagement Acceptance and Agreeing the Terms of the Engagement*

24. The practitioner shall not accept the engagement unless the practitioner has agreed the terms of engagement with management, and the engaging party if different, including:
- (a) The intended use and distribution of the financial information, and any restrictions on either its use or its distribution where applicable; (Ref: Para. A20, A33–A34, A37–A38)
  - (b) Identification of the applicable financial reporting framework; (Ref: Para. A20, A35–A38)
  - (c) The objective and scope of the compilation engagement; (Ref: Para. A20)
  - (d) The responsibilities of the practitioner, including the requirement to comply with relevant ethical requirements; (Ref: Para. A20)
  - (e) The responsibilities of management for: (Ref: Para. A39–A41)
    - (i) The financial information, and for the preparation and presentation thereof, in accordance with a financial reporting framework that is acceptable in view of the intended use of the financial information and the intended users;
    - (ii) The accuracy and completeness of the records, documents, explanations and other information provided by management for the compilation engagement; and

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<sup>4</sup> HKSQM 2, *Engagement Quality Reviews*

- (iii) Judgments needed in the preparation and presentation of the financial information, including those for which the practitioner may provide assistance in the course of the compilation engagement; and (Ref: Para. A27)
  - (f) The expected form and content of the practitioner's report.
25. The practitioner shall record the agreed terms of engagement in an engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement, prior to performing the engagement. (Ref: Para. A42–A44)

*Recurring Engagements*

26. On recurring compilation engagements, the practitioner shall evaluate whether circumstances, including changes in the firm's judgments about a client relationship or the engagement, require the terms of engagement to be revised and whether there is need to remind management of the existing terms of engagement. (Ref: Para. A45)

**Communication with Management and Those Charged with Governance**

27. The practitioner shall communicate with management or those charged with governance, as appropriate, on a timely basis during the course of the compilation engagement, all matters concerning the compilation engagement that, in the practitioner's professional judgment, are of sufficient importance to merit the attention of management or those charged with governance, as appropriate. (Ref: Para. A46-A47)

**Performing the Engagement**

*The Practitioner's Understanding*

28. The practitioner shall obtain an understanding of the following matters sufficient to be able to perform the compilation engagement: (Ref: Para. A48–A50)
- (a) The entity's business and operations, including the entity's accounting system and accounting records; and
  - (b) The applicable financial reporting framework, including its application in the entity's industry.

*Compiling the Financial Information*

29. The practitioner shall compile the financial information using the records, documents, explanations and other information, including significant judgments, provided by management.
30. The practitioner shall discuss with management, or those charged with governance as appropriate, those significant judgments, for which the practitioner has provided assistance in the course of compiling the financial information. (Ref: Para. A51)
31. Prior to completion of the compilation engagement, the practitioner shall read the compiled financial information in light of the practitioner's understanding of the entity's business and operations, and of the applicable financial reporting framework. (Ref: Para. A52)
32. If, in the course of the compilation engagement, the practitioner becomes aware that the records, documents, explanations or other information, including significant judgments, provided by management for the compilation engagement are incomplete, inaccurate or otherwise unsatisfactory, the practitioner shall bring that to the attention of management and request the additional or corrected information.

33. If the practitioner is unable to complete the engagement because management has failed to provide records, documents, explanations or other information, including significant judgments, as requested, the practitioner shall withdraw from the engagement and inform management and those charged with governance of the reasons for withdrawing. (Ref: Para. A58)
34. If the practitioner becomes aware during the course of the engagement that:
  - (a) The compiled financial information does not adequately refer to or describe the applicable financial reporting framework; (Ref: Para. A53)
  - (b) Amendments to the compiled financial information are required for the financial information not to be materially misstated; or (Ref: Para. A54–A56)
  - (c) The compiled financial information is otherwise misleading, (Ref: Para. A57)
 the practitioner shall propose the appropriate amendments to management.
35. If management declines, or does not permit the practitioner to make the proposed amendments to the compiled financial information, the practitioner shall withdraw from the engagement and inform management and those charged with governance of the reasons for withdrawing. (Ref: Para. A58)
36. If withdrawal from the engagement is not possible, the practitioner shall determine the professional and legal responsibilities applicable in the circumstances.
37. The practitioner shall obtain an acknowledgement from management or those charged with governance, as appropriate, that they have taken responsibility for the final version of the compiled financial information. (Ref: Para. A68)

#### **Documentation**

38. The practitioner shall include in the engagement documentation: (Ref: Para. A59–A61)
  - (a) Significant matters arising during the compilation engagement and how those matters were addressed by the practitioner;
  - (b) A record of how the compiled financial information reconciles with the underlying records, documents, explanations and other information, provided by management; and
  - (c) A copy of the final version of the compiled financial information for which management or those charged with governance, as appropriate, has acknowledged their responsibility, and the practitioner's report. (Ref: Para. A68)

#### **The Practitioner's Report**

39. An important purpose of the practitioner's report is to clearly communicate the nature of the compilation engagement, and the practitioner's role and responsibilities in the engagement. The practitioner's report is not a vehicle to express an opinion or conclusion on the financial information in any form.
40. The practitioner's report issued for the compilation engagement shall be in writing, and shall include the following elements: (Ref: Para. A62–A63, A69)
  - (a) The report title;
  - (b) The addressee(s), as required by the terms of the engagement; (Ref: Para. A64)
  - (c) A statement that the practitioner has compiled the financial information based on information provided by management;

- (d) A description of the responsibilities of management, or those charged with governance as appropriate, in relation to the compilation engagement, and in relation to the financial information;
  - (e) Identification of the applicable financial reporting framework and, if a special purpose financial reporting framework is used, a description or reference to the description of that special purpose financial reporting framework in the financial information;
  - (f) Identification of the financial information, including the title of each element of the financial information if it comprises more than one element, and the date of the financial information or the period to which it relates;
  - (g) A description of the practitioner's responsibilities in compiling the financial information, including that the engagement was performed in accordance with this HKSRS, and that the practitioner has complied with relevant ethical requirements;
  - (h) A description of what a compilation engagement entails in accordance with this HKSRS;
  - (i) Explanations that:
    - (i) Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, the practitioner is not required to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management for the compilation; and
    - (ii) Accordingly, the practitioner does not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on whether the financial information is prepared in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
  - (j) If the financial information is prepared using a special purpose financial reporting framework, an explanatory paragraph that: (Ref: Para. A65–A67)
    - (i) Describes the purpose for which the financial information is prepared and, if necessary, the intended users, or contains a reference to a note in the financial information that discloses this information; and
    - (ii) Draws the attention of readers of the report to the fact that the financial information is prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework and that, as a result, the information may not be suitable for other purposes;
  - (k) The date of the practitioner's report;
  - (l) The practitioner's signature; and
  - (m) The practitioner's address.
41. The practitioner shall date the report on the date the practitioner has completed the compilation engagement in accordance with this HKSRS. (Ref: Para. A68)

### **Conformity and Compliance with International Standards on Related Services**

42. As of January 2024, this HKSRS conforms with International Standard on Related Services (ISRS) 4410 (Revised), *Compilation Engagements* except that references to IESBA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)* are replaced by HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*. With the exception of the foregoing difference, compliance with the requirements of this HKSRS ensures compliance with ISRS 4410 (Revised).
43. Additional local guidance is provided in footnote 15a, footnote 1a of Appendix 1 and footnotes 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b and 3a of Appendix 2.

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## Application and Other Explanatory Material

### Scope of this HKSRS

#### *General Considerations (Ref: Para. 1)*

- A1. In a compilation engagement where the engaging party is someone other than management or those charged with governance of the entity, this HKSRS may be applied adapted as necessary.
- A2. A practitioner's involvement with services or activities in the course of assisting management of an entity with the preparation and presentation of the entity's financial information can take many different forms. When the practitioner is engaged to provide such services or activities for an entity under this HKSRS, the practitioner's association with the financial information is communicated through the practitioner's report provided for the engagement in the form required by this HKSRS. The practitioner's report contains the practitioner's explicit assertion of compliance with this HKSRS.

#### *Application to Compilation Engagements Other than for Historical Financial Information (Ref: Para. 2)*

- A3. This HKSRS addresses engagements where the practitioner assists management in the preparation and presentation of historical financial information. The HKSRS may, however, also be applied, adapted as necessary, when the practitioner is engaged to assist management in preparing and presenting other financial information. Examples include:
- Pro forma financial information.
  - Prospective financial information, including financial budgets or forecasts.
- A4. Practitioners may also undertake engagements to assist management in the preparation and presentation of non-financial information, for example, greenhouse gas statements, statistical returns or other information returns. In those circumstances, the practitioner may apply this HKSRS, adapted as necessary, as relevant to those types of engagements.

#### *Considerations Relevant to Application of the HKSRS (Ref: Para. 3)*

- A5. Mandatory application of this HKSRS may be specified in local settings for engagements where practitioners undertake services relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial information of an entity (such as in relation to preparation of historical financial statements required for public filing). If mandatory application is not specified, either under law or regulation, or under applicable professional standards or otherwise, the practitioner may nevertheless conclude that applying this HKSRS is appropriate in the circumstances.

#### *Relationship with HKSQMs (Ref: Para. 4)*

- A6. HKSQM 1 deals with the firm's responsibilities to design, implement and operate a system of quality management for related services engagements, including compilation engagements.<sup>5</sup> HKSQM 1 also deals with the firm's responsibility to establish policies or procedures addressing engagements that are required to be subject to engagement quality reviews.<sup>6</sup> HKSQM 2 deals with the appointment and eligibility of the engagement quality reviewer, and the performance and documentation of the engagement quality review.<sup>7</sup>
- A7. Under HKSQM 1, the objective of the firm is to design, implement and operate a system of quality management for related services engagements, including compilation engagements, that provides the firm with reasonable assurance that:
- (a) The firm and its personnel fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and conduct engagements in accordance with such standards and requirements; and

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<sup>5</sup> HKSQM 1, paragraph 1

<sup>6</sup> HKSQM 1, paragraph 2(a)

<sup>7</sup> HKSQM 1, paragraph 2(b)

- (b) Engagement reports issued by the firm or engagement partners are appropriate in the circumstances.<sup>8</sup>
- A8. A jurisdiction that has not adopted HKSQM 1 in relation to compilation engagements may set out requirements for quality management in firms performing such engagements. The provisions of this HKSRS regarding quality management at the engagement level are premised on the basis that requirements for quality management are at least as demanding as those of HKSQM 1. This is achieved when those requirements address the requirements of HKSQM 1 and impose obligations on the firm to achieve the objective of HKSQM 1. Compliance with HKSQM 1 requires, among other things, that the firm's system of quality management addresses the following eight components:<sup>9</sup>
- (a) The firm's risk assessment process;
  - (b) Governance and leadership;
  - (c) Relevant ethical requirements;
  - (d) Acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements;
  - (e) Engagement performance;
  - (f) Resources;
  - (g) Information and communication; and
  - (h) The monitoring and remediation process.
- A9. Within the context of the firm's system of quality management, engagement teams have a responsibility to implement quality management policies or procedures applicable to the engagement.
- A10. Ordinarily, the engagement team may depend on the firm's system of quality management unless:
- The engagement team's understanding or practical experience indicates that the firm's policies or procedures will not effectively address the nature and circumstances of the engagement; or
  - Information provided by the firm or other parties, about the effectiveness of such policies or procedures suggests otherwise.
- For example, the engagement team may depend on the firm's system of quality management in relation to:
- Competence and capabilities of personnel through their recruitment and formal training.
  - Maintenance of client relationships through the firm's policies or procedures for acceptance and continuance of client relationships and compilation engagements.
  - Adherence to legal and regulatory requirements through the firm's monitoring and remediation process.
- In considering deficiencies<sup>10</sup> identified in the firm's system of quality management that may affect the compilation engagement, the engagement partner may consider the remedial actions undertaken by the firm to address those deficiencies.
- A11. A deficiency in the firm's system of quality management does not necessarily indicate that a compilation engagement was not performed in accordance with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, or that the practitioner's report was not appropriate.

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<sup>8</sup> HKSQM 1, paragraph 14

<sup>9</sup> HKSQM 1, paragraph 6

<sup>10</sup> HKSQM 1, paragraph 16(a)

## The Compilation Engagement

### *Use of the Terms “Management” and “Those Charged with Governance” (Ref: Para. 5, 7–8)*

- A12. The respective responsibilities of management and those charged with governance will differ between jurisdictions, and between entities of various types. These differences affect the way the practitioner applies the requirements of this HKSRS regarding management or those charged with governance. Accordingly, the phrase “management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance” used in various places throughout this HKSRS is intended to alert the practitioner to the fact that different entity environments may have different management and governance structures and arrangements.
- A13. Various responsibilities relating to the preparation of financial information and external financial reporting fall to either management or those charged with governance according to factors such as:
- The resources and structure of the entity.
  - The respective roles of management and those charged with governance within the entity as set out in relevant law or regulation or, if the entity is not regulated, in any formal governance or accountability arrangements established for the entity (for example, as recorded in contracts, or a constitution or other type of document by which an entity is established).

In many small entities, there is often no separation of the management and governance roles for the entity, or those charged with governance of the entity may also be involved in managing the entity. In most other cases, especially in larger entities, management is responsible for execution of the business or activities of the entity and reporting thereon, while those charged with governance have oversight of management. In larger entities, those charged with governance will often have or assume responsibility for approving the financial information of the entity, particularly when it is intended for use by external parties. In large entities, often a subgroup of those charged with governance, such as an audit committee, is charged with certain oversight responsibilities. In some jurisdictions, the preparation of financial statements for an entity in accordance with a specified framework is the legal responsibility of those charged with governance, and in other jurisdictions it is a management responsibility.

### *Involvement in Other Activities Relating to Preparation and Presentation of Financial Information (Ref: Para. 5)*

- A14. The scope of a compilation engagement will vary depending on the circumstances of the engagement. However, in every case it will involve assisting management in the preparation and presentation of the entity’s financial information in accordance with the financial reporting framework, based on information provided by management. In some compilation engagements, management may have already prepared the financial information itself in a draft or preliminary form.

- A15. A practitioner may also be engaged to undertake certain other activities on behalf of management, additional to the compilation engagement. For example, the practitioner may be requested to also collect, classify and summarize the underlying accounting data of the entity and process the data in the form of accounting records through to production of a trial balance. The trial balance would then be used as the underlying information from which the practitioner can compile the financial information that is the subject of a compilation engagement undertaken in accordance with this HKSRS. This is often the case for smaller entities that do not have well-developed accounting systems, or entities that prefer to outsource the preparation of accounting records to external providers. This HKSRS does not address such additional activities that the practitioner may perform to assist management in other areas, in advance of compiling the entity's financial statements.

*Financial Reporting Frameworks (Ref: Para. 10)*

- A16. The financial information may be prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet:

- The common financial information needs of a wide range of users (that is, a “general purpose financial reporting framework”); or
- The financial information needs of specific users (that is, a “special purpose financial reporting framework”).

The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework determine the form and content of the financial information. The financial reporting framework may, in some cases, be referred to as the “basis of accounting.”

- A17. Examples of commonly used general purpose financial reporting frameworks are:

- Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (HKFRS).
- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards for Private Entities (HKFRS-PE).
- Hong Kong Small and Medium-sized Entity Financial Reporting Framework and Financial Reporting Standard (SME-FRF & SME-FRS).
- International Financial Reporting Standards for Small- and Medium-Sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs).

- A18. Examples of special purpose financial reporting frameworks that may be used, depending on the particular purpose of the financial information, are:

- The tax basis of accounting used in a particular jurisdiction to prepare financial information to fulfill tax compliance obligations.
- For entities not required to use an established financial reporting framework:
  - A basis of accounting used in the financial information of a particular entity that is appropriate for the intended use of the financial information and the entity's circumstances (for example, use of the cash basis of accounting with selected accruals, such as accounts receivable and accounts payable, leading to a balance sheet and income statement; or use of an established financial reporting framework that is modified to suit the particular purpose for which the financial information is prepared).



- The cash basis of accounting leading to a statement of receipts and disbursements (for example, for the purpose of allocating the excess of cash receipts over disbursements to the owners of a rental property; or to record movements in the petty cash fund of a club).

**Ethical Requirements (Ref: Para. 21)**

A19. The Code establishes the fundamental principles of ethics which are:

- (a) Integrity;
- (b) Objectivity;
- (c) Professional competence and due care;
- (d) Confidentiality; and
- (e) Professional behavior.

The fundamental principles of ethics establish the standard of behavior expected of a professional accountant.

The Code provides a conceptual framework that establishes the approach which a professional accountant is required to apply when identifying, evaluating and addressing threats to compliance with the fundamental principles. In the case of audits, reviews and other assurance engagements, the Code sets out *Independence Standards*, established by the application of the conceptual framework to threats to independence in relation to those engagements.

*Ethical Considerations Regarding the Practitioner's Association with Information (Ref: Para. 21, 24(a)–(d))*

A20. Under the Code,<sup>11</sup> in applying the principle of integrity, a professional accountant is required to not knowingly be associated with reports, returns, communications or other information where the professional accountant believes that the information:

- (a) Contains a materially false or misleading statement;
- (b) Contains statements or information provided recklessly; or
- (c) Omits or obscures required information where such omission or obscurity would be misleading.

When a professional accountant becomes aware that the accountant has been associated with such information, the accountant is required by the Code to take steps to be disassociated from that information.

*Independence (Ref: Para. 17(g), 21)*

A21. Notwithstanding that the *Independence Standards* of the Code do not apply to compilation engagements, local ethical codes or laws or regulations may specify requirements or disclosure rules pertaining to independence.

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<sup>11</sup> The Code, Chapter A, Part 1, paragraph R111.2

Reporting of Identified or Suspected Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations to an Appropriate Authority outside the Entity

- A22. Law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements may:
- (a) Require the practitioner to report identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to an appropriate authority outside the entity.
  - (b) Establish responsibilities under which reporting to an appropriate authority outside the entity may be appropriate in the circumstances.<sup>12</sup>
- A23. Reporting identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to an appropriate authority outside the entity may be required or appropriate in the circumstances because:
- (a) Law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements require the practitioner to report;
  - (b) The practitioner has determined reporting is an appropriate action to respond to identified or suspected non-compliance in accordance with relevant ethical requirements; or
  - (c) Law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements provide the practitioner with the right to do so.
- A24. Under paragraph 28 of this HKSRS, the practitioner is not expected to have a level of understanding of laws and regulations beyond that necessary to be able to perform the compilation engagement. However, law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements may expect the practitioner to apply knowledge, professional judgment and expertise in responding to identified or suspected non-compliance. Whether an act constitutes actual non-compliance is ultimately a matter to be determined by a court or other appropriate adjudicative body.
- A25. In some circumstances, the reporting of identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to an appropriate authority outside the entity may be precluded by the practitioner's duty of confidentiality under law, regulation or relevant ethical requirements. In other cases, reporting identified or suspected non-compliance to an appropriate authority outside the entity would not be considered a breach of the duty of confidentiality under the relevant ethical requirements.<sup>13</sup>
- A26. The practitioner may consider consulting internally (e.g., within the firm or network firm), obtaining legal advice to understand the professional or legal implications of taking any particular course of action, or consulting on a confidential basis with a regulator or a professional body (unless doing so is prohibited by law or regulations or would breach the duty of confidentiality).<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> See, for example, Chapter A, Part 3, paragraphs R360.36 and R360.37 of the Code.

<sup>13</sup> See, for example, Chapter A, Part 1, paragraphs R114.1, 114.1 A1 and Part 3, paragraph R360.37 of the Code.

<sup>14</sup> See, for example, Chapter A, Part 3, paragraph 360.39 A1 of the Code.

**Professional Judgment (Ref: Para. 22, 24(e)(iii))**

A27. Professional judgment is essential to the proper conduct of a compilation engagement. This is because interpretation of relevant ethical requirements and the requirements of this HKSRS, and the need for informed decisions throughout the performance of a compilation engagement, require the application of relevant knowledge and experience to the facts and circumstances of the engagement. Professional judgment is necessary, in particular, when the engagement involves assisting management of the entity regarding decisions about:

- The acceptability of the financial reporting framework that is to be used to prepare and present the financial information of the entity, in view of the intended use of the financial information and the intended users thereof.
- The application of the applicable financial reporting framework, including:
  - Selection of appropriate accounting policies under that framework;
  - Development of accounting estimates needed for the financial information to be prepared and presented under that framework; and
  - Preparation and presentation of financial information in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The practitioner's assistance to management is always provided on the basis that management or those charged with governance, as appropriate, understand the significant judgments that are reflected in the financial information, and accept responsibility for those judgments.

A28. Professional judgment involves the application of relevant training, knowledge and experience, within the context provided by this HKSRS and accounting and ethical standards, in making informed decisions about the courses of action that are appropriate in the circumstances of the compilation engagement.

A29. The exercise of professional judgment in individual engagements is based on the facts and circumstances that are known to the practitioner up to the date of the practitioner's report on the engagement, including:

- Knowledge acquired from performance of other engagements undertaken for the entity, where applicable (for example, taxation services).
- The practitioner's understanding of the entity's business and operations, including its accounting system, and of the application of the applicable financial reporting framework in the industry in which the entity operates.
- The extent to which the preparation and presentation of the financial information requires the exercise of management judgment.

**Managing and Achieving Quality on Compilation Engagements (Ref: Para. 23(b))**

A30. The actions of the engagement partner and appropriate messages to the other members of the engagement team, in taking overall responsibility for managing and achieving quality on each engagement, emphasize the importance to achieving the quality of the engagement of:

- (a) Performing work that complies with professional standards and regulatory and legal requirements;
- (b) Complying with the firm's policies or procedures as applicable; and
- (c) Issuing the practitioner's report for the engagement in accordance with this HKSRS.

*Acceptance and Continuance of Client Relationships and Compilation Engagements (Ref: Para. 23(b)(i))*

- A31. HKSQM 1 requires the firm to establish quality objectives dealing with the appropriateness of its judgments about whether to accept or continue a client relationship or engagement based on information obtained about the nature and circumstances of the compilation engagement and the integrity and ethical values of the client (including management, and, when appropriate, those charged with governance) that is sufficient to support such judgments.

*Compliance with Relevant Ethical Requirements in Conducting the Engagement (Ref: Para. 23(b)(iv))*

- A32. HKSQM 1 sets out the responsibilities of the firm for establishing quality objectives that address the fulfillment of responsibilities in relation to relevant ethical requirements. This HKSRS sets out the engagement partner's responsibilities with respect to the engagement team's compliance with relevant ethical requirements.<sup>15</sup>

**Engagement Acceptance and Continuance**

*Identifying the Intended Use of the Financial Information (Ref: Para. 24(a))*

- A33. The intended use of the financial information is identified with reference to applicable law, regulation, or other arrangements established concerning the provision of financial information of the entity, bearing in mind the financial information needs of parties internal or external to the entity who are the intended users. Examples are financial information required to be provided by an entity in connection with undertaking transactions or financing applications with external parties such as suppliers, banks or other providers of finance or funding.
- A34. The practitioner's identification of the intended use of the financial information also involves understanding such factors as the particular purpose(s) of management, or those charged with governance, where applicable, that are intended to be served through requesting the compilation engagement, and those of the engaging party where different. For example, a grant funding body may require the entity to provide financial information compiled by a professional accountant to obtain information about certain aspects of an entity's operations or activities, prepared in a specified form, to support provision of a grant or continuation of an existing grant.

*Identification of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 17(a), 24(b))*

- A35. The decision about the financial reporting framework that management adopts for the financial information is made in the context of the intended use of the information as described in the agreed terms of engagement, and the requirements of any applicable law or regulation.

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<sup>15</sup> HKSQM 1, paragraph 29

A36. The following are examples of factors that indicate it may be relevant to consider whether the financial reporting framework is acceptable:

- The nature of the entity, and whether it is a regulated form of entity, for example, whether it is a profit-oriented business enterprise, a public sector entity or a not-for-profit organization.
- The intended use of the financial information and the intended users. For example, the financial information could be intended to be used by a wide range of users or, alternatively, could be for use by management or by certain external users in the context of a particular purpose specified as part of agreeing the terms of the compilation engagement.
- Whether the applicable financial reporting framework is prescribed or specified, either in applicable law or regulation, or in a contract or other form of agreement with a third party, or as part of governance or accountability arrangements adopted voluntarily by the entity.
- The nature and form of the financial information that is to be prepared and presented under the applicable financial reporting framework, for example, a complete set of financial statements, a single financial statement, or financial information presented in another format agreed between parties to a contract or other form of agreement.

Relevant Factors When Financial Information Is Intended for a Particular Purpose (Ref: Para. 24(a) – (b))

A37. The engaging party generally agrees the nature and form of financial information that is intended for a particular purpose with the intended users, for example as specified under the financial reporting provisions of a contract or a project grant or as needed to support the entity's transactions or activities. The relevant contract may require use of an established financial reporting framework, such as a general purpose financial reporting framework established by an authorized or recognized standard-setting body or by law or regulation. Alternatively, the parties to the contract may agree on the use of a general purpose framework with modifications or adaptations that fit their particular needs. In that case, the applicable financial reporting framework may be described in the financial information and in the practitioner's report as being the financial reporting provisions of the specified contract rather than with reference to the modified financial reporting framework. In such cases, notwithstanding that the compiled financial information may be made more broadly available, the applicable financial reporting framework is a special purpose framework, and the practitioner is required to comply with the relevant reporting requirements of this HKSRS.

A38. When the applicable financial reporting framework is a special purpose financial reporting framework, the practitioner is required by this HKSRS to record any restrictions on either the intended use or distribution of the financial information in the engagement letter, and to state in the practitioner's report that the financial information is prepared using a special purpose financial reporting framework, and as a result may not be suitable for other purposes.

*Responsibilities of Management (Ref: Para. (24(e)))*

- A39. Under this HKSRS, the practitioner is required to obtain the agreement of management, or where applicable those charged with governance, on management's responsibilities in relation to both the financial information and the compilation engagement as a condition precedent to accepting the engagement. In smaller entities, management, or those charged with governance where applicable, may not be well-informed about what those responsibilities are, including those arising in applicable law or regulation. In order to obtain management's agreement on an informed basis, the practitioner may find it necessary to discuss those responsibilities with management in advance of seeking management's agreement on its responsibilities.
- A40. If management does not acknowledge its responsibilities in the context of a compilation engagement, the practitioner is not able to undertake the engagement, and it is not appropriate for the practitioner to accept the engagement unless required to do so under applicable law or regulation. In circumstances where the practitioner is nevertheless required to accept the engagement, the practitioner may need to communicate with management about the importance of these matters and the implications for the engagement.
- A41. The practitioner is entitled to rely on management to provide all relevant information for the compilation engagement on an accurate, complete and timely basis. The form of the information provided by management for the purpose of the engagement will vary in different engagement circumstances. In broad terms, it will comprise records, documents, explanations and other information relevant to the compilation of the financial information using the applicable financial reporting framework. The information provided may include, for example, information about management assumptions, intentions or plans underlying development of accounting estimates needed to compile the information under the applicable financial reporting framework.

*Engagement Letter or Other Form of Written Agreement (Ref: Para. 25)*

- A42. It is in the interests of both management, and the engaging parties where different, and the practitioner that the practitioner sends an engagement letter to management and, where applicable, to the engaging parties prior to performing the compilation engagement, to help avoid misunderstandings with respect to the compilation engagement. An engagement letter confirms the practitioner's acceptance of the engagement and confirms such matters as:
- The objectives and scope of the engagement, including the understanding of the parties to the engagement that the engagement is not an assurance engagement.
  - The intended use and distribution of the financial information, and any restrictions on its use or distribution (where applicable).
  - The responsibilities of management in relation to the compilation engagement.
  - The extent of the practitioner's responsibilities, including that the practitioner will not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on the financial information.
  - The form and content of the report to be issued by the practitioner for the engagement.

*Form and Content of the Engagement Letter*

- A43. The form and content of the engagement letter may vary for each engagement. In addition to the matters required by this HKSRS, an engagement letter may make reference to, for example:

- Arrangements concerning the involvement of other practitioners and experts in some aspects of the compilation engagement.
- Arrangements to be made with the predecessor practitioner, if any, in the case of an initial engagement.
- The possibility that management or those charged with governance, as appropriate, may be requested to confirm in writing certain information or explanations conveyed orally to the practitioner during the engagement.
- Ownership of the information used for purposes of the compilation engagement, distinguishing between documents and information of the entity provided for the engagement and the practitioner's engagement documentation, having regard to applicable law and regulation.
- A request for management, and the engaging party if different, to acknowledge receipt of the engagement letter and to agree to the terms of the engagement outlined therein.

#### Illustrative Engagement Letter

A44. An illustrative engagement letter for a compilation engagement is set out in Appendix 1 to this HKSRS.

#### *Recurring Engagements (Ref: Para. 26)*

A45. The practitioner may decide not to send a new engagement letter or other written agreement each period. However, the following factors may indicate that it is appropriate to revise the terms of the compilation engagement, or to remind management or the engaging party, where applicable, of the existing terms of the engagement:

- Any indication that management or the engaging party, where applicable, misunderstands the objective and scope of the engagement.
- Any revised or special terms of the engagement.
- A recent change of senior management of the entity.
- A significant change in ownership of the entity.
- A significant change in nature or size of the entity's business.
- A change in legal or regulatory requirements affecting the entity.
- A change in the applicable financial reporting framework.

#### **Communication with Management and Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. 27)**

A46. The appropriate timing for communications will vary with the circumstances of the compilation engagement. Relevant circumstances include the significance and nature of the matter and any action expected to be taken by management or those charged with governance. For example, it may be appropriate to communicate a significant difficulty encountered during the engagement as soon as practicable if management or those charged with governance are able to assist the practitioner to overcome the difficulty.

- A47. Relevant ethical requirements may include a requirement to report identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to an appropriate level of management or those charged with governance. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation may restrict the practitioner's communication of certain matters with management or those charged with governance. Law or regulation may specifically prohibit a communication, or other action, that might prejudice an investigation by an appropriate authority into an actual, or suspected, illegal act, including alerting the entity, for example, when the practitioner is required to report the identified or suspected non-compliance to an appropriate authority pursuant to anti-money laundering legislation.<sup>15a</sup> In these circumstances, the issues considered by the practitioner may be complex and the practitioner may consider it appropriate to obtain legal advice.

## Performing the Engagement

### *The Practitioner's Understanding (Ref: Para. 28)*

- A48. Obtaining an understanding of the entity's business and its operations, including the entity's accounting system and accounting records, is an ongoing process that occurs throughout the compilation engagement. The understanding establishes a frame of reference within which the practitioner exercises professional judgment in compiling the financial information.
- A49. The breadth and depth of the understanding the practitioner has or obtains about the entity's business and operations is less than that possessed by management. It is directed at the level that is sufficient for the practitioner to be able to compile the financial information under the terms of the engagement.
- A50. Examples of matters the practitioner may consider in obtaining an understanding of the entity's business and operations and the applicable financial reporting framework include:
- The size and complexity of the entity and its operations.
  - The complexity of the financial reporting framework.
  - The entity's financial reporting obligations or requirements, whether they exist under applicable laws and regulation, under the provisions of a contract or other form of agreement with a third party, or in the context of voluntary financial reporting arrangements.
  - The level of development of the entity's management and governance structure regarding management and oversight of the entity's accounting records and financial reporting systems that underpin the preparation of financial information of the entity.
  - The level of development and complexity of the entity's financial accounting and reporting systems and related controls.
  - The nature of the entity's assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses.

### *Compiling the Financial Information*

#### Significant Judgments (Ref: Para.30)

- A51. In some compilation engagements, the practitioner does not provide assistance to management with significant judgments. In other engagements, the practitioner may provide such assistance, for example, in relation to a required accounting estimate or helping management with its consideration of appropriate accounting policies. Where assistance is provided, discussion is needed so that management and those charged with governance, as appropriate, understand the significant judgments reflected in the financial information, and accept their responsibility for those judgments.

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<sup>15a</sup> Additional guidance is provided in Appendix 4 of HKSA 240, *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements*.



Reading the Financial Information (Ref: Para. 31)

A52. The practitioner's reading of the financial information is intended to assist the practitioner in fulfilling the practitioner's ethical obligations relevant to the compilation engagement.

Proposing Amendments to the Financial Information

Reference to or description of the applicable financial reporting framework (Ref: Para. 34(a))

A53. There may be circumstances when the applicable financial reporting framework is an established financial reporting framework with significant departures therefrom. If the description of the applicable financial reporting framework in the compiled financial information makes reference to the established framework with significant departures, the practitioner may need to consider whether the reference to the established framework is misleading in the circumstances of the engagement.

Amendment for material misstatements, and for the information not to be misleading (Ref: Para. 34(b)–(c))

A54. The practitioner's consideration of materiality is made in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework. Some financial reporting frameworks discuss the concept of materiality in the context of the preparation and presentation of financial information. Although financial reporting frameworks may discuss materiality in different terms, they generally explain that:

- Misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if they, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial information;
- Judgments about materiality are made in light of surrounding circumstances, and are affected by the size or nature of a misstatement, or a combination of both; and
- Judgments about matters that are material to users of the financial information are based on a consideration of the common financial information needs of users as a group. The possible effect of misstatements on specific individual users, whose needs may vary widely, is not considered.

A55. If present in the applicable financial reporting framework, such a discussion provides a frame of reference for the practitioner in understanding materiality for the purpose of the compilation engagement. If not present, the above considerations provide the practitioner with a frame of reference.

A56. The practitioner's perception of the needs of users of the financial information affects the practitioner's view of materiality. In this context, it is reasonable for the practitioner to assume that users:

- Have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and accounting, and a willingness to study the financial information with reasonable diligence;
- Understand that financial information is prepared and presented to levels of materiality;
- Recognize the uncertainties inherent in the measurement of amounts based on the use of estimates, judgment and the consideration of future events; and

- Make reasonable economic decisions on the basis of the information in the financial information.

A57. The applicable financial reporting framework may include the premise that the financial information is prepared on the going concern basis. If the practitioner becomes aware that uncertainties exist regarding the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, the practitioner may, as appropriate, suggest a more appropriate presentation under the applicable financial reporting framework, or appropriate disclosures concerning the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, in order to be in compliance with that framework, and to avoid the financial information being misleading.

**Conditions that Require the Practitioner to Withdraw from the Engagement (Ref: Para. 33, 35)**

A58. In circumstances addressed by the requirements of this HKSRS where withdrawal from the engagement is necessary, the responsibility to inform management and those charged with governance of the reasons for withdrawing provides an opportunity to explain the practitioner's ethical obligations.

**Documentation (Ref: Para. 38)**

A59. The documentation required by this HKSRS serves a number of purposes, including the following:

- Providing a record of matters of continuing relevance to future compilation engagements.
- Enabling the engagement team, as applicable, to be accountable for its work, including recording the completion of the engagement.

A60. The practitioner may consider also including in the engagement documentation a copy of the entity's trial balance, summary of significant accounting records or other information that the practitioner used to perform the compilation.

A61. In recording how the compiled financial information reconciles with the underlying records, documents, explanations and other information provided by management for the purpose of the compilation engagement, the practitioner may, for example, keep a schedule showing the reconciliation of the entity's general ledger account balances to the compiled financial information, including any adjusting journal entries or other amendments to the financial information that the practitioner has agreed with management in the course of the engagement.

**The Practitioner's Report (Ref: Para. 40)**

A62. The written report encompasses reports issued in hard copy format and those issued using an electronic medium.

A63. When the practitioner is aware that the compiled financial information and the practitioner's report will be included in a document that contains other information, such as a financial report, the practitioner may consider, if the form of presentation allows, identifying the page numbers on which the financial information is presented. This helps users to identify the financial information to which the practitioner's report relates.

*Addressees of the Report (Ref: Para. 40(b))*

- A64. Law or regulation may specify to whom the practitioner's report is to be addressed in the particular jurisdiction. The practitioner's report is normally addressed to the party who engaged the practitioner under the terms of the engagement, ordinarily the management of the entity.

*Financial Information Prepared Using a Special Purpose Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 40(j))*

- A65. Under this HKSRS, if the financial information is prepared using a special purpose financial reporting framework, the practitioner's report is required to draw the attention of readers of the report to the special purpose financial reporting framework used in the financial information, and to state that the financial information may therefore not be suitable for other purposes. This may be supplemented by an additional clause that restricts either the distribution or use, or both, of the practitioner's report to the intended users only.
- A66. Financial information prepared for a particular purpose may be obtained by parties other than the intended users, who may seek to use the information for purposes other than those for which the information was intended. For example, a regulator may require certain entities to provide financial statements prepared using a special purpose financial reporting framework, and those financial statements to be on public record. The fact of the wider availability of those financial statements to parties other than the intended users does not mean the financial statements would then become general purpose financial statements. The practitioner's statements required to be included in the practitioner's report are needed to draw readers' attention to the fact that the financial statements are prepared under a special purpose financial reporting framework, and may not, therefore, be suitable for other purposes.

*Restriction on Distribution and Use of the Practitioner's Report*

- A67. The practitioner may consider it appropriate to indicate that the practitioner's report is intended solely for the specified intended users of the financial information. Depending on the law or regulation of the particular jurisdiction, this may be achieved by restricting either the distribution or use, or both, of the practitioner's report to the intended users only.

*Completion of the Compilation Engagement and Dating of the Practitioner's Report (Ref: Para. 37, 38, 41)*

- A68. The process that exists within the entity for the approval of the financial information by management, or by those charged with governance as appropriate, is a relevant consideration for the practitioner when completing the compilation engagement. Depending on the nature and purpose of the financial information, there may be an established approval process that management or those charged with governance are required to follow, or that is prescribed in applicable law and regulation, for the preparation and finalization of financial information or financial statements of the entity.

*Illustrative Reports (Ref: Para. 40)*

- A69. Appendix 2 to this HKSRS contains illustrations of practitioners' compilation reports incorporating the required elements of the report.

**Appendix 1**

(Ref: Para. A44)

**Illustrative Engagement Letter for a Compilation Engagement**

The following is an example of an engagement letter for a compilation engagement that illustrates the relevant requirements and guidance contained in this HKSRS. This letter is not authoritative but is intended only to be a guide that may be used in conjunction with the considerations outlined in this HKSRS. It will need to be adapted according to the requirements and circumstances of individual compilation engagements. It is drafted to refer to the compilation of financial statements for a single reporting period and would require adaptation if intended or expected to apply to a recurring engagement as described in this HKSRS. It may be appropriate to seek legal advice that any proposed letter is suitable.

This engagement letter illustrates the following circumstances:

- The financial statements are to be compiled for sole use by the management of a company (ABC Company), and use of the financial statements will be restricted to management. Use and distribution of the practitioner's report is also restricted to management.
- The compiled financial statements will comprise only the balance sheet of the company as at 31 December 20X1 and the income statement for the year then ended, without notes. Management has determined that the financial statements be prepared on an accrual basis as described.

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To the Management<sup>1</sup> of ABC Company:

*[The objective and scope of the compilation engagement]*

You have requested that we provide the following services:

On the basis of information that you will provide, we will assist you in the preparation and presentation of the following financial statements for ABC Company: the balance sheet of ABC Company as at 31 December 20X1 and the income statement for the year then ended, on the historical cost basis, reflecting all cash transactions with the addition of trade accounts payable, trade accounts receivable less an allowance for doubtful accounts, inventory accounted for on an average cost basis, current income taxes payable as at the reporting date, and capitalization of significant long-lived assets at historical cost amortized over their estimated useful lives on the straight-line basis. These financial statements will not include explanatory notes, other than a note describing the basis of accounting as set out in this engagement letter.

The purpose for which the financial statements will be used is to provide full-year financial information showing the entity's financial position at the financial reporting date of 31 December 20X1 and financial performance for the year then ended. The financial statements will be solely for your use, and will not be distributed to other parties.

#### Our Responsibilities

A compilation engagement involves applying expertise in accounting and financial reporting to assist you in the preparation and presentation of financial information. Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information you provide to us for the compilation engagement, or otherwise to gather evidence to express an audit opinion or a review conclusion. Accordingly, we will not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on whether the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting you have specified, as described above.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this illustrative engagement letter, references to "you," "we," "us," "management," "those charged with governance" and "practitioner" would be used or amended as appropriate in the circumstances.

We will perform the compilation engagement in accordance with the Hong Kong Standard on Related Services (HKSRS) 4410 (Revised), *Compilation Engagements*. HKSRS 4410 (Revised) requires that, in undertaking this engagement, we comply with relevant ethical requirements, including principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care. For that purpose, we are required to comply with the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code).

#### Your Responsibilities

The compilation engagement to be performed is conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand that our role is to assist you in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting framework you have adopted for the financial statements. Accordingly, you have the following overall responsibilities that are fundamental to our undertaking the compilation engagement in accordance with HKSRS 4410 (Revised):

- (a) Responsibility for the financial statements and the preparation and presentation thereof in accordance with a financial reporting framework that is acceptable in view of the intended use of the financial statements and the intended users.
- (b) Responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the records, documents, explanations and other information you provide to us for the purpose of compiling the financial statements.
- (c) Responsibility for the judgments needed in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements, including those for which we may provide assistance in the course of the compilation engagement.

#### Our Compilation Report

As part of our engagement, we will issue our report attached to the financial statements compiled by us, which will describe the financial statements, and the work we performed for this compilation engagement [see attached]. The report will also note that the use of the financial statements is restricted to the purpose set out in this engagement letter, and that use and distribution of our report provided for the compilation engagement is restricted to you, as the management of ABC Company.<sup>1a</sup>

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgement of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our engagement to compile the financial statements described herein, and our respective responsibilities.

*[Other relevant information]*

*[Insert other information, such as fee arrangements, billings and other specific terms, as appropriate.]*

XYZ & Co.

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<sup>1a</sup> Practitioners may consider it appropriate to include a limitation of liability clause in accordance with their risk management policies.

COMPILATION ENGAGEMENTS

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of the management of ABC Company by  
(signed)

.....  
Name and Title

Date

**Appendix 2**

(Ref: Para. A69)

**Illustrative Practitioners' Compilation Reports**

**Compilation Engagement for General Purpose Financial Statements**

- Illustration 1: Practitioner's report for an engagement to compile financial statements using a general purpose financial reporting framework.

**Compilation Engagement for Financial Statements Prepared for a Special Purpose**

- Illustration 2: Practitioner's report for an engagement to compile financial statements using a modified general purpose financial reporting framework.

**Compilation Engagements for Financial Information Prepared for a Special Purpose where Use or Distribution of the Financial Information Is Restricted to the Intended Users**

- Illustration 3: Practitioner's report for an engagement to compile financial statements using the basis of accounting specified in a contract.
- Illustration 4: Practitioner's report for an engagement to compile financial statements using a basis of accounting selected by the management of an entity for financial information required for management's own purposes.
- Illustration 5: Practitioner's report for an engagement to compile financial information that is an element, account or item, being [*insert appropriate reference to information required for a regulatory compliance purpose*].

**Illustration 1: Practitioner’s report for an engagement to compile financial statements using a general purpose financial reporting framework.**

- General purpose financial statements required under applicable law that specifies that the entity’s financial statements are to be prepared applying Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards for Private Entities (HKFRS-PE).

PRACTITIONER’S COMPILATION REPORT

[To Management of ABC Company]

We have compiled the accompanying financial statements of ABC Company based on information you have provided. These financial statements comprise the statement of financial position of ABC Company as at 31 December 20X1, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

We performed this compilation engagement in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Related Services 4410 (Revised), *Compilation Engagements*.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to assist you in the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards for Private Entities (HKFRS-PE). We have complied with relevant ethical requirements, including principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care.

These financial statements and the accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them are your responsibility.<sup>1a</sup>

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information you provided to us to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on whether these financial statements are prepared in accordance with HKFRS-PE.

[Practitioner’s signature]

[Date of practitioner’s report]

[Practitioner’s address]

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<sup>1a</sup> Practitioners 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 “Auditor’s Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report”.



**Illustration 2: Practitioner’s report for an engagement to compile financial statements using a modified general purpose financial reporting framework.**

- Financial statements prepared using a general purpose financial reporting framework adopted by management on a modified basis.
- The applicable financial reporting framework is Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards for Private Entities (HKFRS-PE) excluding the treatment of property, which has been revalued rather than being carried at historical cost.
- Use or distribution of the financial statements is not restricted.

PRACTITIONER’S COMPILATION REPORT

[To Management of ABC Company]

We have compiled the accompanying financial statements of ABC Company based on information you have provided. These financial statements comprise the statement of financial position of ABC Company as at 31 December 20X1, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

We performed this compilation engagement in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Related Services 4410 (Revised), *Compilation Engagements*.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to assist you in the preparation and presentation of these financial statements on the basis of accounting described in Note X to the financial statements. We have complied with relevant ethical requirements, including principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care.

These financial statements and the accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them are your responsibility.

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information you provided to us to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on whether these financial statements are prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note X.

As stated in Note X, the financial statements are prepared and presented in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards for Private Entities (HKFRS-PE), excluding property which is revalued in the financial statements rather than being carried at historical cost. The financial statements are prepared for the purpose described in Note Y to the financial statements. Accordingly, these financial statements may not be suitable for other purposes.<sup>1b</sup>

[Practitioner’s signature]

[Date of practitioner’s report]

[Practitioner’s address]

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<sup>1b</sup> Practitioners 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 “Auditor’s Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report”.

**Illustration 3: Practitioner’s report for an engagement to compile financial statements using the basis of accounting specified in a contract.**

- Financial statements prepared to comply with the provisions of a contract, applying the basis of accounting specified in the contract.
- The practitioner is engaged by a party other than management or those charged with governance of the entity.
- The financial statements are intended for use only by the parties specified in the contract.
- Distribution and use of the practitioner’s report is restricted to the intended users of the financial statements specified in the contract.

PRACTITIONER’S COMPILATION REPORT

[To the Engaging Party<sup>2</sup>]

We have compiled the accompanying financial statements of ABC Company (“the Company”) based on information provided by the management of the Company (“management”). These financial statements comprise *[name all the elements of the financial statements prepared under the basis of accounting specified in the Contract and the period/date to which they relate]*.

We performed this compilation engagement in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Related Services 4410 (Revised), *Compilation Engagements*.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to assist management in the preparation and presentation of these financial statements on the basis of accounting described in Note X to the financial statements. We have complied with relevant ethical requirements, including principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care.

These financial statements and the accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them are management’s responsibility.

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on whether these financial statements are prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note X.

As stated in Note X, the financial statements are prepared and presented on the basis described in Clause Z of the provisions of the Company’s contract with XYZ Limited dated *[insert date of the relevant contract/agreement]* (“the Contract”), and for the purpose described in Note Y to the financial statements. Accordingly, these financial statements are intended for use only by the parties specified in the Contract, and may not be suitable for other purposes.

Our compilation report is intended solely for the parties specified in the Contract, and should not be distributed to other parties.<sup>2a</sup>

[Practitioner’s signature]

[Date of practitioner’s report]

[Practitioner’s address]

<sup>2</sup> Alternatively, the appropriate addressee specified in the relevant contract.

<sup>2a</sup> Practitioners 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 “Auditor’s Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report”.

**Illustration 4: Practitioner’s report for an engagement to compile financial statements using a basis of accounting selected by management of an entity for financial information required for management’s own purposes.**

- Financial statements prepared using a special purpose financial reporting framework, intended for use only by the management of a company for management’s own purposes.
- The financial statements incorporate certain accruals, and comprise only a balance sheet, an income statement, and a single note that refers to the basis of accounting used for the financial statements.
- The financial statements are intended for use only by management.
- Distribution and use of the practitioner’s report is restricted to management.

PRACTITIONER’S COMPILATION REPORT

[To Management of ABC Company]

We have compiled the accompanying financial statements of ABC Company based on information you have provided. These financial statements comprise the balance sheet of ABC Company as at 31 December 20X1 and an income statement for the year then ended.

We performed this compilation engagement in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Related Services 4410 (Revised), *Compilation Engagements*.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to assist you in the preparation and presentation of these financial statements on the basis of accounting described in Note X to the financial statements. We have complied with relevant ethical requirements, including principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care.

These financial statements and the accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them are your responsibility.

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information you provided to us to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on whether these financial statements are prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note X.

Note X states the basis on which these financial statements are prepared, and their purpose is described in Note Y. Accordingly, these financial statements are for your use only, and may not be suitable for other purposes.

Our compilation report is intended solely for your use in your capacity as management of ABC Company, and should not be distributed to other parties.<sup>2b</sup>

[Practitioner’s signature]

[Date of practitioner’s report]

[Practitioner’s address]

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<sup>2b</sup> Practitioners 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 “Auditor’s Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report”.

**Illustration 5: Practitioner’s report for an engagement to compile financial information that is an element, account or item, being [insert appropriate reference to information required for a regulatory compliance purpose].**

- Financial information prepared for a special purpose, i.e., to comply with financial reporting requirements established by a regulator, in accordance with provisions established by the regulator prescribing the form and content of the financial information.
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a compliance framework.
- The financial information is intended to meet the needs of particular users, and use of the financial information is restricted to those users.
- Distribution of the practitioner’s report is restricted to the intended users.

### PRACTITIONER’S COMPILATION REPORT

[To the Management of ABC Company<sup>3</sup>]

We have compiled the accompanying schedule of [*identify the compiled financial information*] of ABC Company as at 31 December 20X1 (“the Schedule”) based on information you have provided.

We performed this compilation engagement in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Related Services 4410 (Revised), *Compilation Engagements*.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to assist you in the preparation and presentation of the Schedule as prescribed by [*insert name of or reference to the relevant regulation*]. We have complied with relevant ethical requirements, including principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care.

This Schedule and the accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile it are your responsibility.

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information you provided to us to compile the Schedule. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on whether the Schedule is prepared in accordance with [*insert name of or reference to applicable financial reporting framework as specified in the relevant regulation*].

As stated in Note X, the Schedule is prepared and presented on the basis prescribed by [*insert name of or reference to the applicable financial reporting framework as specified in the relevant regulation*], for the purpose of ABC Company’s compliance with [*insert name of or reference to the relevant regulation*]. Accordingly, the Schedule is for use only in connection with that purpose and may not be suitable for any other purpose.

Our compilation report is intended solely for the use of ABC Company and Regulator F, and should not be distributed to parties other than ABC Company or Regulator F.<sup>3a</sup>

[Practitioner’s signature]

[Date of the practitioner’s report]

[Practitioner’s address]

<sup>3</sup> Alternatively, the appropriate addressee specified in the applicable financial reporting requirements.

<sup>3a</sup> Practitioners 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 “Auditor’s Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report”.