

ASA 102
(December 2024)

Explanatory Statement

ASA 102 Compliance with Ethical Requirements when Performing Audits, Reviews and Other Assurance Engagements

Issued by the **Auditing and Assurance Standards Board**



Australian Government

Auditing and Assurance Standards Board

Obtaining a Copy of this Explanatory Statement

This Explanatory Statement is available on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) website: www.auasb.gov.au

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Reasons for Issuing Auditing Standard ASA 102

The AUASB issues Auditing Standard ASA 102 *Compliance with Ethical Requirements when Performing Audits, Reviews and Other Assurance Engagements (December 2024)* pursuant to the requirements of the legislative provisions and the Strategic Direction explained below.

The AUASB is a non-corporate Commonwealth entity of the Australian Government established under section 227A of the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001*, as amended (ASIC Act). Under section 336 of the *Corporations Act 2001*, the AUASB may make Auditing Standards for the purposes of the corporations legislation. These Auditing Standards are legislative instruments under the *Legislation Act 2003*.

Under the Strategic Direction given to the AUASB by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), the AUASB is required, inter alia, to develop auditing standards that have a clear public interest focus and are of the highest quality.

ASA 102 is an Auditing Standard made under the *Corporations Act 2001* for Australian legislative purposes. ASA 102 enables references to relevant ethical requirements in other AUASB Standards to remain current as they are explicitly linked to ASA 102. Under ASA 102 the auditor, assurance practitioner, engagement quality reviewer, and firm are to have regard to the applicable requirements of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)*, issued by the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board Limited (APESB) in November 2018 incorporating all amendments to June 2024, which are to be taken into account in determining whether relevant ethical requirements have been met. The AUASB proposes to amend or re-make ASA 102 whenever APES 110 is amended or revised, to ensure that such cross references remain current and to eliminate the need to amend other AUASB Standards.

The AUASB has made ASA 102 in a format that is consistent with the other Australian Auditing Standards operative for financial reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2010 and for firms required to establish systems of quality management in compliance with ASQM 1 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*.

Purpose of ASA 102

The purpose of ASA 102 is to require auditors, assurance practitioners, engagement quality reviewers and firms to comply with relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, when performing audits, reviews and other assurance engagements.

Main Features

Under the Strategic Direction given to the AUASB by the FRC, the AUASB is required to have regard to any programme initiated by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) for the revision and enhancement of the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) and to make appropriate consequential amendments to the Australian Auditing Standards.

ASA 102 has been made for Australian legislative purposes and accordingly there is no equivalent ISA issued by the IAASB. However, the requirement and application and other explanatory material in ASA 102 have been drawn from several standards of the IAASB.

The APESB has recently issued amendments to APES 110 incorporating changes to the IESBA Code, with adaptations and additional requirements to suit the Australian environment. The amendments are effective from 1 January 2025.

The revision of ASA 102 updates references to the amended APES 110 (issued in November 2018 incorporating all amendments to June 2024).

Operative Date

The reissued ASA 102 is operative for engagements with financial reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2025.

Process of making Australian Auditing Standards

The AUASB's Strategic Direction, *inter alia*, provides that the AUASB develop Australian Auditing Standards that:

- have a clear public interest focus and are of the highest quality;
- use the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) as the underlying standards;
- conform with the Australian regulatory environment; and
- are capable of enforcement.

Consultation Process prior to issuing the Auditing Standard

It is the view of the AUASB that the changes to ASA 102 do not require public exposure as they are not significant in nature and have no impact on the requirement of ASA 102.

Impact Analysis

A Preliminary Assessment form has been prepared in connection with the making of ASA 102 and lodged with the Office of Impact Analysis (OIA). The OIA advised that an Impact Analysis (IA) is not required in relation to this standard.

Exemption from Sunsetting

Auditing Standards promulgated by the AUASB that are legislative instruments are exempt from the sunseting provisions of the *Legislation Act 2003* through section 12 of the *Legislation (Exemption and Other Matters) Regulation 2015* (Item 18(a)).

The AUASB's Standards incorporate Standards set by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. The AUASB's Standards are exempt from sunseting because a more stringent review process than sunseting applies to the Standards. This review process ensures Australia's Auditing Standards regime remains consistent with international standards. Typically, the AUASB Standards are revised at least once within a ten-year period, with most of the Standards subject to revisions much more frequently than that. Each revision follows the stringent review process (which includes the opportunity for public comment) in order to remain consistent with international Standards. It is very unlikely that any AUASB Standard would not have been amended (or else considered for amendment) within a ten-year period through these review processes. Therefore, if it applied, a ten-year sunseting regime would have very limited practical application to AUASB Standards. Parliamentary oversight is retained whenever a Standard is replaced or amended since the Standards are disallowable instruments and subject to the normal tabling and scrutiny process as required by the *Legislation Act 2003*.

Incorporation by reference

Paragraph 5(d) of ASA 102 incorporated the version of APES 110 made in November 2018. Under s14(1)(b) of the *Legislation Act 2003* an instrument may incorporate documents such as APES 110 as in force from time to time. The main purpose of ASA 102 was to replace the reference to previous APES 110 in ASA 102 with a reference to the most recent version of APES 110.

The updated version APES 110 is freely available at <https://apesb.org.au/standards-guidance/apes-110-code-of-ethics/>.

STATEMENT OF COMPATIBILITY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011

Legislative Instrument: **Auditing Standard ASA 102 *Compliance with Ethical Requirements when Performing Audits, Reviews and Other Assurance Engagements (December 2024)***

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.

Overview of the Legislative Instrument

Background

The AUASB is an independent statutory committee of the Australian Government established under section 227A of the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001*, as amended (ASIC Act). Under section 336 of the *Corporations Act 2001*, the AUASB may make Auditing Standards for the purposes of the corporations legislation. These Auditing Standards are legislative instruments under the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*.

Purpose of Auditing Standard ASA 102

The purpose of ASA 102 is to require auditors, assurance practitioners, engagement quality reviewers and firms to comply with relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, when performing audits, reviews and other assurance engagements.

Main Features

ASA 102 is reissued to update references to the amended APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (issued in November 2018 incorporating all amendments to June 2024).

Human Rights Implications

Australian Auditing Standards are issued by the AUASB in furtherance of the objective of facilitating the Australian economy. The standards do not diminish or limit any of the applicable human rights or freedoms, and thus do not raise any human rights issues.

Conclusion

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with human rights as it does not raise any human rights issues.