

Global Internal Audit Standards Overview

The International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) is a framework that organizes the authoritative body of knowledge, promulgated by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), for the professional practice of internal auditing. The IPPF includes the Global Internal Audit Standards (Standards), Topical Requirements, and Global Guidance.

1. **Global Internal Audit Standards:** Guide the worldwide professional practice of internal auditing and serve as a basis for evaluating and elevating the quality of the internal audit function. The elements of the Standards are organized into five domains with 15 principles that span across the domains below.

Domain I: Purpose of Internal Auditing: Intended to assist internal auditors and audit stakeholders in understanding the value of internal auditing.

Domain II: Ethics and Professionalism: Internal auditors maintain an impartial and unbiased attitude when performing internal audit services and making decisions.

Domain III: Governing the Internal Audit Function: Appropriate governance arrangements are essential to enable the internal audit function to be effective.

Domain IV: Managing the Internal Audit Function: The chief audit executive is responsible for managing the internal audit function in accordance with the Internal Audit Charter and Standards.

Domain V: Performing Internal Audit Services: Internal audit services involve providing assurance, advice, or both. Internal auditors are expected to apply and conform with the Standards when performing engagements, whether they are providing assurance or advice, except when otherwise specified in individual standards.

The 15 principles enable effective internal auditing and is supported by 52 standards that include:

- Requirements – mandatory practices for internal auditing recognized using “must” in each statement.
- Considerations for implementation – common and preferred practices to consider when implementing the requirements which used the term “should” or “may.”
- Example of evidence of conformance – examples provided to demonstrate that the requirements have been implemented.

Together, these elements help internal auditors achieve the principles and fulfill the Purpose of Internal Auditing.

2. **Topical Requirements:** Designed to enhance the consistency and quality of internal audit services related to specific audit subjects and support internal auditors performing engagements in those risk areas. Internal auditors must conform with the relevant requirements when the scope of an engagement includes one of the identified topics. Topical

requirements strengthen the ongoing relevance of internal auditing by addressing the evolving landscape across industries and sectors.

3. ***Global Guidance:*** Supports the Standards by providing non-mandatory information, advice, and best practices for performing internal audit services.

While conformity with the standards is expected, there may be occasions where adherence is not possible due to resource limitations or sector-specific challenges. In such cases, alternative actions should be taken to achieve the intent of the standard with the chief audit executive responsible for documenting and communicating the rationale for the deviations and adopted alternative actions.