

# Fundamentals of the Global Internal Audit Standards

The Institute of Internal Auditors' 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. At the heart of the Standards are 15 guiding principles that enable effective internal auditing. Each principle is supported by standards that contain requirements, considerations for implementation, and examples of evidence of conformance. Together, these elements help internal auditors achieve the principles and fulfil the Purpose of Internal Auditing.

## Applicability and Elements of the Standards

The Global Internal Audit Standards set forth principles, requirements, considerations, and examples for the professional practice of internal auditing globally. The Standards apply to any individual or function that provides internal audit services, whether an organization employs internal auditors directly, contracts them through an external service provider, or both. Organizations receiving internal audit services vary in sector and industry affiliation, purpose, size, complexity, and structure.

The Standards apply to the internal audit function and individual internal auditors including the chief audit executive. While the chief audit executive is accountable for the internal audit function's implementation of and conformance with all principles and standards, all internal auditors are responsible for conforming with the principles and standards relevant to performing their job responsibilities, which are presented primarily in Domain II: Ethics and Professionalism and Domain V: Performing Internal Audit Services.

The Standards are organised into five domains:

- Domain I: Purpose of Internal Auditing.
- Domain II: Ethics and Professionalism.
- Domain III: Governing the Internal Audit Function.
- Domain IV: Managing the Internal Audit Function.
- Domain V: Performing Internal Audit Services.

Domains II through V contain the following elements:

- Principles: broad descriptions of a related group of requirements and considerations.
- Standards, which include:
  - Requirements: mandatory practices for internal auditing.
  - Considerations for Implementation: common and preferred practices to consider when implementing the requirements.
  - Examples of Evidence of Conformance: ways to demonstrate that the requirements of the Standards have been implemented.

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

## **Demonstrating Conformance with the Standards**

The requirements, considerations for implementation, and examples of evidence of conformance are designed to help internal auditors conform with the Standards. While conformance with the requirements is expected, internal auditors occasionally may be unable to conform with a requirement yet still achieve the intent of the standard.

The chief audit executive is responsible for documenting and conveying the rationale for the deviation and the adopted alternative actions to the appropriate parties.

## **Application in the Public Sector**

While the Global Internal Audit Standards apply to all internal audit functions, internal auditors in the public sector work in a political environment under governance, organizational, and funding structures that may differ from those of the private sector. The nature of these structures and related conditions may be affected by the jurisdiction and level of government in which the internal audit function operates. Additionally, some terminology used in the public sector differs from that of the private sector. These differences may affect how internal audit functions in the public sector apply the Standards.