AUDIT OF LIABILITIES: THEORY, METHODOLOGY AND PRACTICE

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Abstract. Nowadays a number of regulatory and legal documents are being developed on auditing and giving conclusions financial statements of economic entities of various ownership types operating in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan based on the requirements of international audit standards. In this article explained the theoretical and practical considerations of the use of international audit standards by auditors in conducting risk-based audits of business entities. In addition, suggestions and recommendations were developed to eliminate inconsistencies in financial statements and reduce the risk of significant misstatements.

Key words. liabilities, international standards on auditing, financial statement auditing, audit risk, level of materiality, internal control system, analytical procedures, audit evidence, control tests, subsequent events, going concern assumption.

Conducting audits of business entities based on the requirements of international audit standards is important at the moment. The international auditing standards approved by the Committee on International Standards of Auditing and Assurance Engagements enable the quality of audit investigations and the reliability of audit conclusions. One of the most important aspects of compliance with international standards of auditing is the provision of consistency and uniformity of these standards in audits conducted on a global scale. The general principles and conceptual framework presented in the international standards of this audit create a basis for conducting audits in a systematic and comparative manner in economic entities with different business characteristics.

Application of international audit standards to the practice of audit organizations operating in the market of audit services of the Republic of Uzbekistan is of urgent importance today. It is known that liabilities are one of the most important objects in the audit of financial statements. Economists have conducted scientific and research work on improving the audit of obligations. However, the methodological issues of conducting and organizing the audit of obligations are not fully covered in these scientific studies.

Conducting audits of business entities in accordance with international standards of auditing is important for the formation of high-quality, consistent and fully disclosed audit conclusions. This, in turn, increases the reliability and truthfulness of financial statements, contributes to the efficient functioning of capital markets and increases the confidence of stakeholders in the auditing

profession. Auditing financial statements based on international auditing standards is crucial for several reasons (Figure 1).

Consistency and comparability	International auditing standards provide a common framework for auditors worldwide, ensuring consistency in audit practices. This allows for comparability of audit results across different companies, industries, and countries.
Quality assurance	International auditing standards set out principles and procedures that help ensure the quality of audits. By adhering to these standards, auditors can enhance the reliability and credibility of financial information, which is essential for stakeholders making informed decisions.
Enhanced transparency	Adherence to international auditing standards promotes transparency in financial reporting and auditing processes. When auditors follow established standards, it becomes easier for stakeholders to understand and trust the financial information presented in the statements.
Risk mitigation	International auditing standards include requirements and guidelines aimed at identifying and addressing risks effectively during the audit process. By following these standards, auditors can better identify potential errors, fraud, or misstatements in financial statements, thereby reducing the risk of material misstatement.
Global acceptance	With globalization, companies often operate across borders and are subject to regulations from various jurisdictions. Adhering to international auditing standards ensures that audits are conducted in a manner accepted globally, facilitating compliance with regulatory requirements in different countries
Investor confidence	Investors and other stakeholders rely on audited financial statements to make investment decisions. Auditing financial statements based on international standards provides assurance to investors that the information they are relying on is credible and has been subject to rigorous scrutiny.
Regulatory compliance	Many regulatory bodies and stock exchanges around the world require audits to be conducted in accordance with international auditing standards. Compliance with these standards helps organizations meet regulatory requirements and avoid potential legal or regulatory issues.
Continuous improvement	International auditing standards are regularly updated and revised to reflect changes in business practices, technology, and regulatory requirements. By adhering to these standards, auditors can stay abreast of developments in the profession and continuously improve audit quality.

Figure 1. The importance of auditing financial statements based on international auditing standards¹

The results of the financial statement audit conducted on the basis of international audit standards are accepted and recognized globally. Also, the organization and conduct of audits based on the requirements of international audit standards serves as the main lever for increasing the reliability of financial statements. International standards of auditing reflect the most basic systematic approaches to solving problematic aspects of financial reporting and auditing.

Professional skepticism is an essential mindset and attribute that auditors must maintain throughout the audit process. It involves a questioning attitude, critical assessment of evidence, and a cautious approach to gathering and evaluating information. Here's why professional skepticism is crucial:

1. Objectivity: Professional skepticism helps auditors maintain

¹ Made by author.

objectivity and impartiality. By approaching audit procedures with a skeptical mindset, auditors are less likely to be influenced by personal biases or preconceived notions.

2. **Risk assessment**: Skepticism enables auditors to identify and assess risks effectively. By questioning the validity of information provided by management and considering potential areas of fraud or error, auditors can better prioritize their audit procedures and focus on areas of higher risk.

3. **Detection of fraud**: Professional skepticism is essential for detecting fraud. Skeptical auditors are more likely to recognize red flags, inconsistencies, or unusual patterns that may indicate fraudulent activities. Their cautious approach can help uncover fraudulent schemes that might otherwise go unnoticed.

4. **Evaluation of evidence**: Skepticism guides auditors in critically evaluating the sufficiency and reliability of audit evidence. Instead of accepting information at face value, skeptical auditors verify the accuracy and relevance of evidence through independent inquiry and corroborating procedures.

5. Enhanced audit quality: Maintaining a skeptical mindset contributes to the overall quality of the audit. Skeptical auditors are more thorough in their examination of financial statements and internal controls, reducing the likelihood of material misstatements going undetected.

6. **Professional judgment**: Professional skepticism is closely linked to the exercise of professional judgment. Skeptical auditors weigh the available evidence, consider alternative explanations, and make informed decisions based on their assessment of the risks and circumstances.

7. **Regulatory requirements**: Many auditing standards and guidelines explicitly require auditors to exercise professional skepticism. Compliance with these requirements helps ensure that audits are conducted with due care and diligence, meeting the expectations of regulatory authorities and stakeholders.

8. **Ethical behavior**: Professional skepticism aligns with the ethical responsibilities of auditors to act in the public interest and uphold the integrity of the profession. Skeptical auditors are less susceptible to pressures that may compromise their independence or ethical standards.

In summary, professional skepticism is a fundamental principle of auditing that promotes diligence, thoroughness, and integrity in the audit process. It serves as a safeguard against errors, fraud, and bias, ultimately enhancing the reliability and credibility of audit findings and financial reporting.

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