

6 November 2025

APESB issues a new compiled Code and prohibitions guidance

Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board Limited (APESB) has today issued a newly compiled Code for APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (APES 110) and updated guidance to assist auditors, firms, professional accountants, sustainability assurance practitioners and other stakeholders with implementing the prohibitions in the Code.

In November 2018, APESB issued the restructured Australian Code, which took effect on 1 January 2020. This compiled Code incorporates the eleven amending standards issued up to July 2025, including the most recent Amending Standard for [Sustainability Assurance and Reporting and the use of External Experts](#) (effective 1 January 2026).

The compilation details for this compiled Code provide further information on how the amending standards have impacted the restructured Code, and can be accessed on the APESB website: www.apesb.org.au.

APESB has incorporated interactive PDF features into the compiled Code, such as the bookmarks tab section for the contents page, dynamic links to sections and paragraphs, pop-up definitions upon mouse rollover for defined terms and links to external websites.

APESB has also updated guidance on [prohibitions](#) applicable to audit, review and sustainability assurance engagements to maintain their independence. The updates were to ensure alignment with the compiled Code including the new Sustainability Amending Standard.

The compiled Code currently contains footnotes which refer to *Corporations Act 2001* requirements that the same auditor who performs the financial statement audit should also carry out the sustainability assurance engagement. However, this position differs from FAQs subsequently issued by [ASIC](#). Further details on this matter are set out in a [Technical Alert](#) issued by APESB.

The compiled Code, the amending standards, prohibitions guidance and technical alert on the sustainability auditor are available for review on the APESB website: www.apesb.org.au.

Stay up to date with APESB standards by visiting our website at www.apesb.org.au, downloading our app from one of the app stores listed below, or following us on [LinkedIn](#).

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