

Technical Alert

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APESB issues guidance on prohibitions on services and activities for all audit and review clients

The Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board (APESB) has today issued further guidance to assist auditors, audit firms, professional accountants and other stakeholders with the implementation of the restructured APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* which was issued in November 2018 and became effective on 1 January 2020.

Auditors are required to be independent when undertaking audits, reviews and other assurance engagements. One key aspect of independence relates to the requirements that prohibit the provision of specific services and activities to audit and review clients.

APESB issued a resource in November 2019 that set out a high-level summary on prohibitions in the restructured Code with respect to Public Interest Entities (PIE) audit clients to assist professional accountants identify professional services and activities that are prohibited.

APESB has now expanded and amended this guidance to cover all audit and review engagements. The guidance provides a summary of strictly prohibited non-assurance services, prohibited non-assurance services based on materiality or other factors. It also includes a summary of prohibitions relating to interests, relationships and actions or matters which need to be assessed against the enhanced conceptual framework.

This publication also provides interactive links throughout the document to the relevant provisions in the restructured Code, legislation and other materials.

The summary of APES 110 *Code Prohibitions applicable to Auditors for all Audit and Review Engagements* is available to download on the APESB website at: www.apesb.org.au

To obtain a full understanding of the auditor independence requirements, stakeholders are encouraged to refer to the relevant provisions in the restructured APES 110. Please note that this publication does not amend or override the Code, the text of which alone is authoritative. Reading this publication is not a substitute for reading the Code.

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