

**IESBA**

International  
Ethics Standards  
Board for Accountants®

# Telstra and Australia Post Panel

**27 April 2023**

**Channa Wijesinghe, IESBA Member and APESB CEO**

# About the IESBA Code



**Applies to all  
PAs**



**Principles-  
based**



**Robust  
approval  
process**



**Adopted/used  
in approx. 130  
jurisdictions**



**International Ethics Standards  
Board for Accountants®**

**Handbook of the  
International Code of Ethics  
for Professional Accountants**

—  
including  
International Independence Standards

*2022 Edition*

# About the IESBA Code

International Ethics Standards  
Board for Accountants®

Handbook of the  
International Code of Ethics  
for Professional Accountants

including  
International Independence Standards

2022 Edition

Full adoption of  
the IESBA Code  
by APESB in  
Australia



APESB  
Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board

Compiled APES 110 Code of Ethics for  
Professional Accountants (including  
Independence Standards)

Compiled as at November 2022

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# Technology Revisions to the Code

- Issued in early April 2023
- Guides ethical mindset and behavior of PAs in dealing with changes brought by technology
- Effective Dec 2024

Draws attention to the **competence, confidentiality, & leadership** imperatives of the digital age

Considers ethical threats from **use of technology & complexity** when exercising professional judgment

Addresses the ethical dimension of **using output of technology**

Strengthens **auditor independence** for technology-related services & business relationships

Applies to assurance on **non-financial information** (e.g. ESG disclosures)



# Professional Skills Needed

## 113.1 A2

The knowledge and skills necessary for a professional activity vary depending on the nature of the activity being undertaken. For example, in addition to the application of any technical knowledge relevant to the professional activity, interpersonal, communication and organizational skills facilitate the professional accountant's interaction with entities and individuals with whom the accountant interacts.

## Rationale

- Emphasizes the types of professional skills needed by PAs in the digital age
- Based on specific learning outcomes of international education standards:
  - Form the basis for CPD and incoming qualification programs for PAs
  - Recently revised to reflect skills needed by PAs in the digital age

# Sufficiency of Information Provided

## R113.3

Where appropriate, a professional accountant shall make clients, the employing organization, or other users of the accountant's professional ~~services or~~ activities, aware of the limitations inherent in the ~~services or~~ activities **and explain the implications of those limitations.**

### **Rationale**

- Trust arises from being transparent to stakeholders
- Objective is so stakeholders have the information necessary to understand the implications of limitations inherent in a PA's services or activities

# Confidentiality and Data Governance

Glossary: Confidential information

Any information, data or other material in whatever form or medium (including written, electronic, visual or oral) that is not publicly available.

114.1 A12

Maintaining the confidentiality of information acquired in the course of professional and business relationships involves the professional accountant taking appropriate action to protect the confidentiality of such information in the course of its collection, use, transfer, storage or retention, dissemination and lawful destruction.

## Rationale

- Recognizes the increase in data across all mediums, and ease of access to such data
- Emphasizes the importance of maintaining confidentiality throughout the data governance cycle

# Complex Circumstances



Managing complexity involves:

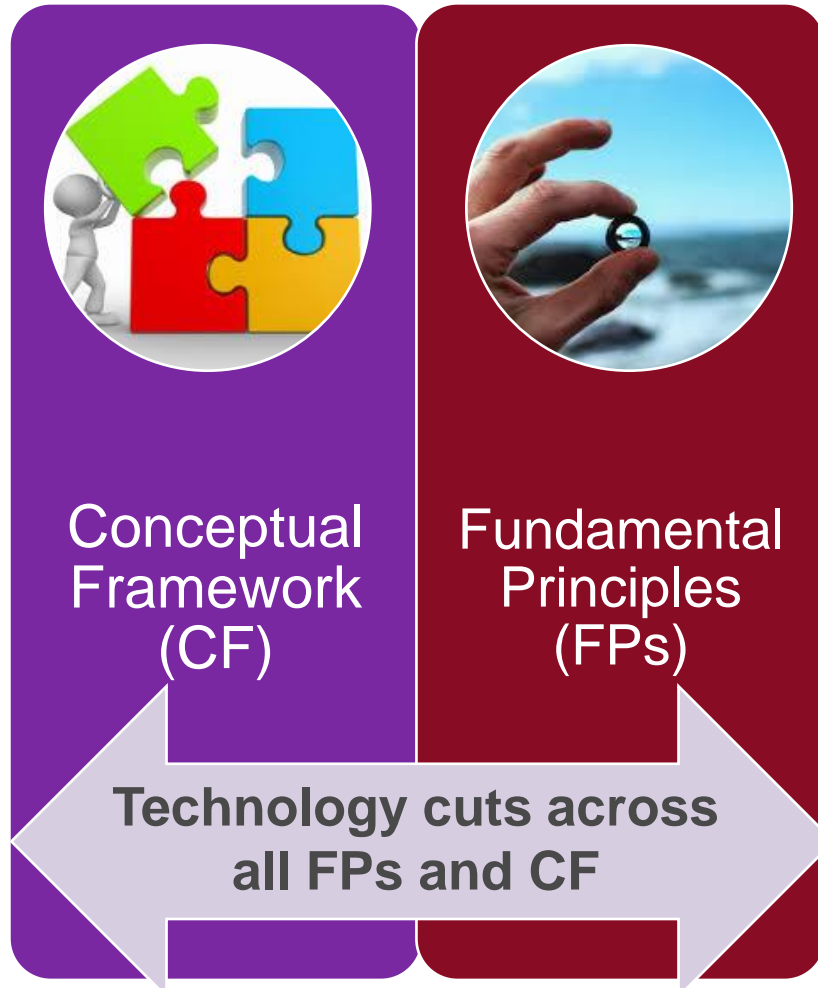
- Making the firm or employing organization and, if appropriate, relevant stakeholders aware of the inherent uncertainties or difficulties arising from the facts and circumstances.
- Being alert to any developments or changes in the facts and circumstances and assessing whether they might impact any judgments the accountant has made.
- Analyzing and investigating as relevant, any uncertain elements, the variables and assumptions and how they are connected or interdependent.
- Using technology to analyze relevant data to inform the professional accountant's judgment.
- Consulting with others, including experts, to ensure appropriate challenge and additional input as part of the evaluation process.

## Rationale

- Recognizes the complexity arising from the dynamic technological innovations and increasing geopolitical interconnectedness facilitated by technology.



# Technology and the Conceptual Framework



- The data available might not be sufficient for the effective use of the technology.
- The technology might not be appropriate for the purpose for which it is to be used.
- The accountant might not have sufficient information and expertise, or access to an expert with sufficient understanding, to use and explain the technology and its appropriateness for the purpose intended.
- The technology was designed or developed using the knowledge, expertise or judgment of the accountant or employing organization.

Learn more:

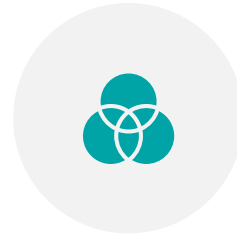
[Technology-related Revisions to the Code](#)

- The nature of the activity to be performed by the technology.
- The expected use of, or extent of reliance on, the output of the technology.
- Whether the accountant has the ability, or has access to an expert with the ability, to understand, use and explain the technology and its appropriateness for the purpose intended.
- Whether the technology used has been appropriately tested and evaluated for the purpose intended.
- Prior experience with the technology and whether its use for specific purposes is generally accepted.
- The employing organization's oversight of the design, development, implementation, operation, maintenance, monitoring, updating or upgrading of the technology.
- The controls relating to the use of the technology, including procedures for authorizing user access to the technology and overseeing such use.

## Factors to Consider When a PA Intends to Use the Output of Technology

Learn more:  
[\*Technology-related Revisions to the Code\*](#)

# Available Resources



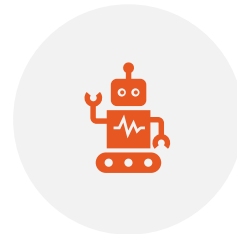
**PHASE 1 FACT  
FINDING REPORT  
(2019-2021)**



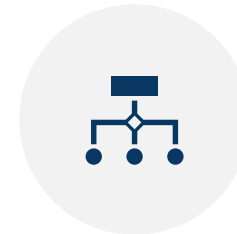
**PHASE 2 FACT  
FINDING REPORT  
(2021-2022)**



**TECHNOLOGY  
FOCUS PAGE  
(RELATED  
RESOURCES)**



**EXPLORING THE  
IESBA CODE –  
ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
LANDSCAPE**



**TECHNOLOGY-  
RELATED  
REVISIONS TO THE  
CODE**

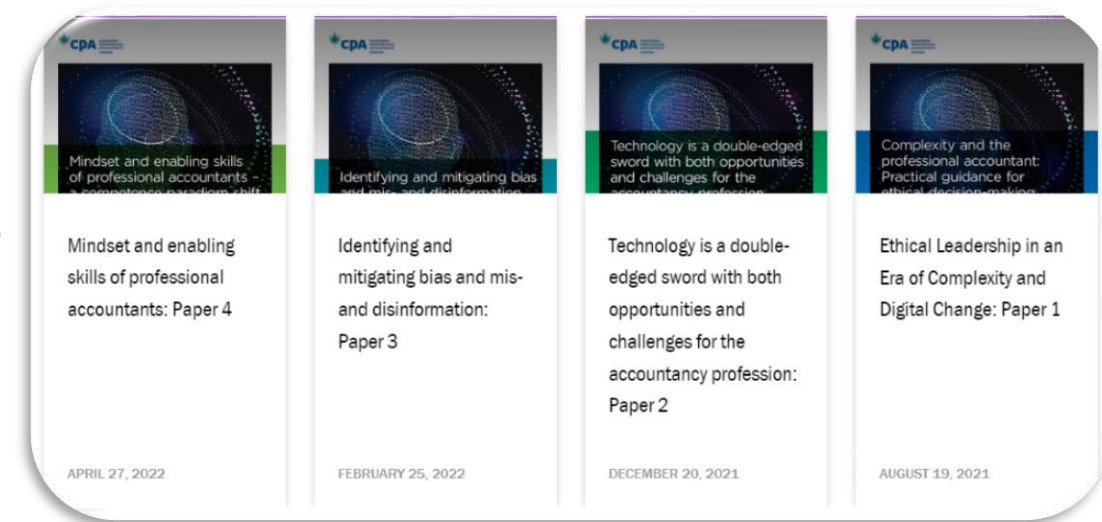


**ACCESS OR  
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IESBA CODE**

# Technology-related Thought-leadership

Technology **thought leadership** series under theme *ethical leadership in an era of complexity and digital change*:

- Paper 1, *Complexity and the Professional Accountant: Practical Guidance for Ethical Decision-Making*
  - Paper 2, *Technology is a Double-Edged Sword*
  - Paper 3, *Managing Bias and Mis/Disinformation*
  - Paper 4, *Mindset and Enabling Skills*
- And a follow on publication entitled *Ethical Leadership in a Digital Era: Applying the IESBA Code to Selected Technology-related Scenarios*.



# Questions/ Comments



