



NZ AUDITING
AND ASSURANCE
STANDARDS BOARD

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING (NEW ZEALAND) 710

Comparative Information – Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements (ISA (NZ) 710)

This compilation was prepared in December 2013 and incorporates amendments up to and including December 2013.

Effective for audits of historical financial statements for periods beginning on or after 1 September, 2011.

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ISBN 978-1-927174-31-9

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING (NEW ZEALAND) 710

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION – CORRESPONDING FIGURES AND COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*Issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board***CONTENTS**

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International Standard on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISA (NZ)) 710, "Comparative Information – Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements" should be read in conjunction with ISA (NZ) 200, "Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand)."

History of Amendments

Table of pronouncements – ISA (NZ) 710 *Comparative Information – Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements*

This table lists the pronouncements establishing and amending ISA (NZ) 710.

Pronouncements	Date approved	Early operative date	Effective date
International Standard on Auditing (New Zealand) 710	July 2011	-	This ISA (NZ) is effective for audits of historical financial statements for periods beginning on or after 1 September, 2011.
Amendments to the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) to Promote Improved Audit Quality	September 2013		Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 31 December 2014
Use of management and those charged with governance	December 2013		Effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after 1 July 2014

Table of Amended Paragraphs in ISA (NZ) 710		
Paragraph affected	How affected	By...[date]
NZA7.1	Amended	Amendments to the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) to Promote Improved Audit Quality [September 2013]
Various	Amended	Use of management and those charged with governance [Dec 2013]

Introduction

Scope of this ISA (NZ)

1. This International Standard on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISA (NZ)) deals with the auditor's responsibilities relating to comparative information in an audit of financial statements. When the financial statements of the prior period have been audited by a predecessor auditor or were not audited, the requirements and guidance in ISA (NZ) 510¹ regarding opening balances also apply.

The Nature of Comparative Information

2. The nature of the comparative information that is presented in an entity's financial statements depends on the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. There are two different broad approaches to the auditor's reporting responsibilities in respect of such comparative information: corresponding figures and comparative financial statements. The approach to be adopted is often specified by law or regulation but may also be specified in the terms of engagement.
3. The essential audit reporting differences between the approaches are:
 - (a) For corresponding figures, the auditor's opinion on the financial statements refers to the current period only; whereas
 - (b) For comparative financial statements, the auditor's opinion refers to each period for which financial statements are presented.

This ISA (NZ) addresses separately the auditor's reporting requirements for each approach.

Effective Date

4. This ISA (NZ) is effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after 1 September, 2011.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the auditor are:
 - (a) To obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about whether the comparative information included in the financial statements has been presented, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements for comparative information in the applicable financial reporting framework; and
 - (b) To report in accordance with the auditor's reporting responsibilities.

Definitions

6. For purposes of the ISAs (NZ), the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
 - (a) Comparative information – The amounts and disclosures included in the financial statements in respect of one or more prior periods in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

¹ ISA (NZ) 510, "Initial Audit Engagements – Opening Balances."

- (b) Corresponding figures – Comparative information where amounts and other disclosures for the prior period are included as an integral part of the current period financial statements, and are intended to be read only in relation to the amounts and other disclosures relating to the current period (referred to as “current period figures”). The level of detail presented in the corresponding amounts and disclosures is dictated primarily by its relevance to the current period figures.
- (c) Comparative financial statements – Comparative information where amounts and other disclosures for the prior period are included for comparison with the financial statements of the current period but, if audited, are referred to in the auditor’s opinion. The level of information included in those comparative financial statements is comparable with that of the financial statements of the current period.

For purposes of this ISA (NZ), references to “prior period” should be read as “prior periods” when the comparative information includes amounts and disclosures for more than one period.

Requirements

Audit Procedures

7. The auditor shall determine whether the financial statements include the comparative information required by the applicable financial reporting framework and whether such information is appropriately classified. For this purpose, the auditor shall evaluate whether:
 - (a) The comparative information agrees with the amounts and other disclosures presented in the prior period or, when appropriate, have been restated; and
 - (b) The accounting policies reflected in the comparative information are consistent with those applied in the current period or, if there have been changes in accounting policies, whether those changes have been properly accounted for and adequately presented and disclosed.
8. If the auditor becomes aware of a possible material misstatement in the comparative information while performing the current period audit, the auditor shall perform such additional audit procedures as are necessary in the circumstances to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to determine whether a material misstatement exists. If the auditor had audited the prior period’s financial statements, the auditor shall also follow the relevant requirements of ISA (NZ) 560.² If the prior period financial statements are amended, the auditor shall determine that the comparative information agrees with the amended financial statements.
9. As required by ISA (NZ) 580,³ the auditor shall request written representations for all periods referred to in the auditor’s opinion. The auditor shall also obtain a specific written representation regarding any restatement made to correct a material misstatement in prior period financial statements that affect the comparative information. (Ref: Para. A1)

² ISA (NZ) 560, “Subsequent Events,” paragraphs 14-17.

³ ISA (NZ) 580, “Written Representations,” paragraph 14.

Audit Reporting

Corresponding Figures

10. When corresponding figures are presented, the auditor's opinion shall not refer to the corresponding figures except in the circumstances described in paragraphs 11, 12, and 14. (Ref: Para. A2)
11. If the auditor's report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified opinion, a disclaimer of opinion, or an adverse opinion and the matter which gave rise to the modification is unresolved, the auditor shall modify the auditor's opinion on the current period's financial statements. In the Basis for Modification paragraph in the auditor's report, the auditor shall either:
 - (a) Refer to both the current period's figures and the corresponding figures in the description of the matter giving rise to the modification when the effects or possible effects of the matter on the current period's figures are material; or
 - (b) In other cases, explain that the audit opinion has been modified because of the effects or possible effects of the unresolved matter on the comparability of the current period's figures and the corresponding figures. (Ref: Para. A3-A5)
12. If the auditor obtains audit evidence that a material misstatement exists in the prior period financial statements on which an unmodified opinion has been previously issued, and the corresponding figures have not been properly restated or appropriate disclosures have not been made, the auditor shall express a qualified opinion or an adverse opinion in the auditor's report on the current period financial statements, modified with respect to the corresponding figures included therein. (Ref: Para. A6)

Prior Period Financial Statements Audited by a Predecessor Auditor

13. If the financial statements of the prior period were audited by a predecessor auditor and the auditor is not prohibited by law or regulation from referring to the predecessor auditor's report on the corresponding figures and decides to do so, the auditor shall state in an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report:
 - (a) That the financial statements of the prior period were audited by the predecessor auditor;
 - (b) The type of opinion expressed by the predecessor auditor and, if the opinion was modified, the reasons therefore; and
 - (c) The date of that report. (Ref: Para. A7)

Prior Period Financial Statements Not Audited

14. If the prior period financial statements were not audited, the auditor shall state in an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report that the corresponding figures are unaudited. Such a statement does not, however, relieve the auditor of the requirement to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that the opening balances do not contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements.⁴

⁴ ISA (NZ) 510, paragraph 6.

Comparative Financial Statements

15. When comparative financial statements are presented, the auditor's opinion shall refer to each period for which financial statements are presented and on which an audit opinion is expressed. (Ref: Para. A8-A9)
16. When reporting on prior period financial statements in connection with the current period's audit, if the auditor's opinion on such prior period financial statements differs from the opinion the auditor previously expressed, the auditor shall disclose the substantive reasons for the different opinion in an Other Matter paragraph in accordance with ISA (NZ) 706.⁵ (Ref: Para. A10)

Prior Period Financial Statements Audited by a Predecessor Auditor

17. If the financial statements of the prior period were audited by a predecessor auditor, in addition to expressing an opinion on the current period's financial statements, the auditor shall state in an Other Matter paragraph:
 - (a) that the financial statements of the prior period were audited by a predecessor auditor;
 - (b) the type of opinion expressed by the predecessor auditor and, if the opinion was modified, the reasons therefore; and
 - (c) the date of that report,
 unless the predecessor auditor's report on the prior period's financial statements is reissued with the financial statements.
18. If the auditor concludes that a material misstatement exists that affects the prior period financial statements on which the predecessor auditor had previously reported without modification, the auditor shall communicate the misstatement with the appropriate level of management and, unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity,⁶ those charged with governance and request that the predecessor auditor be informed. If the prior period financial statements are amended, and the predecessor auditor agrees to issue a new auditor's report on the amended financial statements of the prior period, the auditor shall report only on the current period. (Ref: Para. A11)

Prior Period Financial Statements Not Audited

19. If the prior period financial statements were not audited, the auditor shall state in an Other Matter paragraph that the comparative financial statements are unaudited. Such a statement does not, however, relieve the auditor of the requirement to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that the opening balances do not contain misstatements that materially affect the current period's financial statements.⁷

⁵ ISA (NZ) 706, "Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report," paragraph 8.

⁶ ISA (NZ) 260, "Communication with Those Charged with Governance," paragraph 13.

⁷ ISA (NZ) 510, paragraph 6.

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Audit Procedures

Written Representations (Ref: Para. 9)

A1. [Amended by the NZAuASB.]

NZA1.1 In the case of comparative financial statements, the written representations are requested for all periods referred to in the auditor's opinion because those charged with governance need to reaffirm that the written representations they previously made with respect to the prior period remain appropriate. In the case of corresponding figures, the written representations are requested for the financial statements of the current period only because the auditor's opinion is on those financial statements, which include the corresponding figures. However, the auditor requests a specific written representation regarding any restatement made to correct a material misstatement in the prior period financial statements that affect the comparative information.

Audit Reporting

Corresponding Figures

No Reference in Auditor's Opinion (Ref: Para. 10)

A2. The auditor's opinion does not refer to the corresponding figures because the auditor's opinion is on the current period financial statements as a whole, including the corresponding figures.

Modification in Auditor's Report on the Prior Period Unresolved (Ref: Para. 11)

A3. When the auditor's report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified opinion, a disclaimer of opinion, or an adverse opinion and the matter which gave rise to the modified opinion is resolved and properly accounted for or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, the auditor's opinion on the current period need not refer to the previous modification.

A4. When the auditor's opinion on the prior period, as previously expressed, was modified, the unresolved matter that gave rise to the modification may not be relevant to the current period figures. Nevertheless, a qualified opinion, a disclaimer of opinion, or an adverse opinion (as applicable) may be required on the current period's financial statements because of the effects or possible effects of the unresolved matter on the comparability of the current and corresponding figures.

A5. Illustrative examples of the auditor's report if the auditor's report on the prior period included a modified opinion and the matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved are contained in Illustrations 1 and 2 of the Appendix.

Misstatement in Prior Period Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 12)

A6. When the prior period financial statements that are misstated have not been amended and an auditor's report has not been reissued, but the corresponding figures have been properly restated or appropriate disclosures have been made in the current period financial statements, the auditor's report may include an Emphasis of Matter

paragraph describing the circumstances and referring to, where relevant, disclosures that fully describe the matter that can be found in the financial statements (see ISA (NZ) 706).

Prior Period Financial Statements Audited by a Predecessor Auditor (Ref: Para. 13)

A7. An illustrative example of the auditor's report if the prior period financial statements were audited by a predecessor auditor and the auditor is not prohibited by law or regulation from referring to the predecessor auditor's report on the corresponding figures is contained in Illustration 3 of the Appendix.

NZA7.1 In New Zealand, the auditor's opinion on financial statements prepared under New Zealand generally accepted accounting practice refers to financial statements for the current period, which include corresponding figures, and not to comparative financial statements. Consequently, paragraphs 15,16,17,18 and 19, and related paragraphs A8, A9, A10 and A11 have no application.

Comparative Financial Statements

Reference in Auditor's Opinion (Ref: Para. 15)

A8. Because the auditor's report on comparative financial statements applies to the financial statements for each of the periods presented, the auditor may express a qualified opinion or an adverse opinion, disclaim an opinion, or include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph with respect to one or more periods, while expressing a different auditor's opinion on the financial statements of the other period.

A9. An illustrative example of the auditor's report if the auditor is required to report on both the current and the prior period financial statements in connection with the current year's audit and the prior period included a modified opinion and the matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved, is contained in Illustration 4 of the Appendix.

Opinion on Prior Period Financial Statements Different from Previous Opinion (Ref: Para. 16)

A10. When reporting on the prior period financial statements in connection with the current period's audit, the opinion expressed on the prior period financial statements may be different from the opinion previously expressed if the auditor becomes aware of circumstances or events that materially affect the financial statements of a prior period during the course of the audit of the current period. In some jurisdictions, the auditor may have additional reporting responsibilities designed to prevent future reliance on the auditor's previously issued report on the prior period financial statements.

Prior Period Financial Statements Audited by a Predecessor Auditor (Ref: Para. 18)

A11. The predecessor auditor may be unable or unwilling to reissue the auditor's report on the prior period financial statements. An Other Matter paragraph of the auditor's report may indicate that the predecessor auditor reported on the financial statements of the prior period before amendment. In addition, if the auditor is engaged to audit and obtains sufficient appropriate audit evidence to be satisfied as to the appropriateness of the amendment, the auditor's report may also include the following paragraph:

As part of our audit of the 20X2 financial statements, we also audited the adjustments described in Note X that were applied to amend the 20X1

financial statements. In our opinion, such adjustments are appropriate and have been properly applied. We were not engaged to audit, review, or apply any procedures to the 20X1 financial statements of the company other than with respect to the adjustments and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on the 20X1 financial statements taken as a whole.

Illustrations of Auditors' Reports

Illustration 1 - Corresponding Figures (Ref: Para. A5)

Report illustrative of the circumstances described in paragraph 11(a), as follows:

- The company is a reporting entity as defined by the Financial Reporting Act 1993.
- The auditor's report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified opinion.
- The matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved.
- The effects or possible effects of the matter on the current period's figures are material and require a modification to the auditor's opinion regarding the current period figures.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Limited

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Limited on pages to, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Directors'⁸ Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the

⁸ Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

effectiveness of the entity's internal control.⁹ An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our unmodified opinion on cash flows and our qualified audit opinion on the financial position and financial performance.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, ABC Limited.

Basis for Qualified Opinion on the Financial Position and Financial Performance

As discussed in Note X to the financial statements, no depreciation has been provided in the financial statements, which constitutes a departure from New Zealand Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards. This is the result of a decision taken by the directors at the start of the preceding financial year and caused us to qualify our audit opinion on the financial statements relating to that year. Based on the straight-line method of depreciation and annual rates of 5% for the building and 20% for the equipment, the loss for the year should be increased by xxx in 20X1 and xxx in 20X0, property, plant and equipment should be reduced by accumulated depreciation of xxx in 20X1 and xxx in 20X0, and the accumulated loss should be increased by xxx in 20X1 and xxx in 20X0.

Qualified Opinion on the Financial Position and Financial Performance

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements on pages to

- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
- give a true and fair view of the financial position of ABC Limited as at December 31, 20X1, and of its financial performance for the year then ended.

Opinion on Cash Flows

In our opinion, the financial statements on pages to give a true and fair view of the cash flows of ABC Limited for the year ended December 31, 20X1.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the Financial Reporting Act 1993, we report that:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations that we have required.
- In our opinion, proper accounting records have been kept by ABC Limited as far as appears from our examination of those records.

[Add any matters required to be included under any other legislation or regulation.]

⁹ In circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, this sentence would be worded as follows: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances."

[Auditor's signature]

[Date of the auditor's report]

[Auditor's address]

Illustration 2 - Corresponding Figures (Ref: Para. A5)

Report illustrative of the circumstances described in paragraph 11(b), as follows:

- **The company is a reporting entity as defined by the Financial Reporting Act 1993.**
- **The auditor’s report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified opinion.**
- **The matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved.**
- **The effects or possible effects of the matter on the current period’s figures are immaterial but require a modification to the auditor’s opinion because of the effects or possible effects of the unresolved matter on the comparability of the current period’s figures and the corresponding figures.**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Limited

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ABC Limited on pages to, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Directors’¹⁰ Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control.¹¹ An audit also includes evaluating the

¹⁰ Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

¹¹ In circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, this sentence would be worded as follows: “In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s

appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our unmodified opinion on cash flows and our qualified audit opinion on financial position and financial performance.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, ABC Limited.

Basis for Qualified Opinion on Financial Position and Financial Performance

Because we were appointed auditors of ABC Limited during 20X0, we were not able to observe the counting of the physical inventories at the beginning of that period or satisfy ourselves concerning those inventory quantities by alternative means. Since opening inventories affect the determination of the results of operations, we were unable to determine whether adjustments to the results of operations and opening retained earnings might be necessary for 20X0. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the period ended 31 December, 20X0 was modified accordingly. Our opinion on the current period's financial statements is also modified because of the possible effect of this matter on the comparability of the current period's figures and the corresponding figures.

Qualified Opinion on Financial Position and Financial Performance

In our opinion, except for the possible effects on the corresponding figures of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements on pages to

- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
- give a true and fair view of the financial position of ABC Limited as at December 31, 20X1, and of its financial performance for the year then ended.

Opinion on Cash Flows

In our opinion, the financial statements on pages to give a true and fair view of the cash flows of ABC Limited for the year ended December 31, 20X1.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the Financial Reporting Act 1993, we report that:

- In the above respect alone we have not obtained all the information and explanations we have required.
- In our opinion, proper accounting records have been kept by ABC Limited as far as appears from our examination of those records.

[Add any matters required to be included under any other legislation or regulation.]

[Auditor's signature]

[Date of the auditor's report]

preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.”

[Auditor's address]

Illustration 3 - Corresponding Figures: (Ref: Para. A7)

Report illustrative of the circumstances described in paragraph 13, as follows:

- **The company is a reporting entity as defined by the Financial Reporting Act 1993.**
- **The prior period's financial statements were audited by a predecessor auditor.**
- **The auditor is not prohibited by law or regulation from referring to the predecessor auditor's report on the corresponding figures and decides to do so.**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Limited

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Limited on pages to, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Directors'¹² Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.¹³ An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates

¹² Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

¹³ In circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, this sentence would be worded as follows: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and presentation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances."

made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, ABC Limited.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements on pages to:

- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
- give a true and fair view of the financial position of ABC Limited as at December 31, 20X1, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Other Matter

The financial statements of ABC Limited for the year ended December 31, 20X0, were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on March 31, 20X1.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the Financial Reporting Act 1993, we report that:

- We have received all the information and explanations we have required.
- In our opinion proper accounting records have been kept by ABC Limited as far as appears from our examination of those records.

[Add any matters required to be included under any other legislation or regulation.]

[Auditor's signature]

[Date of the auditor's report]

[Auditor's address]

Illustration 4 - Comparative Financial Statements: (Ref: Para. A9)

Report illustrative of the circumstances described in paragraph 15, as follows:

- **The company is a reporting entity as defined by the Financial Reporting Act 1993.**
- **Auditor is required to report on both the current period financial statements and the prior period financial statements in connection with the current year's audit.**
- **The auditor's report on the prior period, as previously issued, included a qualified opinion.**
- **The matter giving rise to the modification is unresolved.**
- **The effects or possible effects of the matter on the current period's figures are material to both the current period financial statements and prior period financial statements and require a modification to the auditor's opinion.**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Limited

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Limited on pages to, which comprise the balance sheets as at December 31, 20X1 and 20X0, and the income statements, statements of changes in equity and cash flow statements for the years then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Directors'¹⁴ Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the

¹⁴ Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

effectiveness of the entity's internal control.¹⁵ An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained in our audits is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our unmodified opinion on cash flows and our qualified audit opinion on the financial position and financial performance.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, we have no relationship with, or interest in, ABC Limited.

Basis for Qualified Opinion on Financial Position and Financial Performance

As discussed in Note X to the financial statements, no depreciation has been provided in the financial statements, which constitutes a departure from New Zealand Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards. Based on the straight-line method of depreciation and annual rates of 5% for the building and 20% for the equipment, the loss for the year should be increased by xxx in 20X1 and xxx in 20X0, property, plant and equipment should be reduced by accumulated depreciation of xxx in 20X1 and xxx in 20X0, and the accumulated loss should be increased by xxx in 20X1 and xxx in 20X0.

Qualified Opinion on Financial Position and Financial Performance

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements on pages to

- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
- give a true and fair view of the financial position of ABC Limited as at December 31, 20X1 and 20X0 and of its financial performance for the years then ended.

Opinion on Cash Flows

In our opinion, the financial statements on pages to give a true and fair view of the cash flows of ABC Limited for the years ended on December 20X1 and 20X0.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the Financial Reporting Act 1993, we report that:

- We have obtained the information and explanations that we have required.
- In our opinion, proper accounting records have been kept by ABC Limited as far as appears from an examination of those records.

[Add any matters required to be included under any other legislation or regulation.]

[Auditor's signature]

[Date of the auditor's report]

¹⁵ In circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, this sentence would be worded as follows: "In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances."

[Auditor's address]

ACCOMPANYING ATTACHMENT: CONFORMITY TO THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON AUDITING

This conformity statement accompanies but is not part of ISA (NZ) 710.

Conformity with International Standards on Auditing

This International Standard on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISA (NZ)) conforms to International Standard on Auditing ISA 710 *Comparative Information – Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Statements*, issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), an independent standard-setting board of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

Paragraphs that have been added to this ISA (NZ) (and do not appear in the text of the equivalent ISA) are identified with the prefix “NZ”.

This ISA (NZ) incorporates terminology and definitions used in New Zealand. Paragraphs where references to “management” have been amended have been labelled as NZ paragraphs.

Compliance with this ISA (NZ) enables compliance with ISA 710.

Comparison with Australian Auditing Standards

In Australia the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) has issued Australian Auditing Standard ASA 710 *Comparative Information – Corresponding Figures and Comparative Financial Reports*.

ASA 710 conforms to ISA 710.