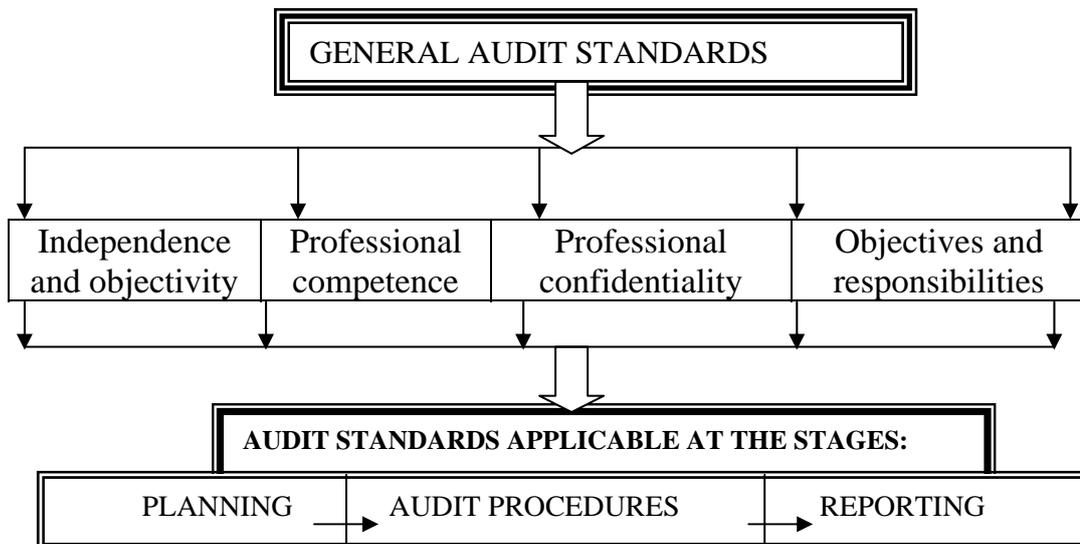


GENERAL AUDIT STANDARDS

The General Audit Standards shall specify the basic compliance requirements necessary to perform the audit activity at a high level and establish general principles applicable at all stages and for all types of audit performed by the Court of Accounts.

The Court of Accounts established the following General Audit Standards that, schematically, look as follows:



1.1. Independence and objectivity

The audit activity performed by the controller of the Court of Accounts (hereinafter referred to as “controller”) shall be accomplished under full independence, that is functional, operational, and financial independence, of the entity.

Controller’s audit activity shall imply his/her entire independence of any influence, in particular, independence of personal interests or external pressure. The controller shall remain independent of the entity, treating objectively the audit results.

The Court of Accounts’ legal competence shall provide unlimited and full access for the controller to acts, documents and information necessary for the discharge of his/her audit attributions, regardless of the natural or legal persons who hold them. In its turn, the audited entity shall ensure for the controller the access to any data and information necessary and relevant for the proper performance of his/her mission.

For controller’s independence, it is important that the entity would not influence the execution of his/her mandate. The controller may not be obliged by the entity to perform, modify or refrain from the performance of some audit procedures, as well as to modify the audit findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

Within the legal audit mandate, the controller should avoid the influence of any type of political activity that could prevent, and be perceived by the society as preventing, his/her impartial delivery of professional duties.

Controller's conclusions, opinions, and recommendations should be well-considered and influenced by nothing but evidence and justified and legal facts. He/she should apply correctly the information and explanations submitted by the entities or third parties, so that the conclusions are not affected by the opinions of other persons. The controller that has some connections with the entities that are to be audited shall be not included in the teams designated to perform audit missions at these entities, avoiding in this way conflicts of interests between the controller and the audited entity.

The independence and objectivity of the controller should be assessed periodically by the head of the division, department, or, if necessary, by the Court of Accounts management.

These assessments shall confirm whether:

- **the controller possesses the necessary, proper competence required for audit conduct;**
- **the controller engaged in audit missions knows the audit policies and procedures of the Court of Accounts;**
- **there exist or not any departures from rules, relations conflicting with the law;**
- **there exist or not any threats for controller's independence and whether they are significant or not.**

1.2 . Professional competence

The Court of Accounts' controller should possess and show the necessary competence (sufficient skills, knowledge, and experience) for the efficient execution of the attributions assigned to him under the law.

Thus, the controller should:

- improve continuously and properly his/her professional training;
- manage learnedly the entrusted work sector;
- perform the activity in compliance with the law;
- display initiative and perseverance;
- apply, both when performing the audit and when issuing the report, methodologies, procedures, and techniques of highest quality that agree with the audit standards of the Court of Accounts and international ones, as well as with "the best practices" in this area.

Adequate professional competence of the controller shall include his/her ability to assert him /herself in audit matters based on deep, specific knowledge.

Within the audit, the controller should expose an official attitude, pay increased attention to the culture of audit process, be correct and calm.

In order to maintain the confidence of the society and avoid any suspicion that would discredit the Court of Accounts image, the controller should have a stately behavior (conscious and perseverant), both during the work, in interacting audited entity's staff, and when drafting and presenting the audit reports.

1.3. Professional confidentiality

Information and data that is a state, business, trade, or individual secret may not be disclosed, except for the cases provided for in the laws in force.

The controller shall be required to ensure the confidentiality of the data obtained during, as well as after the end of audit mission.

Thus, the controller should submit confidential information when he/she must:

- **inform the competent public authorities on the issues regarding the non-compliance with legal provisions;**

- **protect/defend the interests of the profession he /she practices;**
- **respond to a request or investigation performed by the empowered competent authority.**

The working documents that contain information learned by the controller during the performance of audit shall be the property of the Court of Accounts.

The information in the documents shall be confidential and may not be subject to disclosure by controller to third parties. The latter shall have no right to request from the controller the documents or their copies, except for the cases provided for in the laws in force.

1.4. Objectives and responsibilities

Under his /her audit attributions, the controller should be aware of the attainment of the following objectives:

- assessment of his /her contribution to the Court of Accounts' activity at such a level that would ensure its transformation in a supreme audit institution;
- appropriate application of the requirements of National and International Audit Standards and relevant legal provisions;
- obtaining a real impact as a result of the professional performance of the audit.

Within the audit activity, the controller should also:

- perform the audit mission within the legal competence of the Court of Accounts;
- observe the audit standards, policies, and procedures approved by the Court.

Within the financial audit, the correct application by the controller of the standards, policies, and procedures approved by the Court of Accounts, shall ensure full collection of evidence on important transactions, coordinating them with the legal provisions in force, accuracy of their recording, as well as the corresponding authenticity and confidence.

Within the performance audit, the controller shall apply the procedures, methods, and techniques designated to lead to the collection of sufficient, relevant, adequate, and impartial audit evidence, in order to establish the extent to which a program or an activity of a public entity functions efficiently and effectively, under the conditions of economy principle compliance.

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- **The audit standards shall be approved by the Court of Accounts and published in a special booklet.**
- **These audit standards shall be meant for internal use, and shall be completed further on, and amended depending on the requirements that may occur in a year after their application in practice.**