Memorandum

Date: April 26, 2022

To: GAO's Financial Management and Assurance Team (FMA)
    Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency
    Financial Audit Community

From: James R. Dalkin, Director, FMA
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Subject: Professional Standards Update No. 84, January through March 2022

To alert you to changes in professional standards, we periodically issue Professional Standards Updates (PSU)\(^1\). These updates highlight the effective dates and issuance of recent standards and guidance related to engagements conducted in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.\(^2\) PSUs contain summary information only, and those affected by a change should refer to the respective standard or guidance for details.

This PSU has two sections:

- Section I identifies select standards and guidance with their respective effective dates. Section I contains standards effective for
  - audits of financial statements for periods ending after December 31, 2021;
  - attestation reports dated after December 31, 2021; and

- Section II identifies select standards and guidance that were issued from January 2022 through March 2022.

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\(^{1}\)Previous PSUs can be found in the Related Publications section of https://www.gao.gov/yellowbook.

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# Professional Standards Update No. 84

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Section I: Effective Dates for Select Standards and Guidance

This section identifies select standards and guidance that are effective for (1) audits of financial statements for periods ending after December 31, 2021; (2) attestation reports dated after December 31, 2021; and (3) accounting for reporting periods beginning after October 15, 2020. In general, the standard setters mentioned in this section are those with relevant standards and guidance that relate to auditing government entities. Table 1 is an overview. Detailed information follows the table. Those affected should refer to the respective standard or guidance for more information.

Table 1: Effective Dates for Select Standards and Guidance

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Standard setter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Accounting Standards Board</td>
<td>Accounting Standards Updates (ASU)</td>
<td>A number of ASUs came into effect. To view the details and effective dates of ASUs, click here.</td>
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A. AUDITING AND ATTESTATION STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Statements on Auditing Standards (SAS) (Click here for link)

Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2021:


- **SAS No. 136**, Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements of Employee Benefit Plans Subject to ERISA (July 2019). This statement addresses the auditor’s responsibility to form an opinion on the financial statements of employee benefit plans subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). It also addresses the form and content of the auditor’s report issued based on the ERISA plan financial statements. Early adoption is permitted.

- **SAS No. 137**, The Auditor’s Responsibilities Relating to Other Information Included in Annual Reports (July 2019). This statement addresses the auditor’s responsibilities relating to other information, whether financial or nonfinancial (other than financial statements and the related auditor’s report), included in an entity’s annual report. Early adoption is permitted.


• **SAS No. 140, Amendments to AU-C Sections 725, 730, 930, 935, and 940 to Incorporate Auditor Reporting Changes From SAS Nos. 134 and 137** (April 2020). SAS No. 140 conforms the reporting provisions of SAS No. 134, *Auditor Reporting and Amendments, Including Amendments Addressing Disclosures in the Audit of Financial Statements*, and other SASs to generally accepted auditing standards. In addition, AU-C section 935, *Compliance Audits*, was amended to be consistent with current governmental requirements. Early adoption is permitted.

SAS Nos. 134 and 136 through 140 are interrelated because the Auditing Standards Board (ASB) amended the auditor reporting model adopted in SAS No. 134 by issuing SAS Nos. 136 through 140. Accordingly, ASB recommends that all of these statements be implemented concurrently.

**Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2022:**

• **SAS No. 142, Audit Evidence** (July 2020). This statement provides guidance on what constitutes audit evidence in an audit of financial statements and sets out attributes of information that the auditor takes into account when evaluating information to be used as audit evidence. Taking these attributes into account assists the auditor in maintaining professional skepticism.

**Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2023:**

• **SAS No. 143, Auditing Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures** (July 2020). This statement addresses the auditor’s responsibilities relating to accounting estimates, including fair value accounting estimates and related disclosures, in an audit of financial statements. It also includes requirements and guidance related to evaluating misstatements of accounting estimates and related disclosures and indicators of possible management bias.

• **SAS No. 144, Amendments to AU-C Sections 501, 540, and 620 Related to the Use of Specialists and the Use of Pricing Information Obtained From External Information Sources** (June 2021). The statement amended these sections by incorporating related Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) guidance as follows:
  

  o AU-C section 540, *Auditing Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures*. This amendment to AU-C section 540 adds a new appendix, “Use of Pricing Information From Third Parties as Audit Evidence,” that provides guidance on using pricing information obtained from external information sources as audit evidence for estimates related to the fair value of financial instruments. This appendix takes into account PCAOB AS 2501, *Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Measurements*, appendix A, “Special Topics, Identifying and Assessing Risks of Material Misstatement Related to the Fair Value of Financial Instruments.”
o AU-C section 620, *Using the Work of an Auditor’s Specialist*. This amendment adds material from PCAOB Release No. 2018-006, *Amendments to Auditing Standards for Auditor’s Use of the Work of Specialists*, to various application paragraphs to enhance the quality of audits of nonissuers’ financial statements.

  o the requirements and guidance on identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement, particularly in the areas of obtaining an understanding the entity’s system of internal control and assessing control risk, and
  o guidance that addresses the economic, technological, and regulatory aspects of the markets and environment in which entities and audit firms operate.

**Effective for reports dated on or after June 15, 2022:**

- **SSAE No. 21, Direct Examination Engagements** (September 2020). This statement adds AT-C section 206, *Direct Examination Engagements*, to the attestation standards and enables practitioners to perform an examination engagement in which a practitioner obtains reasonable assurance by measuring or evaluating underlying subject matter against criteria and expressing an opinion that conveys the results of that measurement or evaluation.

- **SSAE No. 22, Review Engagements** (December 2020). This statement
  o revises AT-C section 210, *Review Engagements*, for consistency with AT-C section 205, *Assertion-Based Examination Engagements* (pursuant to SSAE No. 21, *Direct Examination Engagements*);
  o describes the types of procedures a practitioner may perform in a review engagement;
  o revises the reporting requirements for an attestation review for additional transparency; and
  o permits the expression of an adverse conclusion, consistent with Statement on Standards for Accounting and Review Services No. 25, *Materiality in a Review of Financial Statements and Adverse Conclusions*.

Early implementation is permitted only if a practitioner also implements early the amendments to AT-C section 105, *Concepts Common to All Attestation Engagements*, included in SSAE No. 21, *Direct Examination Engagements*.

**B. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE**

**Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board**

- **Interpretation of Federal Financial Accounting Standards 10, Clarification of Non-federal Non-entity FBWT Classification (SFFAS 1, Paragraph 31): An Interpretation of SFFAS 1 and SFFAS 31** (May 2021). This interpretation clarifies the classification and presentation of non-federal non-entity Fund Balance with Treasury (FBWT) in paragraph 31 of Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) 1, *Accounting for Selected Assets and Liabilities*. This guidance provides that amounts received in deposit funds from non-federal sources in anticipation of an order (an advance) should be classified as intragovernmental on component reporting entity financial statements.
• Interpretation of Federal Financial Accounting Standards 11, Debt Cancellation: An Interpretation of SFFAS 7, Paragraph 313 (November 2021). This interpretation clarifies that the standards provide that debt cancellation is a nonexchange activity that should be reported on the Statement of Changes in Net Position (SCNP). Interpretation 11 also clarifies that paragraph 313 of SFFAS 7 should not be interpreted to require that a particular line item “gain” or “loss” be displayed on the SCNP.

Effective for reporting periods beginning after September 30, 2021:

• SFFAS 59, Accounting and Reporting of Government Land (July 2021). This statement
  - requires reclassifying general property, plant, and equipment (G-PP&E) land as a non-capitalized asset for periods beginning after September 30, 2025;
  - clarifies the definition for the stewardship land category;
  - requires the reporting of acreage of G-PP&E land and stewardship land using three predominant use subcategories: conservation and preservation land, operational land, and commercial use land; and
  - requires consistent and comparable disclosures of information for land.

SFFAS 59 has a 4-year implementation period. Acreage information by predominant use will be reported in required supplementary information for fiscal years 2022 through 2025. This information will transition to basic information within note disclosures in fiscal year 2026, when the asset dollar amounts for G-PP&E land and permanent land rights are removed from the balance sheet. Early adoption is not permitted.

Effective for reporting periods beginning after September 30, 2023:

• SFFAS 54, Leases: An Amendment of Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) 5, Accounting for Liabilities of the Federal Government, and SFFAS 6, Accounting for Property, Plant, and Equipment (April 2018). This statement revises the financial reporting standards for federal lease accounting. It provides a comprehensive set of lease accounting standards to recognize federal lease activities in the reporting entity’s general purpose federal financial reports and includes appropriate disclosures. Early adoption is not permitted.


• SFFAS 57, Omnibus Amendments 2019, paragraphs 3–8, 11, and 12 (September 2019). This statement addresses consistency issues and other improvements identified during implementation and application of certain federal accounting standards. Early adoption is not permitted.

• SFFAS 60, Omnibus Amendments 2021: Leases-Related Topics (November 2021). This statement amends paragraphs in SFFAS 54, Leases; SFFAS 57, Omnibus Amendments 2019; SFFAS 5, Accounting for Liabilities of the Federal Government; and SFFAS 6, Accounting for Property, Plant, and Equipment. These changes are necessary technical corrections and clarifications and other omnibus changes to address areas of concern with implementing these statements’ standards.

Financial Accounting Standards Board

Accounting Standards Updates (ASU)

• The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification® (FASB Codification) is the sole source of authoritative generally accepted accounting principles other than Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued rules and regulations that apply only to SEC registrants. FASB issues ASUs to communicate changes to the FASB Codification, including changes to nonauthoritative SEC content. ASUs are not authoritative standards. To view details and the effective dates of ASUs, click here.
Effective for fiscal years or reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2020, or ending after December 15, 2021:

- **GASB Statement No. 89**, *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period* (June 2018). The objectives of this statement are to (1) enhance the relevance and comparability of information about capital assets and the cost of borrowing for a reporting period and (2) simplify accounting for interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period. Earlier application is encouraged.

- **GASB Statement No. 98**, *The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report* (October 2021). This statement establishes the term *annual comprehensive financial report* and its acronym, ACFR. The new term and acronym replace instances of *comprehensive annual financial report* and its acronym in generally accepted accounting principles for state and local governments. Earlier application is encouraged.

Effective for fiscal years or reporting periods ending after December 31, 2021:

- **GASB Statement No. 93**, *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates*, paragraph 11b (March 2020). This statement addresses accounting and financial reporting implications that result from replacing an interbank offered rate (IBOR) as the basis for variable payment agreements. Paragraph 11b removes the London Interbank Offered Rate as an appropriate benchmark interest rate for a derivative instrument. Earlier application is encouraged.

Effective for fiscal years or reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021:

- **GASB Statement No. 87**, *Leases* (June 2017). The objective of this statement is to improve governments’ accounting and financial reporting for leases to better meet the information needs of financial statement users. Earlier application is encouraged.

- **GASB Implementation Guide No. 2019-3**, *Leases* (August 2019). This guide clarifies, explains, and elaborates on the requirements of GASB Statement No. 87. Earlier application is encouraged if GASB Statement No. 87 has been implemented.

- **GASB Statement No. 92**, *Omnibus 2020*, paragraphs 6–10 and 12 (January 2020). This statement enhances comparability in accounting and financial reporting and improves the consistency of authoritative literature. Specifically, it addresses practice issues identified during implementation and application of certain other statements. Earlier application is encouraged.

- **GASB Statement No. 93**, *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates*, paragraphs 13–14 (March 2020). This statement addresses accounting and financial reporting implications that result from replacing an IBOR as the basis for variable payment agreements. Paragraphs 13 through 14 redefine what is considered a lease modification such that an amendment of a lease contract solely to replace the IBOR as the basis for variable payment agreements is not considered a lease modification. Earlier application is encouraged.

- **GASB Statement No. 97**, *Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans*, all paragraphs except paragraphs 4 and 5 (June 2020). These portions of this statement enhance the relevance, consistency, and comparability of the accounting and financial reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 deferred compensation plans that meet the pension plan definition and for benefits provided through those plans. Earlier application is encouraged.
• GASB Implementation Guide No. 2020-1, *Implementation Guidance Update—2020* (April 2020). Earlier application is encouraged if the pronouncement addressed by the question and answer has been implemented.

New questions and answers (questions 4.1–4.5 and 4.18) relate to The Financial Reporting Entity; Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools; Fiduciary Activities; and GASB Statement No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations*.

Revised questions and answers (questions 5.1–5.5) relate to Pensions—Plan and Employer Accounting and Reporting; Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools; and Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions—Plan and Employer Accounting and Reporting.

• GASB Implementation Guide No. 2021-1, *Implementation Guidance Update—2021* (May 2021). Earlier application is encouraged if the pronouncement addressed by the question and answer has been implemented. The new question and answer (question 4.22) coming into effect for the referenced time period relate to Effective Date and Transition of GASB No. Statement 87, *Leases*.

Effective for fiscal years or reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2021:

• GASB Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations* (May 2019). This statement has two objectives: (1) to provide a single method by which issuers report conduit debt obligations and (2) to eliminate diversity in practice associated with (a) commitments that issuers extended, (b) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations, and (c) related note disclosures. Earlier application is encouraged.

• GASB Implementation Guide No. 2020-1, *Implementation Guidance Update—2020* (April 2020). Earlier application is encouraged if the pronouncement addressed by the question and answer has been implemented. New questions and answers (questions 4.6–4.17 and 4.19–4.21) coming into effect for the referenced time period relate to Leases and GASB Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*.

Effective for fiscal years or reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2022:

• GASB Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements* (March 2020). This statement addresses issues related to public-private and public-public partnership arrangements. This statement provides accounting and financial reporting requirements for these partnership arrangements that do not meet the definition of a lease as defined in GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, as amended and clarified by this statement, and that also do not meet the definition of a service concession arrangement. This statement also provides guidance for accounting and financial reporting for availability payment arrangements. Earlier application is encouraged.

• GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements* (May 2020). This statement provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITA) for government end users. This statement
  o defines an SBITA;
  o establishes that an SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability;
  o provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of an SBITA; and
  o requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA.

To the extent relevant, the standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, *Leases*, as amended. Earlier application is encouraged.
• GASB Implementation Guide No. 2021-1, Implementation Guidance Update—2021 (May 2021). Earlier application is encouraged if the pronouncement addressed by the question and answer has been implemented.

New questions and answers (questions 4.1–4.21 and 4.23) relate to Accounting and Financial Reporting for Derivative Instruments; Fiduciary Activities; Leases; and GASB Statement No. 33, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions.

Revised questions and answers (questions 5.2–5.4) from Implementation Guide 2015-1 relate to Basic Financial Statements and Management’s Discussion and Analysis Pensions—Plan and Employer Accounting and Reporting; and GASB Statement No. 48, Sales and Pledges of Receivables and Future Revenues and Intra-Entity Transfers of Assets and Future Revenues.

Effective for fiscal years or reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2023:

• GASB Implementation Guide No. 2021-1, Implementation Guidance Update—2021 (May 2021). Earlier application is encouraged if the pronouncement addressed by the question and answer has been implemented.

Revised question and answer (question 5.1) coming into effect for the referenced time period relate to the following topic in Implementation Guide 2015-1: Basic Financial Statements and Management’s Discussion and Analysis Pensions—Plan and Employer Accounting and Reporting.
Section II: Select Standards and Guidance Issued January 2022 through March 2022

This section includes select standards and related guidance issued during the period covered by this Professional Standards Update (PSU)—January 2022 through March 2022—to the extent that such materials were publicly available as of March 31, 2022. The section also identifies the standard setters whose publications and updates we review to prepare PSUs. These updates highlight the recent issuance and key points of standards and related guidance. This PSU only summarizes the standards or guidance. Those affected by these changes should refer to the respective standard or guidance for details.

A. AUDITING AND ATTESTATION STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

Government Accountability Office

Government Auditing Standards (Click here for link)

- Government Auditing Standards were not updated during the period covered by this PSU.

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Statements on Auditing Standards (SAS) (Click here for link)

- There were no new or updated SAS issued during the period covered by this PSU.

Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAE) (Click here for link)

- There were no new or updated SSAE issued during the period covered by this PSU.

B. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board

Concepts, Statements, Technical Bulletins, Interpretations, and Technical Releases (Click here for link)

- There were no new or updated concepts, statements, technical bulletins, interpretations, or technical releases issued during the period covered by this PSU.

Financial Accounting Standards Board

Accounting Standards Updates (ASU) (listed only) (Click here for link)

- ASU No. 2022-01, Derivatives and Hedging (Topic 815): Fair Value Hedging—Portfolio Layer Method (March 2022)

- ASU No. 2022-02, Financial Instruments—Credit Losses (Topic 326): Troubled Debt Restructurings and Vintage Disclosures (March 2022)

Governmental Accounting Standards Board

Concepts, Statements, Technical Bulletins, Interpretations, and Implementation Guides (Click here for link)

- There were no relevant new or updated concepts, statements, technical bulletins, interpretations, or implementation guides issued during the period covered by this PSU.
C. REGULATORY GUIDANCE

Office of Management and Budget

Circulars (Click here for link)

- There were no relevant new or updated circulars issued during the period covered by this PSU.

Memoranda (listed only) (Click here for link)

- There were no relevant new or updated memoranda issued during the period covered by this PSU.

Department of the Treasury

Treasury Financial Manual (TFM) (Click here for link)

- TFM, Volume I, Part 2, Chapter 6000, Agency Reporting Requirements for USAspending.gov (February 16, 2022), describes how agencies provide data to USAspending.gov using the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) Broker for both financial accounting data and financial assistance data.

Treasury Bulletins (Click here for link)


D. INTERNATIONAL AUDITING STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board

The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) sets international standards for auditing, quality control, review, other assurance, and related services and facilitates the convergence of international and national standards. To review recently issued IAASB guidance, click here.

E. INTERNAL AUDIT GUIDANCE

Institute of Internal Auditors

The International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) is the conceptual framework that organizes authoritative guidance that the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) promulgates. The IIA provides internal audit professionals with authoritative guidance organized in the IPPF. IIA implementation guides assist internal auditors in applying the IPPF and the IIA’s Code of Ethics. They collectively address internal auditing’s approach, methodologies, and consideration but do not detail processes or procedures. IIA supplemental guidance provides detailed guidance for conducting internal audit activities. To review recently issued IIA guidance, click here.