

Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report

SSA 705 was issued in January 2010.

The Companies (Amendment) Act 2014 gave rise to conforming amendments in SSA 705 in June 2015. These amendments (terminology changes) are effective for reports dated on or after 1 July 2015.

This SSA was revised in July 2015. SSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information, and Addressing Disclosures in the Audit of Financial Statements* gave rise to conforming amendments in this SSA in November 2015 and January 2016 respectively. This SSA is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2016.

Singapore Standard on Auditing (SSA) 705 (Revised), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report* is based on International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 705 (Revised), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report* of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), published by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in January 2015 and is used with permission of IFAC.

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SINGAPORE STANDARD ON AUDITING 705 (REVISED) MODIFICATIONS TO THE OPINION IN THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2016)

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Singapore Standard on Auditing (SSA) 705 (Revised), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report*, should be read in conjunction with SSA 200, *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing*.

Foreword

This Standard is based on International Standard on Auditing 705 (Revised), with such amendments as were considered appropriate for local adoption.

Introduction

Scope of this SSA

1. This Singapore Standard on Auditing (SSA) deals with the auditor's responsibility to issue an appropriate report in circumstances when, in forming an opinion in accordance with SSA 700 (Revised),¹ the auditor concludes that a modification to the auditor's opinion on the financial statements is necessary. This SSA also deals with how the form and content of the auditor's report is affected when the auditor expresses a modified opinion. In all cases, the reporting requirements in SSA 700 (Revised) apply, and are not repeated in this SSA unless they are explicitly addressed or amended by the requirements of this SSA.

Types of Modified Opinions

2. This SSA establishes three types of modified opinions, namely, a qualified opinion, an adverse opinion, and a disclaimer of opinion. The decision regarding which type of modified opinion is appropriate depends upon:
 - (a) The nature of the matter giving rise to the modification, that is, whether the financial statements are materially misstated or, in the case of an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, may be materially misstated; and
 - (b) The auditor's judgement about the pervasiveness of the effects or possible effects of the matter on the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A1)

Effective Date

3. This SSA is effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2016.

Objective

4. The objective of the auditor is to express clearly an appropriately modified opinion on the financial statements that is necessary when:
 - (a) The auditor concludes, based on the audit evidence obtained, that the financial statements as a whole are not free from material misstatement; or
 - (b) The auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to conclude that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.

¹ SSA 700 (Revised), *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements*

Definitions

5. For purposes of the SSAs, the following terms have the meanings attributed below:
- (a) Pervasive – A term used, in the context of misstatements, to describe the effects on the financial statements of misstatements or the possible effects on the financial statements of misstatements, if any, that are undetected due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. Pervasive effects on the financial statements are those that, in the auditor's judgement:
 - (i) Are not confined to specific elements, accounts or items of the financial statements;
 - (ii) If so confined, represent or could represent a substantial proportion of the financial statements; or
 - (iii) In relation to disclosures, are fundamental to users' understanding of the financial statements.
 - (b) Modified opinion – A qualified opinion, an adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements.

Requirements

Circumstances When a Modification to the Auditor's Opinion Is Required

6. The auditor shall modify the opinion in the auditor's report when:
- (a) The auditor concludes that, based on the audit evidence obtained, the financial statements as a whole are not free from material misstatement; or (Ref: Para. A2–A7)
 - (b) The auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to conclude that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement. (Ref: Para. A8–A12)

Determining the Type of Modification to the Auditor's Opinion

Qualified Opinion

7. The auditor shall express a qualified opinion when:
- (a) The auditor, having obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence, concludes that misstatements, individually or in the aggregate, are material, but not pervasive, to the financial statements; or
 - (b) The auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the opinion, but the auditor concludes that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be material but not pervasive.

Adverse Opinion

8. The auditor shall express an adverse opinion when the auditor, having obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence, concludes that misstatements, individually or in the aggregate, are both material and pervasive to the financial statements.

Disclaimer of Opinion

9. The auditor shall disclaim an opinion when the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the opinion, and the auditor concludes that the possible effects

on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be both material and pervasive.

10. The auditor shall disclaim an opinion when, in extremely rare circumstances involving multiple uncertainties, the auditor concludes that, notwithstanding having obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding each of the individual uncertainties, it is not possible to form an opinion on the financial statements due to the potential interaction of the uncertainties and their possible cumulative effect on the financial statements.

Consequence of an Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence Due to a Management-Imposed Limitation after the Auditor Has Accepted the Engagement

11. If, after accepting the engagement, the auditor becomes aware that management has imposed a limitation on the scope of the audit that the auditor considers likely to result in the need to express a qualified opinion or to disclaim an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall request that management remove the limitation.
12. If management refuses to remove the limitation referred to in paragraph 11 of this SSA, the auditor shall communicate the matter to those charged with governance, unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the entity,² and determine whether it is possible to perform alternative procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.
13. If the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall determine the implications as follows:
 - (a) If the auditor concludes that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be material but not pervasive, the auditor shall qualify the opinion; or
 - (b) If the auditor concludes that the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be both material and pervasive so that a qualification of the opinion would be inadequate to communicate the gravity of the situation, the auditor shall:
 - (i) Withdraw from the audit, where practicable and possible under applicable law or regulation; or (Ref: Para. A13)
 - (ii) If withdrawal from the audit before issuing the auditor's report is not practicable or possible, disclaim an opinion on the financial statements. (Ref. Para. A14)
14. If the auditor withdraws as contemplated by paragraph 13(b)(i), before withdrawing, the auditor shall communicate to those charged with governance any matters regarding misstatements identified during the audit that would have given rise to a modification of the opinion. (Ref: Para. A15)

Other Considerations Relating to an Adverse Opinion or Disclaimer of Opinion

15. When the auditor considers it necessary to express an adverse opinion or disclaim an opinion on the financial statements as a whole, the auditor's report shall not also include an unmodified opinion with respect to the same financial reporting framework on a single financial statement or one or more specific elements, accounts or items of a financial statement. To include such an unmodified opinion in the same report³ in these circumstances would contradict the auditor's adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements as a whole. (Ref: Para. A16)

² SSA 260 (Revised), *Communication with Those Charged with Governance*, paragraph 13

³ SSA 805, *Special Considerations—Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement*, deals with circumstances where the auditor is engaged to express a separate opinion on one or more specific elements, accounts or items of a financial statement.

Form and Content of the Auditor's Report When the Opinion Is Modified

Auditor's Opinion

16. When the auditor modifies the audit opinion, the auditor shall use the heading "Qualified Opinion," "Adverse Opinion," or "Disclaimer of Opinion," as appropriate, for the Opinion section. (Ref: Para. A17–A19)

Qualified Opinion

17. When the auditor expresses a qualified opinion due to a material misstatement in the financial statements, the auditor shall state that, in the auditor's opinion, except for the effects of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section:
 - (a) When reporting in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects (or give a true and fair view of) [...] in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]; or
 - (b) When reporting in accordance with a compliance framework, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework].

When the modification arises from an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall use the corresponding phrase "except for the possible effects of the matter(s) ..." for the modified opinion. (Ref: Para. A20)

Adverse Opinion

18. When the auditor expresses an adverse opinion, the auditor shall state that, in the auditor's opinion, because of the significance of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section:
 - (a) When reporting in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly (or give a true and fair view of) [...] in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]; or
 - (b) When reporting in accordance with a compliance framework, the accompanying financial statements have not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework].

Disclaimer of Opinion

19. When the auditor disclaims an opinion due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall:
 - (a) State that the auditor does not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements;
 - (b) State that, because of the significance of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section, the auditor has not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements; and
 - (c) Amend the statement required by paragraph 24(b) of SSA 700 (Revised), which indicates that the financial statements have been audited, to state that the auditor was engaged to audit the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

20. When the auditor modifies the opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall, in addition to the specific elements required by SSA 700 (Revised): (Ref: Para. A21)

- (a) Amend the heading “Basis for Opinion” required by paragraph 28 of SSA 700 (Revised) to “Basis for Qualified Opinion,” “Basis for Adverse Opinion,” or “Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion,” as appropriate; and
 - (b) Within this section, include a description of the matter giving rise to the modification.
- 21. If there is a material misstatement of the financial statements that relates to specific amounts in the financial statements (including quantitative disclosures), the auditor shall include in the Basis for Opinion section a description and quantification of the financial effects of the misstatement, unless impracticable. If it is not practicable to quantify the financial effects, the auditor shall so state in this section. (Ref: Para. A22)
- 22. If there is a material misstatement of the financial statements that relates to qualitative disclosures, the auditor shall include in the Basis for Opinion section an explanation of how the disclosures are misstated.
- 23. If there is a material misstatement of the financial statements that relates to the non-disclosure of information required to be disclosed, the auditor shall:
 - (a) Discuss the non-disclosure with those charged with governance;
 - (b) Describe in the Basis for Opinion section the nature of the omitted information; and
 - (c) Unless prohibited by law or regulation, include the omitted disclosures, provided it is practicable to do so and the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the omitted information. (Ref: Para. A23)
- 24. If the modification results from an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall include in the Basis for Opinion section the reasons for that inability.
- 25. When the auditor expresses a qualified or adverse opinion, the auditor shall amend the statement about whether the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor’s opinion required by paragraph 28(d) of SSA 700 (Revised) to include the word “qualified” or “adverse”, as appropriate.
- 26. When the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor’s report shall not include the elements required by paragraphs 28(b) and 28(d) of SSA 700 (Revised). Those elements are:
 - (a) A reference to the section of the auditor’s report where the auditor’s responsibilities are described; and
 - (b) A statement about whether the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor’s opinion.
- 27. Even if the auditor has expressed an adverse opinion or disclaimed an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor shall describe in the Basis for Opinion section the reasons for any other matters of which the auditor is aware that would have required a modification to the opinion, and the effects thereof. (Ref: Para. A24)

Description of Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements When the Auditor Disclaims an Opinion on the Financial Statements

28. When the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the auditor shall amend the description of the auditor's responsibilities required by paragraphs 39–41 of SSA 700 (Revised) to include only the following: (Ref: Para. A25)
- (a) A statement that the auditor's responsibility is to conduct an audit of the entity's financial statements in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing and to issue an auditor's report;
 - (b) A statement that, however, because of the matter(s) described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section, the auditor was not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements; and
 - (c) The statement about auditor independence and other ethical responsibilities required by paragraph 28(c) of SSA 700 (Revised).

Considerations When the Auditor Disclaims an Opinion on the Financial Statements

29. Unless required by law or regulation, when the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, the auditor's report shall not include a Key Audit Matters section in accordance with SSA 701 or an Other Information section in accordance with SSA 720 (Revised).^{4, 5} (Ref: Para. A26)

Communication with Those Charged with Governance

30. When the auditor expects to modify the opinion in the auditor's report, the auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance the circumstances that led to the expected modification and the wording of the modification. (Ref: Para. A27)

⁴ SSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*, paragraphs 11–13
⁵ SSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*, paragraph A54

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Types of Modified Opinions (Ref: Para. 2)

- A1. The table below illustrates how the auditor's judgement about the nature of the matter giving rise to the modification, and the pervasiveness of its effects or possible effects on the financial statements, affects the type of opinion to be expressed.

<i>Nature of Matter Giving Rise to the Modification</i>	<i>Auditor's Judgement about the Pervasiveness of the Effects or Possible Effects on the Financial Statements</i>	
	<i>Material but Not Pervasive</i>	<i>Material and Pervasive</i>
Financial statements are materially misstated	Qualified opinion	Adverse opinion
Inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence	Qualified opinion	Disclaimer of opinion

Circumstances When a Modification to the Auditor's Opinion Is Required

Nature of Material Misstatements (Ref: Para. 6(a))

- A2. SSA 700 (Revised) requires the auditor, in order to form an opinion on the financial statements, to conclude as to whether reasonable assurance has been obtained about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.⁶ This conclusion takes into account the auditor's evaluation of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements in accordance with SSA 450.⁷
- A3. SSA 450 defines a misstatement as a difference between the reported amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure of a financial statement item and the amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure that is required for the item to be in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Accordingly, a material misstatement of the financial statements may arise in relation to:
- (a) The appropriateness of the selected accounting policies;
 - (b) The application of the selected accounting policies; or
 - (c) The appropriateness or adequacy of disclosures in the financial statements.

Appropriateness of the Selected Accounting Policies

- A4. In relation to the appropriateness of the accounting policies management has selected, material misstatements of the financial statements may arise, for example, when:
- (a) The selected accounting policies are not consistent with the applicable financial reporting framework; or
 - (b) The financial statements do not correctly describe an accounting policy relating to a significant item in the statement of financial position, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity or the statement of cash flows; or
 - (c) The financial statements do not represent or disclose the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

⁶ SSA 700 (Revised), paragraph 11

⁷ SSA 450, *Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit*, paragraph 11

- A5. Financial reporting frameworks often contain requirements for the accounting for, and disclosure of, changes in accounting policies. Where the entity has changed its selection of significant accounting policies, a material misstatement of the financial statements may arise when the entity has not complied with these requirements.

Application of the Selected Accounting Policies

- A6. In relation to the application of the selected accounting policies, material misstatements of the financial statements may arise:
- (a) When management has not applied the selected accounting policies consistently with the financial reporting framework, including when management has not applied the selected accounting policies consistently between periods or to similar transactions and events (consistency in application); or
 - (b) Due to the method of application of the selected accounting policies (such as an unintentional error in application).

Appropriateness or Adequacy of Disclosures in the Financial Statements

- A7. In relation to the appropriateness or adequacy of disclosures in the financial statements, material misstatements of the financial statements may arise when:
- (a) The financial statements do not include all of the disclosures required by the applicable financial reporting framework;
 - (b) The disclosures in the financial statements are not presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; or
 - (c) The financial statements do not provide the additional disclosures necessary to achieve fair presentation beyond disclosures specifically required by the applicable financial reporting framework.

Paragraph A13a of SSA 450 provides further examples of material misstatements in qualitative disclosures that may arise.

Nature of an Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence (Ref: Para. 6(b))

- A8. The auditor's inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence (also referred to as a limitation on the scope of the audit) may arise from:
- (a) Circumstances beyond the control of the entity;
 - (b) Circumstances relating to the nature or timing of the auditor's work; or
 - (c) Limitations imposed by management.
- A9. An inability to perform a specific procedure does not constitute a limitation on the scope of the audit if the auditor is able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence by performing alternative procedures. If this is not possible, the requirements of paragraphs 7(b) and 9–10 apply as appropriate. Limitations imposed by management may have other implications for the audit, such as for the auditor's assessment of fraud risks and consideration of engagement continuance.
- A10. Examples of circumstances beyond the control of the entity include when:
- The entity's accounting records have been destroyed.
 - The accounting records of a significant component have been seized indefinitely by governmental authorities.

A11. Examples of circumstances relating to the nature or timing of the auditor's work include when:

- The entity is required to use the equity method of accounting for an associated entity, and the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the latter's financial information to evaluate whether the equity method has been appropriately applied.
- The timing of the auditor's appointment is such that the auditor is unable to observe the counting of the physical inventories.
- The auditor determines that performing substantive procedures alone is not sufficient, but the entity's controls are not effective.

A12. Examples of an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence arising from a limitation on the scope of the audit imposed by management include when:

- Management prevents the auditor from observing the counting of the physical inventory.
- Management prevents the auditor from requesting external confirmation of specific account balances.

Determining the Type of Modification to the Auditor's Opinion

Consequence of an Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence Due to a Management-Imposed Limitation after the Auditor Has Accepted the Engagement (Ref: Para. 13(b)(i)–14)

A13. The practicality of withdrawing from the audit may depend on the stage of completion of the engagement at the time that management imposes the scope limitation. If the auditor has substantially completed the audit, the auditor may decide to complete the audit to the extent possible, disclaim an opinion and explain the scope limitation within the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section prior to withdrawing.

A14. In certain circumstances, withdrawal from the audit may not be possible if the auditor is required by law or regulation to continue the audit engagement. This may be the case for an auditor that is appointed to audit the financial statements of public sector entities. It may also be the case in jurisdictions where the auditor is appointed to audit the financial statements covering a specific period, or appointed for a specific period and is prohibited from withdrawing before the completion of the audit of those financial statements or before the end of that period, respectively. The auditor may also consider it necessary to include an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report.⁸

A15. When the auditor concludes that withdrawal from the audit is necessary because of a scope limitation, there may be a professional, legal or regulatory requirement for the auditor to communicate matters relating to the withdrawal from the engagement to regulators or the entity's owners.

Other Considerations Relating to an Adverse Opinion or Disclaimer of Opinion (Ref: Para. 15)

A16. The following are examples of reporting circumstances that would not contradict the auditor's adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion:

- The expression of an unmodified opinion on financial statements prepared under a given financial reporting framework and, within the same report, the expression of an adverse opinion on the same financial statements under a different financial reporting framework.⁹

⁸ SSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*, paragraph A10

⁹ See paragraph A31 of SSA 700 (Revised) for a description of this circumstance.

- The expression of a disclaimer of opinion regarding the results of operations, and cash flows, where relevant, and an unmodified opinion regarding the financial position (see SSA 510¹⁰). In this case, the auditor has not expressed a disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements as a whole.

Form and Content of the Auditor's Report When the Opinion Is Modified

Illustrative Auditor's Reports (Ref: Para. 16)

- A17. Illustrations 1 and 2 in the Appendix contain auditor's reports with qualified and adverse opinions, respectively, as the financial statements are materially misstated.
- A18. Illustration 3 in the Appendix contains an auditor's report with a qualified opinion as the auditor is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. Illustration 4 contains a disclaimer of opinion due to an inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about multiple elements of the financial statements. In the latter case, the possible effects on the financial statements of the inability are both material and pervasive. The Appendices to other SSAs that include reporting requirements, including SSA 570 (Revised),¹¹ also include illustrations of auditor's reports with modified opinions.

Auditor's Opinion (Ref: Para. 16)

- A19. Amending this heading makes it clear to the user that the auditor's opinion is modified and indicates the type of modification.

Qualified Opinion (Ref: Para. 17)

- A20. When the auditor expresses a qualified opinion, it would not be appropriate to use phrases such as "with the foregoing explanation" or "subject to" in the Opinion section as these are not sufficiently clear or forceful.

Basis for Opinion (Ref: Para. 20, 21, 23, 27)

- A21. Consistency in the auditor's report helps to promote users' understanding and to identify unusual circumstances when they occur. Accordingly, although uniformity in the wording of a modified opinion and in the description of the reasons for the modification may not be possible, consistency in both the form and content of the auditor's report is desirable.
- A22. An example of the financial effects of material misstatements that the auditor may describe within the Basis for Opinion section in the auditor's report is the quantification of the effects on income tax, income before taxes, net income and equity if inventory is overstated.
- A23. Disclosing the omitted information within the Basis for Opinion section would not be practicable if:
- (a) The disclosures have not been prepared by management or the disclosures are otherwise not readily available to the auditor; or
 - (b) In the auditor's judgement, the disclosures would be unduly voluminous in relation to the auditor's report.
- A24. An adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion relating to a specific matter described within the Basis for Opinion section does not justify the omission of a description of other identified matters that would have otherwise required a modification of the auditor's opinion. In such cases, the disclosure of such other matters of which the auditor is aware may be relevant to users of the financial statements.

¹⁰ SSA 510, *Initial Audit Engagements—Opening Balances*, paragraph 10

¹¹ SSA 570 (Revised), *Going Concern*

Description of Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements When the Auditor Disclaims an Opinion on the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 28)

A25. When the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, the following statements are better positioned within the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of the auditor's report, as illustrated in Illustration 4 of the Appendix to this SSA:

- The statement required by paragraph 28(a) of SSA 700 (Revised), amended to state that the auditor's responsibility is to conduct an audit of the entity's financial statements in accordance with SSAs; and
- The statement required by paragraph 28(c) of SSA 700 (Revised) about independence and other ethical responsibilities.

Considerations When the Auditor Disclaims an Opinion on the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 29)

A26. Providing the reasons for the auditor's inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence within the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section of the auditor's report provides useful information to users in understanding why the auditor has disclaimed an opinion on the financial statements and may further guard against inappropriate reliance on them. However, communication of any key audit matters other than the matter(s) giving rise to the disclaimer of opinion may suggest that the financial statements as a whole are more credible in relation to those matters than would be appropriate in the circumstances, and would be inconsistent with the disclaimer of opinion on the financial statements as a whole. Similarly, it would not be appropriate to include an Other Information section in accordance with SSA 720 (Revised) addressing the auditor's consideration of the consistency of the other information with the financial statements. Accordingly, paragraph 29 of this SSA prohibits a Key Audit Matters section or an Other Information section from being included in the auditor's report when the auditor disclaims an opinion on the financial statements, unless the auditor is otherwise required by law or regulation to communicate key audit matters or to report on other information.

Communication with Those Charged with Governance (Ref: Para. 30)

A27. Communicating with those charged with governance the circumstances that lead to an expected modification to the auditor's opinion and the wording of the modification enables:

- (a) The auditor to give notice to those charged with governance of the intended modification(s) and the reasons (or circumstances) for the modification(s);
- (b) The auditor to seek the concurrence of those charged with governance regarding the facts of the matter(s) giving rise to the expected modification(s), or to confirm matters of disagreement with management as such; and
- (c) Those charged with governance to have an opportunity, where appropriate, to provide the auditor with further information and explanations in respect of the matter(s) giving rise to the expected modification(s).

Appendix

(Ref: Para. A17–A18, A25)

Illustrations of Auditor's Reports with Modifications to the Opinion

- Illustration 1: An auditor's report containing a qualified opinion due to a material misstatement of the financial statements.
- Illustration 2: An auditor's report containing an adverse opinion due to a material misstatement of the financial statements.
- Illustration 3: An auditor's report containing a qualified opinion due to the auditor's inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding a foreign associate.
- Illustration 4: An auditor's report containing a disclaimer of opinion due to the auditor's inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about multiple elements of the financial statements.

Illustration 1 – Qualified Opinion due to a Material Misstatement of the Financial Statements

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a Singapore incorporated listed company using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., SSA 600¹ does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the company in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards in Singapore (FRSs) (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in SSA 210.²
- Inventories are misstated. The misstatement is deemed to be material but not pervasive to the financial statements (i.e., a qualified opinion is appropriate).
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit comprise the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities* (ACRA Code) together with the ethical requirements relating to the audit in Singapore, and the auditor refers to both.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with SSA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with SSA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and the matter giving rise to the qualified opinion on the financial statements also affects the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements³

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, Chapter 50 (the Act) and Financial Reporting Standards in Singapore (FRSs) so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1 and of the financial performance, changes in equity and cash flows of the Company for the year ended on that date.

¹ SSA 600, *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

² SSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*

³ The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Company's inventories are carried in the statement of financial position at xxx. Management has not stated the inventories at the lower of cost and net realisable value but has stated them solely at cost, which constitutes a departure from FRS 2, *Inventories*. The Company's records indicate that, had management stated the inventories at the lower of cost and net realisable value, an amount of xxx would have been required to write the inventories down to their net realisable value. Accordingly, cost of sales would have been increased by xxx, and income tax, net income and shareholders' equity would have been reduced by xxx, xxx and xxx, respectively.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing (SSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities* (ACRA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Singapore, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ACRA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in SSA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 6 in Appendix 2 of SSA 720 (Revised). The last paragraph of the other information section in Illustration 6 would be customised to describe the specific matter giving rise to the qualified opinion that also affects the other information.]

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with SSA 701.]

Responsibilities of Management and Directors for the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with SSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in SSA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with SSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1 in SSA 700 (Revised).]

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Company have been properly kept⁴ in accordance with the provisions of the Act⁵.

[The form and content of this section of the auditor's report would vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities prescribed by local law or regulation. The matters addressed by other law or regulation (referred to as "other reporting responsibilities") shall be addressed within this section unless the other reporting responsibilities address the same topics as those presented under the reporting responsibilities required by the SSAs as part of the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section. The reporting of other reporting responsibilities that address the same topics as those required by the SSAs may be combined (i.e., included in the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section under the appropriate subheadings) provided that the wording in the auditor's report clearly differentiates the other reporting responsibilities from the reporting that is required by the SSAs where such a difference exists.]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name].

_____(Firm)
Public Accountants and
Chartered Accountants
Singapore
_____(Date)

⁴ Section 199(1) of the Companies Act (the Act) requires the Company to keep proper accounting and other records, to sufficiently explain the transactions and financial position of the Company; to enable true and fair financial statements and any documents required to be attached thereto to be prepared from time to time; and to enable those records to be conveniently and properly audited.

⁵ The auditor shall make due consideration in opining on whether the accounting and other records are properly kept by the Company in accordance with Section 207(2)(b) of the Act. When the auditor qualifies on the audit opinion of the financial statements, the auditor should assess and evaluate how this impacts the opinion on the Company's accounting and other records, and determine whether the opinion on the accounting and other records needs to mirror that of the financial statements. In this illustration, it is assumed that the Company has kept proper accounting and other records in accordance with the provisions of the Act, but has selected an accounting treatment which departs from the Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs). If the auditor concludes that the Company has not kept proper accounting and other records which resulted in a departure from FRSs, the auditor shall qualify the opinion that, except for the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of the report, the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Company have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Illustration 2 – Adverse Opinion due to a Material Misstatement of the Financial Statements

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements and statement of financial position of a Singapore incorporated listed company using a fair presentation framework. The audit is a group audit of a company with subsidiaries (i.e., SSA 600 applies).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the company in accordance with FRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in SSA 210.
- The financial statements are materially misstated due to inadequate provision for foreseeable losses on long-term contracts. Only the current year is affected and prior year corresponding figures are not affected. The material misstatement is deemed to be pervasive to the financial statements. (i.e., an adverse opinion is appropriate).
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit comprise the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities* (ACRA Code) together with the ethical requirements relating to the audit in Singapore, and the auditor refers to both.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with SSA 570 (Revised).
- SSA 701 applies; however, the auditor has determined that there are no key audit matters other than the matter described in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and the matter giving rise to the adverse opinion on the financial statements also affects the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements⁶

Adverse Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company) and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position of the Group and the statement of financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows of the Group for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

⁶ The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Group and the statement of financial position of the Company do not give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group and the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1 and of the consolidated financial performance, consolidated changes in equity and consolidated cash flows of the Group for the year then ended in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, Chapter 50 (the Act) and Financial Reporting Standards in Singapore (FRSs).

Basis for Adverse Opinion

As explained in Note X, no provision has been made for losses expected to arise on certain significant long-term contracts currently in progress, as management considers that such losses should be off-set against amounts recoverable on other long-term contracts. Provision for foreseeable losses on individual contracts is required by FRS 11, *Construction Contracts*. Had such losses been provided for, the effect would have been to reduce the profit before tax and the contract work in progress by xxx, income taxes by xxx and retained earnings by xxx. Additionally, net profit for the year would have been reduced by xxx.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing (SSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities* (ACRA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Singapore, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ACRA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our adverse opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in SSA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 7 in Appendix 2 of SSA 720 (Revised). The last paragraph of the other information section in Illustration 7 would be customised to describe the specific matter giving rise to the qualified opinion that also affects the other information.]

Key Audit Matters

Except for the matter described in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion* section, we have determined that there are no other key audit matters to communicate in our report.

Responsibilities of Management and Directors for the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with SSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in SSA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with SSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in SSA 700 (Revised).]

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Company and by those subsidiary corporations incorporated in Singapore of which we are the auditors have been properly kept⁷ in accordance with the provisions of the Act⁸.

[The form and content of this section of the auditor's report would vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities prescribed by local law or regulation. The matters addressed by other law or regulation (referred to as "other reporting responsibilities") shall be addressed within this section unless the other reporting responsibilities address the same topics as those presented under the reporting responsibilities required by the SSAs as part of the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section. The reporting of other reporting responsibilities that address the same topics as those required by the SSAs may be combined (i.e., included in the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section under the appropriate subheadings) provided that the wording in the auditor's report clearly differentiates the other reporting responsibilities from the reporting that is required by the SSAs where such a difference exists.]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name].

_____(Firm)
Public Accountants and
Chartered Accountants
Singapore
_____(Date)

⁷ Section 199(1) of the Companies Act (the Act) requires the Company to keep proper accounting and other records, to sufficiently explain the transactions and financial position of the Company; to enable true and fair financial statements and any documents required to be attached thereto to be prepared from time to time; and to enable those records to be conveniently and properly audited.

⁸ The auditor shall make due consideration in opining on whether the accounting and other records are properly kept by the Company and by those subsidiary corporations incorporated in Singapore of which they are the auditors in accordance with Section 207(2)(b) of the Act. When the auditor modifies the audit opinion of the consolidated financial statements, the auditor should assess and evaluate how this impacts the opinion on the accounting and other records of the Company and those subsidiary corporations incorporated in Singapore of which they are the auditors, and determine whether the opinion on the accounting and other records needs to mirror that of the consolidated financial statements.

Illustration 3 – Qualified Opinion due to the Auditor’s Inability to Obtain Sufficient Audit Evidence Regarding a Foreign Associate

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements and statement of financial position of a Singapore incorporated listed company using a fair presentation framework. The audit is a group audit of a company with subsidiaries (i.e., SSA 600 applies).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the company in accordance with FRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in SSA 210.
- The auditor was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence relating to a foreign associate, XYZ Company, to account for it by the equity method because the auditor did not have access to the accounting records, management, or auditor of the associate. The possible effects of the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence are deemed to be material but not pervasive to the financial statements (i.e., a qualified opinion is appropriate).
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit comprise the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities* (ACRA Code) together with the ethical requirements relating to the audit in Singapore, and the auditor refers to both.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company’s ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with SSA 570 (Revised).
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with SSA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor’s report and the matter giving rise to the qualified opinion on the financial statements also affects the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements⁹

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company) and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position of the Group and the statement of financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows of the Group for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Group and the statement

⁹ The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

of financial position of the Company are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, Chapter 50 (the Act) and Financial Reporting Standards in Singapore (FRSs) so as to give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group and the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1 and of the consolidated financial performance, consolidated changes in equity and consolidated cash flows of the Group for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Company's investment in XYZ Company, a foreign associate acquired during the year and accounted for by the equity method, is carried at xxx on the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 20X1, and the Company's share of XYZ's net income of xxx is included in the Group's income for the year then ended. We were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the carrying amount of the Company's investment in XYZ as at 31 December 20X1 and the Company's share of XYZ's net income for the year because we were denied access to the financial information, management, and the auditors of XYZ. Consequently, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments to these amounts were necessary.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing (SSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities* (ACRA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Singapore, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ACRA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in SSA 720 (Revised) – see Illustration 6 in Appendix 2 of SSA 720 (Revised). The last paragraph of the other information section in Illustration 6 would be customised to describe the specific matter giving rise to the qualified opinion that also affects the other information.]

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. In addition to the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section, we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with SSA 701.]

Responsibilities of Management and Directors for the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with SSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in SSA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with SSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 2 in SSA 700 (Revised).]

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Company and by those subsidiary corporations incorporated in Singapore of which we are the auditors have been properly kept¹⁰ in accordance with the provisions of the Act¹¹.

[The form and content of this section of the auditor's report would vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities prescribed by local law or regulation. The matters addressed by other law or regulation (referred to as "other reporting responsibilities") shall be addressed within this section unless the other reporting responsibilities address the same topics as those presented under the reporting responsibilities required by the SSAs as part of the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section. The reporting of other reporting responsibilities that address the same topics as those required by the SSAs may be combined (i.e., included in the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section under the appropriate subheadings) provided that the wording in the auditor's report clearly differentiates the other reporting responsibilities from the reporting that is required by the SSAs where such a difference exists.]

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name].

_____(Firm)
Public Accountants and
Chartered Accountants
Singapore
_____(Date)

¹⁰ Section 199(1) of the Companies Act (the Act) requires the Company to keep proper accounting and other records, to sufficiently explain the transactions and financial position of the Company; to enable true and fair financial statements and any documents required to be attached thereto to be prepared from time to time; and to enable those records to be conveniently and properly audited.

¹¹ The auditor shall make due consideration in opining on whether the accounting and other records are properly kept by the Company and by those subsidiary corporations incorporated in Singapore of which they are the auditors in accordance with Section 207(2)(b) of the Act. When the auditor qualifies on the audit opinion of the consolidated financial statements, the auditor should assess and evaluate how this impacts the opinion on the accounting and other records of the Company and those subsidiary corporations incorporated in Singapore of which they are the auditors, and determine whether the opinion on the accounting and other records needs to mirror that of the consolidated financial statements.

Illustration 4 – Disclaimer of Opinion due to the Auditor’s Inability to Obtain Sufficient Appropriate Audit Evidence about Multiple Elements of the Financial Statements

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a Singapore incorporated company other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit (i.e., SSA 600 does not apply).
- The financial statements are prepared by management of the company in accordance with FRSs (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in SSA 210.
- The auditor was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about multiple elements of the financial statements, that is, the auditor was also unable to obtain audit evidence about the company’s inventories and accounts receivable. The possible effects of this inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence are deemed to be both material and pervasive to the financial statements.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit comprise the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities* (ACRA Code) together with the ethical requirements relating to the audit in Singapore, and the auditor refers to both.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- A more limited description of the auditor’s responsibilities section is required.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements¹²

Disclaimer of Opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of ABC Company (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the Company. Because of the significance of the matters described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

We were not appointed as auditors of the Company until after 31 December 20X1 and thus did not observe the counting of physical inventories at the beginning and end of the year. We were unable to

¹² The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

satisfy ourselves by alternative means concerning the inventory quantities held at 31 December 20X0 and 20X1, which are stated in the statements of financial position at xxx and xxx, respectively. In addition, the introduction of a new computerized accounts receivable system in September 20X1 resulted in numerous errors in accounts receivable. As of the date of our report, management was still in the process of rectifying the system deficiencies and correcting the errors. We were unable to confirm or verify by alternative means accounts receivable included in the statement of financial position at a total amount of xxx as at 31 December 20X1. As a result of these matters, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments might have been found necessary in respect of recorded or unrecorded inventories and accounts receivable, and the elements making up the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows.

Responsibilities of Management and Directors for the Financial Statements

[Reporting in accordance with SSA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 3 in SSA 700 (Revised).]

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the Company's financial statements in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing and to issue an auditor's report. However, because of the matters described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities* (ACRA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Singapore, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ACRA Code.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, in view of the significance of the matters referred to in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* section of our report, we do not express an opinion on whether the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Company have been properly kept¹³ in accordance with the provisions of the Act¹⁴.

[The form and content of this section of the auditor's report would vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities prescribed by local law or regulation. The matters addressed by other law or regulation (referred to as "other reporting responsibilities") shall be addressed within this section unless the other reporting responsibilities address the same topics as those presented under the reporting responsibilities required by the SSAs as part of the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section. The reporting of other reporting responsibilities that address the same topics as those required by the SSAs may be combined (i.e., included in the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section under the appropriate subheadings) provided that the wording in the auditor's report clearly differentiates the other reporting responsibilities from the reporting that is required by the SSAs where such a difference exists.]

¹³ Section 199(1) of the Companies Act (the Act) requires the Company to keep proper accounting and other records, to sufficiently explain the transactions and financial position of the Company; to enable true and fair financial statements and any documents required to be attached thereto to be prepared from time to time; and to enable those records to be conveniently and properly audited.

¹⁴ The auditor shall make due consideration in opining on whether the accounting and other records are properly kept by the Company in accordance with Section 207(2)(b) of the Act. When the auditor disclaims the audit opinion of the financial statements, the auditor should assess and evaluate how this impacts the opinion on the Company's accounting and other records, and determine whether the opinion on the accounting and other records needs to mirror that of the financial statements.

_____(Firm)
Public Accountants and
Chartered Accountants
Singapore
_____(Date)