

Introduction to the Global Internal Audit Standards

The Global Internal Audit Standards provide requirements and recommendations to guide the professional practice of quality internal auditing globally. The Standards also establish a basis for evaluating the performance of internal audit services.

Structure of the Standards

The Global Internal Audit Standards contains:

- Principles: broad descriptions of a basic assumption or rule summarizing a group of requirements and recommendations that follow.
- Standards:
 - Requirements for the professional practice of internal auditing.
 - Considerations:
 - Implementation: common and preferred practices for implementing the requirements.
 - Evidence of Conformance: examples of recommended ways to demonstrate that the requirements of the Standards have been implemented.

The Standards are organized into five domains related by a common theme:

- I. Purpose of Internal Auditing.
- II. Ethics and Professionalism.
- III. Governing the Internal Audit Function.
- IV. Managing the Internal Audit Function.
- V. Performing Internal Audit Services.

Applicability of the Standards

Global Internal Audit Standards set forth essential requirements and recommendations for the professional practice of internal auditing globally. The Standards apply to any individual or function that provides internal audit services; for organizations that vary in purpose, size, complexity, and structure; and by persons within or outside the organization. The Standards apply whether internal auditors are employees of the organization, contracted with an external service provider, or a combination of both.

The Standards apply to individual internal auditors and the internal audit function. All internal auditors are accountable for conforming with the principles and standards in the Ethics and Professionalism domain as well as the principles and standards relevant to performing their job responsibilities. Chief audit executives are additionally accountable for the internal audit function's overall conformance with the Standards.

