

This is a translation of a statement published in Swedish on the website of the Supervisory Board of Public Accountants

http://www.revisorsinspektionen.se/rn/showdocument/documents/rev_dok/revisors_ansvar.pdf

Responsibilities of the statutory auditor for the statutory audit in a limited liability company

A statutory auditor in a limited liability company is required, under Chapter 9 Section 5 of the Companies Act, to issue an auditor's report for each financial year. The Companies Act stipulates that this has to be prepared in accordance with Chapter 9 Sections 28-36 and generally accepted auditing standards. For Swedish conditions, this means that the auditor's report has to meet the requirements that follow from the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) 700 *Forming an opinion and reporting on financial statements* and 701 *Communicating key audit matters in the independent auditor's report*, with adjustments and additions to the other requirements that follow from generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Guidance on the design of a Swedish auditor's report can be found in RevR 700 *The presentation of the auditor's report* and RevR 701 *Additional guidance for the presentation of the auditor's report and other reporting requirements for public interest entities*.

It follows from the ISA standards mentioned above that the auditor's report has to include a description of the responsibilities that the statutory auditor has for the statutory audit. The description presented below, in the Supervisory Board of Public Accountants' assessment, is designed according to the requirements of ISA and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. This describes in general the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of:

- the annual accounts,
- the consolidated accounts, and
- the Board of Directors' and the Managing Director's administration.

The description is structured in the following way:

1. the auditor's general responsibilities in the statutory audit of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts,
2. the auditor's special responsibilities in the statutory audit of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of a listed entity,
3. the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the management's administration.

The responsibilities are expressed in the description as "the auditor's" regardless of whether the company has one or more appointed auditors and regardless of whether the statutory auditor is authorized or approved or a registered public accounting firm. If a limited liability company has more than one appointed auditor they all have the same responsibilities for the opinions in the auditor's report.

The description of the auditor's responsibilities for audits of consolidated accounts is only applicable when consolidated accounts have been prepared. Furthermore, a reference in the description to a Managing Director is only applicable where appropriate, i.e. when a Managing Director has been appointed.

1. The auditor's general responsibilities in the statutory audit of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts

The auditor's objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts and consolidated accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes the auditor's opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect a material misstatement where such a material misstatement exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual accounts and consolidated accounts.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, the auditor exercises professional judgment and maintains professional skepticism throughout the audit. The auditor also:

- Identifies and assesses the risks of material misstatement in the annual accounts and consolidated accounts, whether due to fraud or error, designs and performs audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtains audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtains an understanding of the company's internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluates the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors and, where applicable, the Managing Director.
- Concludes on the appropriateness of the Board of Directors' and the Managing Director's use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual accounts and consolidated accounts. The auditor also draws a conclusion, based on the audit evidence obtained, as to whether any material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's and the group's ability to continue as a going concern. If the auditor concludes that a material uncertainty exists, the latter is required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual accounts and consolidated accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion about the annual accounts and consolidated accounts. The auditor's conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a company and a group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluates the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts, including the disclosures, and whether the annual accounts and consolidated accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtains sufficient and appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated accounts. The auditor is responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. The auditor remains solely responsible for the opinions.

The auditor must inform the Board of Directors of, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit. The auditor must also inform the Board of Directors of significant audit findings during the audit, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor identified.

2. The auditor's special responsibilities in the statutory audit of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of a listed entity

The auditor also has to provide the Board of Directors with a statement that the auditor has complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on the auditor's independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the Board of Directors, the auditor determines those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts, including the most important assessed risks for material misstatement, and that are therefore the key audit matters. The auditor describes these matters in the auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, the auditor determines that a matter should not be communicated in the auditor's report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

3. The auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the management's administration

The auditor's objective concerning the audit of the administration, and the opinion about discharge from liability, is to obtain audit evidence to assess with a reasonable degree of assurance whether any member of the Board of Directors or the Managing Director in any material respect:

- has undertaken any action or been guilty of any omission which can give rise to liability to the company, or
- in any other way has acted in non-compliance with the Companies Act, applicable law concerning annual accounts, the Articles of Association or, where applicable, the Banking and Financing Business Act or the Insurance Business Act.

The auditor's objective concerning the audit of the proposed appropriations of the company's profit or loss, and the opinion on this, is to assess with a reasonable degree of assurance whether the proposal is in accordance with the Companies Act.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect actions or omissions that can give rise to liability to the company, or that the proposed appropriations of the company's profit or loss are not in accordance with the Companies Act.

As part of an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden, the auditor exercises professional judgment and maintains professional skepticism throughout the audit. The review of the administration and the proposed appropriations of the company's profit or loss is based primarily on the audit of the accounts. Additional audit procedures performed are based on the auditor's professional judgment guided by risk and materiality. This means that the auditor focuses the review on such actions, areas and relationships that are material for the operations and where deviations and violations would have particular importance for the company's situation. The auditor reviews and tests decisions undertaken, support for decisions, actions taken and other circumstances that are relevant to the opinion concerning discharge from liability. As a basis for the opinion on the Board of Directors' proposed appropriations of the company's profit or loss, the auditor reviewed

whether the proposal is in accordance with the Companies Act and where applicable the Board of Directors' reasoned statement and a selection of supporting evidence.