

Standards Newsletter

Irish Auditing & Accounting Supervisory Authority



Focus on Assurance of Sustainability Reporting



This newsletter provides a brief summary of the European Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive requirements and transposition in Ireland, relating to the assurance of sustainability information.

It also includes an overview of proposed International Standard on Sustainability Assurance (ISSA) 5000, which is currently open for consultation, as well as details of how to register for the joint IAASA/IAASB webinar on Friday 29 September.

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European Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)

CSRD overview



- The CSRD sets out EU rules for sustainability reporting by large companies, public interest entities (PIEs) and listed small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- In Ireland, the required information must be provided in the directors' report.
- The disclosure requirements apply incrementally from 2024 to 2028. They are underpinned by mandatory European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), as adopted by the European Commission.

Transposition into Irish law



- EU member states must transpose the CSRD into domestic law by July 2024.
- In July, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment provided an update on the CSRD and its transposition into Irish law, including policy options.
- A summary of the main points is available on our website at <https://iaasa.ie/developments-in-the-transposition-of-the-corporate-sustainability-reporting-directive-in-ireland/>

Assurance requirements

- The CSRD requires assurance on the sustainability information provided by a company. In Ireland, this work will be performed by statutory auditors who have also been authorised to perform sustainability assurance engagements.
- The European Commission is required to adopt limited assurance standards by 1 October 2026. When the CSRD is transposed, IAASA will have the power to adopt sustainability assurance standards in Ireland until then.
- The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) recently issued a consultation on its proposed standard: International Standard on Sustainability Assurance (ISSA) 5000, General Requirements for Sustainability Assurance Engagements.

ISSA 5000 Proposals at a Glance

SCOPE



Intended to be a standalone global standard suitable for use with any reporting framework, including the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS).

PROFESSION AGNOSTIC



The proposed standard is 'profession' agnostic and may be used by non-accountants in other countries. In Ireland, only auditors will be permitted to perform sustainability assurance.

LEVEL OF ASSURANCE



ISSA 5000 was developed for both reasonable (audit level) and limited assurance of sustainability information. Initially, limited assurance is required by the CSRD.

ETHICS AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT



Assurance providers must comply with an ethical code and apply a system of quality management. In Ireland, these are the Ethical Standard for Auditors and quality management standards (ISQM 1, ISQM2 and ISA 220) issued by IAASA.

USE IN IRELAND



The European Commission is an IAASB observer and must adopt limited assurance standards by 2026. If needed, IAASA may issue an assurance standard for use in Ireland until then.

RESPONSE DEADLINE



Responses to the IAASB's consultation must be made by 1 December 2023. IAASA encourages all interested stakeholders to contribute to the development of this important standard.

IAASA/IAASB Webinar on ISSA 5000

IAASA and the IAASB are holding a webinar on Friday 29 September at 2.00pm to provide an overview of ISSA 5000, the IAASB's proposed international sustainability assurance standard.

Speakers for this event are:

- Josephine Jackson (IAASB Vice Chair and Sustainability Assurance Task Force Chair)
- Thokozani Nkosi (IAASB Fellow)
- Dan Montgomery (IAASB Co-Lead Sustainability Assurance)
- Fadi Mansour (IAASB Senior Manager)

All are welcome to attend this event, which will include a question and answer session.

Click here to register for the webinar



Further Information

The IAASB has a dedicated sustainability webpage which provides further information, including proposed ISSA 5000, an explanatory memorandum, FAQs and explainer videos, as well as details on how to provide feedback on the draft standard.



[Click here for the IAASB sustainability page](#)

IAASB