



Texas Society of CPAs Annual Report on Peer Review Activities

Date Issued – March 26, 2024

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this Annual Report on Peer Review Activities is to provide a general overview of the Peer Review Programs administered by the Texas Society of CPAs (Society or TXCPA), and the results of oversight procedures performed by the TXCPA Peer Review Committee (Committee) during the calendar year of 2023.

Summary of Peer Review Programs

The Texas Society of CPAs (TXCPA) serves as the administering entity for the AICPA Peer Review Program in the State of Texas, which began in 1989, and the Texas Society of CPAs Peer Review Program since 1991. Both programs have adopted the AICPA "Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews" as its minimum standards for review and operate similarly.

The Texas State Board of Public Accountancy (TSBPA) requires all firms in the state that provide attestation services as part of their public accounting process to be enrolled in a practice monitoring program. The TSBPA has designated TXCPA as an approved sponsoring organization to approve peer review reports issued for firms enrolled in peer review programs administered by TXCPA.

AICPA bylaws require that members engaged in the practice of public accounting be associated with a firm that is enrolled in an approved practice-monitoring program if the services performed by such firm are within the scope of the AICPA's practice monitoring standards, and the firm prepares reports in accordance with AICPA professional standards. For purposes of peer review under the AICPA program, an accounting and auditing practice includes engagements performed under Statements on Auditing Standards (SASs); Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services (SSARs); Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAEs); *Government Auditing Standards (the Yellow Book)* issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office; and Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) Standards. Engagements covered in the scope of the program are those included in the firm's accounting and auditing practice that are not subject to the PCAOB permanent inspection.

There are 1473 firms enrolled in peer review as of March 1, 2024. Firms enrolled in either program are required to have a peer review every three years, the scope of which covers a one-year period. The review is conducted by an independent evaluator known as a peer reviewer and is not considered final until accepted by a committee of their peers, also known as report acceptance bodies (RABs). RABs must consist of at least three qualified individuals who are independent of the reviewed firm and the peer reviewer. In certain circumstances, reviewed firms are asked by the RAB to voluntarily complete one or more follow-up actions as a condition of acceptance by the RAB. See Exhibit D for a summary of required follow-up actions.

The following summarizes the different peer review types, objectives, and reporting requirements as defined under the AICPA Standards:

System Reviews: System reviews are for firms that perform engagements under the SASs or *Government Auditing Standards*, examination under the SSAEs, or audits of non-SEC issuers performed pursuant to the standards of the PCAOB, in addition to reviews, compilations, or other attestation engagements. The peer reviewer's objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance that the reviewed firm's system of quality control for its accounting and auditing practice has been designed and complied with to provide the firm reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with the requirements of applicable professional standards in all material respects and report on the reviewed firm's system of quality control and communicate as required by the *Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Review*. The peer review report rating may be *Pass* (firm's system of quality control is adequately designed and the firm has complied with its system of quality control); *Pass with deficiencies* (firm has less than reasonable assurance of conformity with professional standards in one or more areas); or *Fail* (firm's system of quality control is not adequately designed or complied with and there is little or no assurance of conforming with professional standards).

Engagement Reviews: Engagement reviews are for firms that only perform services under SSARS or services under the SSAEs other than examinations. Engagement reviews focus on work performed and reports and financial statements issued on particular engagements (reviews, compilations, preparations, or agreed-upon procedures). The peer review report may be a rating of *Pass* (nothing came to the reviewer's attention that caused him or her to believe the engagements submitted for review were not performed and /or reported on in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects); *Pass with deficiencies* (at least one but not all of the engagements submitted for review were not performed and/or reported on in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects except for the deficiencies described in the report); or *Fail* (reviewer concludes that, all the engagements submitted for review were not performed and/or reported on in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects).

See Exhibit A for a summary of results by type of peer review and report issued; Exhibit B for a summary of report deficiencies for system reviews; and Exhibit C for a summary of engagements not performed and/or reported on in conformity with professional standards in all material respects.

Oversight Process and Procedures

Reviewer Evaluation Committee

The Committee has established a Reviewer Evaluation Committee (REC) that is responsible for reporting to the full Committee on the activities of the oversight program regarding peer reviewers. The subcommittee is made up of the Committee Vice Chair and other committee members as deemed necessary. REC members meet during the year to review the oversights conducted, reviewer resume verifications, consider reviewer performance and consult with staff on the status of reviews. Guidance from the AICPA Peer Review Program Oversight Handbook and the Clarified Peer Review Standards is followed.

Oversight Selection

Annually, the Society will perform random and targeted oversights on reviews and reviewers using a risk-based approach. The selections are based on the criterion for selection as outlined in the AICPA Peer Review Program Oversight Handbook, Chapter 2. At least 2% of all reviews performed in a calendar year are subject to oversight and will include a minimum of two system and two engagement reviews.

Oversights are performed by either a member of the Peer Review Committee, other qualified peer reviewers, or the program's technical reviewers. A Peer Review Committee member or designee will perform all

system reviews and must-select engagement oversights. This committee member must meet team captain requirements and experience.

Firms: All firms are subject to oversight and are selected based on a number of factors including but not limited to the types of peer review reports the firm has previously received, whether it is the firm's first system review (after previously having an engagement review), and whether the firm conducts engagements in high-risk industries.

Reviewers: All peer reviewers are subject to oversight and may be selected based on a number of factors including random selection, a notable and suspiciously too frequent submission of pass reports, conducting a significant number of reviews for firms with audits in high-risk industries, performance of their first peer review, or performing high volumes of reviews. Oversight of a reviewer can also occur due to performance deficiencies or a history of performance deficiencies, such as issuance of an inappropriate peer review report, improperly considering matters that turn out to be significant, or failure to select an appropriate number of engagements.

Oversight Process

Oversights may be performed at the reviewed firm's office or at other locations. Committee members are required to document the results of the oversight by completing an AICPA Oversight Checklist and preparing a report for the committee. Oversight reports are maintained in an electronic file at AICPA and TXCPA. The reviewer is expected to respond to the oversight comments within 14 days of receiving the report via PRIMA. See Exhibit E for a summary of oversights performed.

Administrative Oversight

Administrative oversight is performed on the TXCPA administration of the peer review programs by a member of the Committee in the years when there is no AICPA Oversight Task Force (OTF) oversight. Procedures will cover the administrative requirements of the AICPA Peer Review Program.

Number of Enrolled Firms as of March 1, 2024

	AICPA Peer Review Program	TXCPA Peer Review Program
Total Enrolled Firms	1229	244

Results of Peer Reviews Accepted during 2023

Exhibit A

Results by Type of Peer Review and Report Issued

	AICPA Peer Review Program		TXCPA Peer Review Program	
System Reviews		%		%
Pass	138	84	8	62
Pass with deficiency(ies)	16	10	2	15
Fail	11	6	3	23
Total - System	165	100	13	100

Engagement Reviews		%		%
Pass	206	82	69	84
Pass with deficiency(ies)	26	11	7	8
Fail	18	7	7	8
Total- Engagement	250	100	83	100

Exhibit B

Number and Reasons for Deficiencies for System Reviews

The following lists the reasons, summarized by elements of quality control as defined by Statement on Quality Control Standards No. 10, for report deficiencies (when a pass with deficiencies or fail report is issued) from system reviews. It is important to note that one review may have more than one reason for a report deficiency.

	AICPA Peer Review Program	TXCPA Peer Review Program
Leadership responsibilities for quality within the firm ("the tone at the top")	9	3
Relevant ethical requirements	2	2
Acceptance and continuance of client relationships and specific engagements	2	2
Human resources	16	3
Engagement performance	23	5
Monitoring	26	5
Total	78	20

Exhibit C

Number of Engagements Not Performed or Reported on
in Accordance with Professional Standards in All Material Respects

The following shows the total number of engagements reviewed and the number identified as “not performed or reported on in accordance with professional standards in all material respects” (non-conforming). The Standards state that an engagement is ordinarily considered not performed and/or reported on in accordance with applicable professional standards when deficiencies, individually or in aggregate, exist that are material to understanding the report or the financial statements accompanying the report, or represents omission of a critical accounting, auditing, or attestation procedure required by professional standards.

Engagement Type	AICPA Peer Review Program			TXCPA Peer Review Program		
	Number of Engagements			Number of Engagements		
	Reviewed	Nonconforming engagements	%	Reviewed	Nonconforming engagements	%
Audits:						
Single Audit	79	27	34	2	0	0
Government Auditing Standards – All Other	58	11	19	0	0	0
ERISA	90	25	28	1	1	100
FDICIA	5	1	20	0	0	0
Other	213	39	18	17	7	41
Reviews	192	35	18	20	4	20
Compilations:				8	3	
With Disclosures	88	9	10			37
Omit Disclosures	583	45	8	132	14	10
Financial Forecasts & Projections	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOC Reports	8	1	12	0	0	0
Agreed Upon Procedures	44	4	9	4	0	0
Other SSAEs	15	2	13	0	0	0
Total	1,375	199	14	184	29	16

Exhibit D

Summary of Required Follow-up Actions

The TXCPA Peer Review Committee is authorized by the Standards to decide on the need for and nature of any additional follow-up actions required as a condition of acceptance of the firm's peer review. During the report acceptance process, the Peer Review Committee evaluates the need for follow-up actions based on the nature, significance, pattern, and pervasiveness of engagement deficiencies. The Peer Review Committee also considers the comments noted by the reviewer and the firm's response thereto. If the firm's response contains remedial actions which are comprehensive, genuine, and feasible, then the committee may decide not to recommend further follow-up actions. Follow-up actions are remedial and educational in nature and are imposed in an attempt to strengthen the performance of the firm. A review can have multiple follow-up actions.

Type of Follow-Up Action	AICPA Peer Review Program	TXCPA Peer Review Program
Agree to take/submit proof of certain CPE	226	51
Agree to pre-issuance reviews by team captain/outside party	13	6
Agree to post-issuance reviews by team captain/outside party	30	13
Submit monitoring or inspection report to team captain or committee	2	0
Submit to outside party to revisit on non-conforming engagements	34	3
Submit evidence of proper firm licensure to committee	1	0
Agree to hire outside party or consultant for inspection	1	0
Team captain to review Quality Control Document	1	0
Other	1	0
Total	309	73

Oversight Process

Exhibit E

Oversight Results of Peer Reviews

	AICPA Peer Review Program	TXCPA Peer Review Program
Type of Peer Review		
System	3	0
Engagement	8	3
Total	11	3

"Must Select" Engagement Oversights		
ERISA	1	0
GAGAS	2	0
Total	3	0

Oversights Performed on the AE

Date of Last Administrative Oversight Performed by the TXCPA Peer Review Committee	November 8, 2022
Date of Last Oversight Performed by the AICPA Oversight Task Force (covers only the AICPA Peer Review Program and is available on the AICPA's website).	December 11-12, 2023