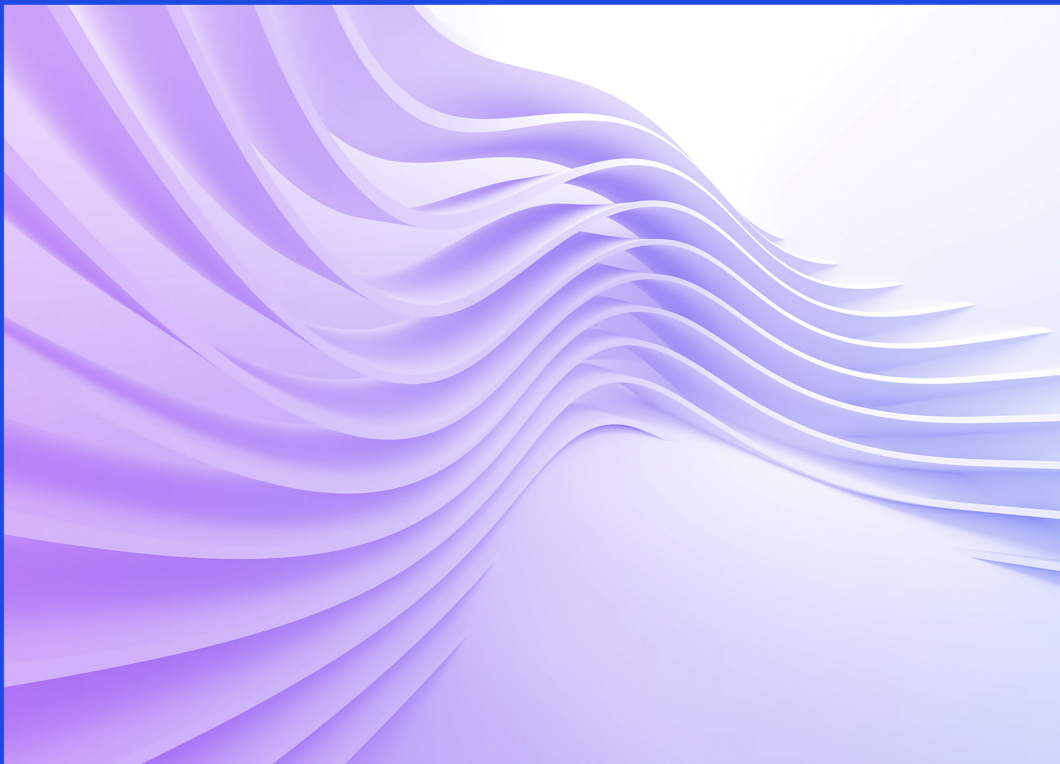




Transparency report 2022

Supplement

Assisting audit committees in meeting
NYSE rules on auditor communications



January 2023

audit.kpmg.us/auditquality/transparency.html

1. System of quality control

KPMG LLP (KPMG or the firm) maintains a system of quality control that is designed to meet applicable regulatory standards over quality control for a CPA firm. The accompanying document, [Transparency Report 2022](#), describes that system in more detail and encompasses:

- Tone at the top, including leadership responsibilities, ethics and integrity, audit quality, and governance
- Association with the right clients
- Relevant ethical requirements, including independence, objectivity, and confidentiality
- Recruitment, development, and assignment of appropriately qualified people
- Commitment to technical excellence and quality service delivery and performance of effective audits
- Commitment to monitoring quality and continuous improvement, including internal and external reviews.

KPMG periodically reviews its policies and practices to respond timely to changes in regulatory and professional requirements.

KPMG is fully committed to maintaining a system of quality control that meets or exceeds all applicable standards.

2. Review action plans

As part of our continuous improvement and quality control efforts, KPMG has dedicated audit quality functions that determine root causes for audit quality deficiencies; participate in the development of remedial action plans; and monitor the timely implementation, execution, and effectiveness of those plans.

3. Internal and external inspections and other inquiries or investigations of audits carried out by the firm

We are not aware of any matter arising out of an internal or external inspection, any inquiry, or any investigation by government or regulatory authorities with respect to an independent audit carried out by KPMG within the preceding five years that would have a material adverse effect on our operations or the ability of KPMG to fulfill our obligations as an independent auditor.

However, in resolving certain investigations, the firm has agreed to enhance specific areas of its policies and procedures. Accordingly, KPMG notes the following:

SEC Order of June 17, 2019¹

On June 17, 2019, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued an order (the Order) instituting public administrative and cease-and-desist proceedings against KPMG in relation to the two matters described below:

- (a) In early 2017, KPMG learned that an individual who had joined the firm from the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) subsequently received confidential information from the PCAOB and shared it with other KPMG personnel. When KPMG's leadership became aware of the misconduct, the firm immediately reported the matter to the PCAOB and the SEC, took steps to separate implicated individuals from KPMG, and retained outside counsel to investigate. That investigation revealed that some KPMG individuals may have had information suggesting improper access to information regarding upcoming PCAOB inspections and failed to report that information in a timely manner.

¹Following the SEC Order of June 17, 2019, a number of state regulatory bodies have initiated inquiries into the facts and circumstances related to this matter. Certain state regulators may take action against KPMG. To date, KPMG has resolved matters with the California, Florida, Texas, Idaho, Nebraska, Washington, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Connecticut, New York, Louisiana, and New Mexico state boards of accountancy.

In January 2018, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York announced that it had criminally charged five of the individuals who had been separated from KPMG in early 2017. The SEC also instituted administrative proceedings against the same individuals. Four of these individuals, three former partners and a director, entered guilty pleas in the criminal actions and separately agreed to settlements with the SEC suspending them from appearing or practicing before the SEC.

On March 11, 2019, the fifth individual, a former KPMG partner, was convicted following a jury trial of four of the five criminal charges against him, including wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud. On January 15, 2020, the SEC suspended this same partner from appearing or practicing before the SEC. KPMG cooperated fully with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the SEC in connection with this matter and took various remedial actions designed to prevent the sort of individual misconduct at issue in this matter, including updating the firm's Code of Conduct and conducting a comprehensive culture assessment assisted by an independent advisory firm.

- (b) The second matter resolved by the Order relates to training exams and was discovered by KPMG in late 2018. Some of the firm's professionals shared the answers to open-book tests that were administered in connection with internal, firm-sponsored training. In the context of investigating the training exams, KPMG discovered that prior to 2016, certain individuals had manipulated the hyperlink associated with the training exams to ensure passing scores. KPMG immediately reported this misconduct to its regulators, and the firm's board of directors established a Special Committee to oversee the investigation conducted by outside counsel.

The Order censured KPMG for violating PCAOB Rule 3500T and other standards. PCAOB Rule 3500T requires KPMG and associated persons to comply with ethics standards mandated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The Order also found that the violations of PCAOB Rule 3500T caused KPMG to fail to be in compliance with PCAOB QC Section 20.09, which requires firms to establish policies and procedures that provide reasonable assurance that personnel "perform all professional responsibilities with integrity."

The Order required the firm to cease and desist from committing or causing any future violations of PCAOB Rule 3500T and imposed a \$50 million civil monetary penalty and remedial undertakings upon the firm. The remedial undertakings obligated the firm to take certain actions, including but not limited to an internal review of the firm's policies and procedures related to ethics and integrity and the completion of the Special Committee's investigation related to the training exams.

KPMG agreed to provide the SEC with reports summarizing the review and investigation. The review and investigation were evaluated by an independent, third-party consultant retained by KPMG, and the reports were provided to the SEC.

All recommendations from the internal KPMG reviews and independent consultant reviews were adopted and implemented as of September 30, 2021. Since October 2018, the firm has been providing additional ethics and integrity training to its professionals.

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