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Indian | Auditing News

Handbook on Certificates by Chartered Accountants: Comprehensive Checklist & Formats – October 2025

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has released a new publication titled **"Handbook on Certificates by Chartered Accountants: Comprehensive Checklist & Formats" (October 2025 edition)**. The handbook serves as a comprehensive guide for professionals to ensure enhanced quality, uniformity, and compliance in the issuance of various certificates by Chartered Accountants.
This publication, issued by the **Centre for Audit Quality Directorate**, aims to promote consistency and strengthen the reliability of certificates issued by members across different regulatory and business contexts.

For more information, **click here**

Relaxation of additional fees in filing of CRA 4 (Cost Audit Report in XBRL format)- 27 October 2025

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has, through a General Circular dated **27 October 2025**, allowed companies to file **Form CRA-4 (Cost Audit Report in XBRL format)** for the financial year ended **31 March 2025 without payment of additional fees up to 31 December 2025**.
This relaxation aims to **ease compliance difficulties** arising from the recent rollout of **revised e-forms on the MCA-21 V3 portal**.
Filings made **after 31 December 2025** will attract **normal as well as additional fees** as prescribed under the **Companies (Registration Offices and Fees) Rules, 2014**, calculated from the date the filing originally became due in accordance with **Rule 6(6) of the Companies (Cost Records and Audit) Rules, 2014**.

For more information, **click here**

India | Regulatory News

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Amendment Rules, 2025 - 1 October 2025

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) issued the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Amendment Rules, 2025 to further amend the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016.

The amended rules introduce a revised **Form IEPF-5**, that investors shall use to claim refunds from the **Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF)**. The updated form is designed to simplify and expedite the refund and transfer process handled by the IEPF Authority, promoting clearer and more efficient compliance for both companies and claimants.

The amendment shall come into effect from 6 October 2025.

For more information, **click here**

Relaxation of additional fees and extension of time for filing of Financial Statements and Annual Returns under the Companies Act, 2013 - reg.-17 October 2025

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), through a General Circular dated 17 October 2025, has allowed companies to file their **financial statements and annual returns for the financial year 2024–25** (forms MGT-7/7A, AOC-4 series) **without payment of additional fees up to 31 December 2025**.

This relaxation has been provided to ease compliance following the recent rollout of revised e-forms MGT-7, MGT-7A, AOC-4, AOC-4 CFS, AOC-4 NBFC (Ind AS), AOC-4 CFS NBFC (Ind AS) and AOC-4 (XBRL) on the MCA-21 V3 portal.

However, no extension has been granted for holding Annual General Meetings (AGMs); companies are still required to conduct AGMs within the statutory timelines prescribed under the Companies Act, 2013.

For more information, **click here**

Technical Guide on Disclosure and Reporting of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in Offer Documents (Revised 2025) - 9 October 2025

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018 ('ICDR Regulations') require Issuer Companies to disclose Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in their Initial Public Offer (IPO) document that are relevant for determining the basis of the Issue Price.

To ensure consistency in the identification and disclosure of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), the Industry Standards Forum (ISF)—comprising representatives from ASSOCHAM, CII, and FICCI under the aegis of the Stock Exchanges—has, in consultation with SEBI, formulated the Industry Standards on KPI Disclosures in the Draft Offer Document and Offer Document ("KPI Standards").

The Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AASB) of the ICAI had earlier issued the 'Technical Guide on Disclosure and Reporting of KPIs in Offer Documents' in April 2023. In light of the recent developments and the introduction of the **ISF KPI Standards**, the revised edition (2025) of the Technical Guide has now been issued to assist members in understanding and discharging their responsibilities in reporting KPIs in accordance with requirements of ICDR Regulations and ISF KPI Standards.

For more information, **click here**

Minimum information to be provided to the Audit Committee and Shareholders for approval of Related Party Transactions - 13 October 2025

The Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a circular on the Minimum information to be provided to the Audit Committee and Shareholders for approval of Related Party Transactions (RPT). This circular has been issued in reference to the Master circular for compliance with the provisions of the SEBI (LODR) Regulation, 2015, by listed entities, which provides for "Disclosure and other obligations of listed entities in relation to Related Party Transactions" under section III-B.

Key Highlights:

1. **Audit Committee Approval (Part A, Paragraph 4 of Section III-B – substituted):**

- **Relaxation introduced**:
    - Where RPT(s) (individually or cumulatively in a financial year) **do not exceed the lower of 1% of the annual consolidated turnover as per last audited financial statements or ₹10 crore',** the listed entity is required to provide only **limited information** prescribed in Annexure-13A.
    - If such RPT(s) **do not exceed ₹1 crore** in a financial year, no disclosures as per above circulars/Industry Standards are required.

2. **Shareholder Approval (Part B, Paragraph 6 of Section III-B– substituted):**

- Notices to shareholders for RPT(s) approval must contain Information prescribed in Industry Standards, in addition to disclosures required under the Companies Act, 2013.
- **Relaxation introduced:**
    - For RPT(s) up to **1% of the annual consolidated turnover as per last audited financial statements or ₹10 crore',** whichever is lower, only limited information as per Annexure-13A needs to be disclosed in the explanatory statement.

The amendment establishes a **three-tier disclosure framework**:

Transaction Value Threshold	**Disclosure Requirement**	**Reference**
Up to ₹1 Crore	Exempt from detailed disclosure	No disclosure required as per industry standards
Above ₹1 Crore but ≤ lower of 1% of annual consolidated turnover or ₹10 Crore	Limited Disclosure	As per Annexure–13A of the circular
Above the lower of 1% of annual consolidated turnover or • ₹10 Crore	Full disclosure	As per detailed disclosure norms under industry standards

The circular shall come into effect immediately i.e. from 13 October 2025.

For more information, **click here**

Master Circular for issue and listing of Non-convertible Securities, Securitised Debt Instruments, Security Receipts, Municipal Debt Securities and Commercial Paper – 15 October 2025

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a **Master Circular on 15 October 2025** concerning the **issue and listing of Non-convertible Securities, Securitised Debt Instruments, Security Receipts, Municipal Debt Securities, and Commercial Paper**. This circular consolidates and updates prior regulations and guidelines, aiming to streamline compliance and enhance transparency in the debt securities market.

For more information, **click here**

Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025- 27 October 2025

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025 amending the existing SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021.

Through this amendment, SEBI has inserted a proviso allowing issuers to deviate from the prescribed trust deed format for non-convertible securities, provided that a key summary sheet detailing the deviations along with the rationale for such deviations is disclosed by the issuer in the General Information Document/ Key Information Document or Shelf Prospectus. This amendment provides greater flexibility to issuers while ensuring transparency and investor awareness of such deviations.

For more information, **click here**

Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2025-1 November 2025

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has notified the SEBI (Mutual Funds) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2025, amending the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 to broaden investment avenues and strengthen portfolio discipline for mutual funds.

Through this amendment, mutual funds are now permitted to invest in **units of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)**, thereby expanding diversification opportunities beyond traditional securities. The amendment also introduces changes relating to a **higher minimum invested asset threshold** and **revised concentration and exposure limits**, promoting efficient fund deployment and better risk management.

For more information, **click here**

RBI Issues Amendment Directions/Circulars - 29 September 2025

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued seven Directions/Circulars, proposing to amend some of the extant Directions/Circulars applicable to banks and other regulated entities. While three of these amendments came into effect immediately (Part A), public comments are solicited on the other four (Part B).

A. Directions which come into force from 1 October 2025

- Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Advances) (Amendment Directions), 2025.
- Reserve Bank of India (Lending Against Gold and Silver Collateral) - (1st Amendment) Directions, 2025.

- Reserve Bank of India (Basel III Capital Regulations - Perpetual Debt Instruments (PDI) in Additional Tier 1 Capital – Eligible Limit for Instruments Denominated in Foreign Currency/Rupee Denominated Bonds Overseas) Directions, 2025.

B. Directions/Circulars which are being issued as drafts for public feedback

- Reserve Bank of India (Gold Metal Loans) Directions, 2025,
- Large Exposures Framework (Amendment Circular), 2025; and Guidelines on Management of Intragroup Transactions and Exposures (Amendment Circular), 2025.
- Draft Reserve Bank of India (Credit Information Reporting) (1st Amendment) Directions, 2025.

The comments on the draft Directions/Circulars are invited till 20 October 2025.

For more information, **click here**

RBI Issues draft Directions/ Circulars – 1 October 2025

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released several draft Directions and Circulars for public comments which include:

- RBI (Transaction Accounts) Directions, 2025, covering various categories such as Commercial Banks, Small Finance Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Local Area Banks, Urban Co-operative Banks, Rural Co-operative Banks, and Payments Banks.
- Guidelines on Enhancing Credit Supply for Large Borrowers through Market Mechanism (Repeal Circular), 2025
- RBI (Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account) Directions, 2025

The RBI has invited comments from banks, market participants, and other stakeholders on the draft Directions and Circulars till 24 October 2025.

For more information, **click here**

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Insurance Fraud Monitoring Framework) Guidelines, 2025 – 9 October 2025

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has issued the **IRDAI** (**Insurance Fraud Monitoring Framework Guidelines), 2025** to establish a comprehensive framework for the **prevention, detection, reporting, and remediation of fraud** across the insurance sector. These guidelines aim to enhance the sector's resilience against fraud, foster a culture of integrity, protect policyholders' interests, safeguard financial stability and maintain public trust.

These guidelines shall come into force from 1 April 2026.

For more information, **click here**

NFRA Auditor-Audit Committee Interactions Series 4 – Audit of Accounting Estimates and Judgements Impairment of Non-financial Assets- Ind AS 36, SA 540- 30 September 2025

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has released a new communication, i.e. Audit Committee* - Auditor Interactions Series 4 - Audit of Accounting Estimates and Judgements Impairment of Non-financial Assets- Ind AS 36, SA 540 etc. In the course of NFRA's review and monitoring activities, the auditor's communication with those charged with Governance (TCWG) (including the Audit Committees) has been variously highlighted. With the objectives of ensuring improvements in overall audit quality, promoting awareness and significance of accounting and auditing standards, auditor's responsibilities, protecting public interest and investor protection, NFRA commenced this series of Auditor – Audit Committee interactions, which is being issued on significant areas of accounting and auditing, from time to time.

This publication serves both as an educational resource and as a practical tool to drive accountability, oversight, and rigorous audit processes around impairment of non-financial assets. It focuses on how audit committees and auditors should approach the audit of accounting estimates and judgements regarding impairment of non-financial assets, referencing Ind AS 36 and SA 540.

For more information, **click here**

Extension of timelines for filing of various reports of audit and Income Tax Returns (ITRs) for the Assessment Year 2025-26-reg. -29 October 2025

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), through its circular dated 29 October 2025, has extended the due dates for furnishing the Income Tax Return (ITR) for the Assessment Year 2025–26 (Previous Year 2024–25), for specified assessees from **31 October 2025 to 10 December 2025**.
Consequently, the **due date for furnishing tax audit reports** under *Section 44AB of Income Tax Act, 1961* is also extended to **10 November 2025**.
For more information, click here

International | Accounting News

FASB Issues Standard on Derivatives Scope Refinements- 29 September 2025

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) has published an Accounting Standards Update (ASU)- 'Derivatives Scope Refinements and Scope Clarification for Share-Based Non cash Consideration From a Customer in a Revenue Contract'. The ASU is intended to address stakeholders' concerns about the application of derivative accounting to contracts with features based on the operations or activities of one of the parties to the contract and to reduce the diversity in accounting for share-based payments from a customer in Revenue Contracts.

For more information, **click here**

FASB Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Guidance on Initial Measurement of Paid-in-Kind Dividends on Equity-Classified Preferred Stock - 30 September 2025

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) has issued a proposed Accounting Standards Update (ASU) that aims to standardize the initial measurement of **paid-in-kind (PIK) dividends (e.g. dividends paid in the form of additional shares)** on equity-classified preferred stock. As per the proposed amendments, PIK dividends should be initially measured based on the contractual terms of the preferred stock agreement, specifically using the stated PIK dividend rate applied to the liquidation preference (i.e. the preferred stock's face or liquidation value).

The proposal seeks to eliminate current inconsistencies in practice and improve comparability in financial reporting.

Comments on the proposed ASU are due by 27 October 2025.

For more information, **click here**

IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard modules – 13 October 2025

The IFRS Foundation has developed a set of stand-alone modules, one for each section of the *IFRS for Small and Medium-sized Entities (SMEs) Accounting Standard*. These modules serve as practical learning tools to help users understand, apply, and interpret the requirements of the Standard. The Foundation is currently updating the modules to reflect the amendments introduced in the 2025 version of the Standard, with priority given to sections that have undergone significant changes.

For more information, **click here**